

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing views the maintenance work of the Mahaloka Thinkyit Pagoda in ancient Inwa City, Mandalay Region.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, accompanied by his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, Joint Secretary General Ye Win Oo and council members, Union ministers and their wives, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and officials, yesterday afternoon visited Loka Tharaphu Buddha Image and inspected the maintenance of the Maung Oh brick road in ancient Inwa City in Mandalay Region.

The Senior General, his wife and his entourage paid homage to the Loka Tharaphu Pagoda. They also visited inside and outside the pagoda and then went around Mahaloka

Officials urged to preserve ancient religious buildings in original form

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects the maintenance of the Loka Tharaphu Pagoda and the Maung Oh brick road in ancient Inwa City in Mandalay Region.

Thinkyit Pagoda built close to the west of a brick tier-roofed building where the Loka Tharaphu Buddha Image is kept. The Senior General inspected the maintenance of the religious edifices in the precinct and

heard reports on the maintenance and renovation of the pagodas and the background history of the buildings.

In his guidance, the Senior General stressed the need to repair the damaged interior

walls of the pagoda in original works and emphasize repairs of the platform of the pagoda, and improvement of proper drainage measures. He gave guidance to officials to systematically maintain ancient

religious buildings, renovate stairways around the precinct in ancient works and maintain ancient works and cultural heritage. The Senior General said that it is planned to ensure that solar electricity will be supplied to illuminate the pagoda and religious buildings.

The Senior General and his wife donated cash to the fund for the overall renovation of the pagoda.

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Speed up development efforts in Shan State

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Inlay Traditional Regatta Festival to boost tourism

BUSINESSPAGE 12



Transport Planning Dept to simplify domestic operator licensing

NATIONAL

Empowering Agro-Based Industries for Enhanced Value-Added Production

- It is necessary to operate agro-based industries to be able to manufacture value-added products.
- If existing sound foundations and human resources are utilized for the development of agriculture and livestock, production will change.

(Excerpt from the speech given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the State Administration Council meeting 2/2024 on 29 March 2024)



National Objectives for 78th Anniversary of Union Day 2025

1. To strive for the perpetual development of the Union through the Union spirit, patriotic values, a sublime state of mind and a genuine nationalist spirit.
2. To encourage collaborative efforts among all ethnic nationals to pursue dialogue for durable peace and to end armed conflicts.
3. To collectively advance cooperation amongst all national people, the government, and Tatmadaw to ensure stability and the rule of law.
4. To enhance collaborative efforts to ensure nationwide stability and tranquillity, enabling the successful conduct of multiparty general elections.
5. To promote balanced development across all regions and states, as well as enhance health, education and job opportunities for ethnic nationals.

Myanmar Gazette

Appointment and Duty Assignment of Permanent Secretary/Director-General

THE State Administration Council has concurrently appointed and assigned U Min Hein, Director-General of the Union Minister Office of the Ministry of Immigration and Population, to the duties of Permanent Secretary and Director-General at the same organization.

Myanmar Gazette

Appointment and Duty Assignment of Permanent Secretary/Director-General

THE State Administration Council has concurrently appointed and assigned U Aung Thwin Oo, Director-General of the Union Minister Office of the Ministry of Commerce, to the duties of Permanent Secretary and Director-General at the same organization.

Gold Market Rate as of 7 February 2025

THE price of one tical (16.329325 grammes) of gold with density of 19.25 grammes per cubic centimetre and above is K5,480,000 as established by the Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee.

Sri Sri Ravi Shankar arrives in Myanmar for humanitarian and peace mission

A delegation led by spiritual leader and peace ambassador Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, a prominent figure in humanitarian efforts from India, arrived in Myanmar yesterday evening by air.

The distinguished guest Sri Sri Ravi Shankar and his delegation were warmly welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, regional ministers and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, representatives from the Indian Embassy to Myanmar and Myanmar youth. — MNA/KZL



Sri Sri Ravi Shankar and delegation welcomed by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein and officials upon arrival at Yangon International Airport.



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)

FROM PAGE 1

The Loka Tharaphu Pagoda was built by King Hsinbyushin Tanninganway who was the ninth of the Nyaungyan dynasty in the second Inwa era, in 1730 AD, 1092 ME. As the king passed away before the completion of the pagoda, his son King Maha Dhammarajadhipati called King Kyathapatay captured Hanthawady and continued the construction of the pagoda till 1733 AD, 1095 ME. The Loka Tharaphu Buddha Image was curved in a large marble rock, half of which was kept in the ground. The Buddha image is some 30 feet high and the circumference

Officials urged to preserve ancient religious buildings in original form

of the sitting area is some 20 feet wide. It weighs 490.36 tonnes. The Mahaloka Thinkyit Pagoda was built close to the west of the brick tier-roofed building in which the Loka Tharaphu Buddha Image is kept. In 1140 ME, King Singu who was a king of the Konbaung dynasty enveloped the pagoda. Prince Pakhan, son of King Bodawphaya, King Hanthawady

and King Bagan also renovated the pagoda. As an intensified earthquake jolted there in 1200 ME, the Mahaloka Thitkyit Pagoda and the brick chamber of Loka Tharaphu Buddha Image collapsed. Although King Mindon repaired them, these projects were not finished. Thanks to the renovation carried out by Abbot of Dipa Ayemya corner of

Sagaing Hill U Nandasiri in 1342 ME, visitors can see the current situation of the edifices. Reportedly, officials have repaired the buildings in successive eras. The Senior General inspected the wall and moat of the ancient Inwa City and left guidance on continuous maintenance of the city and wall and renovation of the moat.

He inspected the Mahazeyapahta Maung Oh Bridge and Brick Road on the TadaU-Inwa road section and instructed officials to submit a research report on the advantages and disadvantages of the renovation of the bridge and conduct research on the brick road. The Senior General and party viewed the road by car. — MNA/TTA

78th Shan State Day celebrated in Taunggyi

State Administration Council Member Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, accompanied by council members, attended the 78th Anniversary Shan State Day in Taunggyi yesterday. During the celebration, the Union Minister read the message from SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing for the 78th Shan State Day. Shan State Chief Minister U Aung Aung then delivered a speech. SAC member Union Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae and SAC Members Porel Aung Thein, Dr Ba Shwe, Khun San Lwin, Union Ministers Dr Soe Win, Jeng Phang Naw Taung, Khun Thant Zaw Htoo, Chief Minister U Aung Aung and Eastern Command Commander Maj-Gen Zaw Min Latt inaugurated the ceremony and explored



The 78th Shan State Day celebration in progress yesterday, attended by SAC Member Union Border Affairs Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, SAC Members and Union Ministers.

the exhibition booths displaying traditional ethnic cuisines, departmental booths, and MSME

booths. Afterwards, a ceremony was held at City Hall to award

certificates of honour. The Union Minister and SAC members presented outstanding awards

for management (first, second and third class) to 44 recipients and outstanding awards for security and rule of law to 12 recipients. Union Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae donated solar panels and basic foodstuff worth K53 million for staff and people of Shan State and Union Minister Jeng Phang Naw Taung donated sports gear to the relevant officials. Moreover, the Shan State chief minister presented outstanding awards for security and the rule of law (third class) and awards for livestock breeding (first and third classes) and awards for social (first class); and the Shan State chief justice, state ministers and the secretary of the Shan State government presented outstanding awards for social (first, second, third classes) and sports (third class). — MNA/KTZH

NATIONAL

Deputy PM MoFA Union Minister receives Bangladeshi Ambassador

U Than Swe, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received Dr Md Monwar Hossain, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, yesterday at the Ministry of

Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on ways to further strengthen bilateral ties, including fostering closer economic cooperation, and discussed potential initiatives to promote trade and investment between the two countries. — MNA



The Bangladeshi ambassador calls on Deputy Prime Minister MoFA Union Minister U Than Swe yesterday.

Cambodian Mohasangharajah of Dhammayuttika Nikaya visits International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University in Yangon



The Cambodian Sayadaw(C) and the Rector Sayadaw exchange gifts.

THE members of the Sangha led by His Holiness Samdech Preah Abhisiri Sugandha Mohasangharajah Dhipati Dr Bour Kry from Dhammayuttika Nikaya who is one of the Adhipati Sayadaws in Cambodia, currently in Myanmar, visited the International Theravada Buddhist Missionary Univer-

sity, in Yangon yesterday.

The Cambodian Supreme Patriarch first met Rector Sayadaw Aggamaha Pandita Maha Dhammakathika Bahu-janahitadhara Dr Bhaddanta Chekinda and discussed efforts for continuous propagation of the Theravada Buddhism, admissions for Buddha Dhamma

training courses of the International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University for Cambodian monks, nuns and citizens and other religious matters.

Afterwards, the two Sayadaws exchanged gifts, and the Cambodian Adhipati Sayadaw viewed around the classrooms. — MNA/KTZH

MIFER Union Minister attends AFTA Council Ministers Meeting

UNION Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations and AFTA Council Minister of Myanmar Dr Kan Zaw attended the Virtual Ministerial Meeting of AFTA Council Ministers concerned with the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA) Upgrade Negotiation which was held on 7 February 2025 at the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, Office 1, Nay Pyi Taw.

The meeting was chaired by Mr Gan Kim Yong, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Industry of Sin-



Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw attends the Ministerial Meeting of AFTA Council online yesterday.

gapore and also attended by AFTA Council Ministers from

the ASEAN Member States, ASEAN Deputy Secretary-Gen-

eral and representatives.

The Ministers discussed

and provided guidance on the outstanding issues of the ATIGA upgrade negotiation and the arrangement for the signing of the Second Protocol to Amend the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement. Negotiation of the ATIGA upgrade was started in March 2022 and aims to conclude in March 2025.

The meeting was joined by Dr Marlar Myo Nyunt, SEOM Lead of Myanmar, Director-General of the Foreign Economic Relations Department and responsible persons together with the Union minister. — MNA

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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.

IPRD celebrates 34th Anniversary

THE 34th Anniversary of the Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD) was held at the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, Deputy Minister U Ye Tint, Permanent Secretary U Win Kyaw Aung, heads of department, heads of region, state and district head offices, and outstanding employees who won awards attended the ceremony.

The documentary video “Moving Forward Courageously” was introduced to the audience at the event.

In his speech, the Union minister said the IPRD stands tall as a focal department of the ministry due to the unity among the leading personnel and the staff serving their responsibilities dutifully. This year marks the 34th anniversary of the department.



The 34th Anniversary of the Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD) in progress yesterday, addressed by Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn.

The year 2024 can be supposed as the best year for IPRD as it performed its best performance holding the 2023 Myanmar Film Academy Awards ceremony, campaigns to develop libraries and raise reading

habits nationwide, and opening and closing events of the Fifth National Sports Festival at the State level and proper cooperation with ministries concerned for other events. Moreover, the department

organizes talk shows and youth dialogues to possess good characteristics and patriotism aiming at motivating the youths, developing the five essential skills and mentoring them to become reliable leaders of the country in

the future per the guidance of the Head of the State.

He also appreciated the department for launching capacity-building training sessions for the staff as they play a key role in serving public relations operations between the government and the people.

Afterwards, the Union minister, the deputy minister, the permanent secretary and departmental officials presented excellent performance awards to outstanding personnel in the region, township-level management and reading habit-raising campaigns.

Mandalay Region department head director Daw Wai Phyo then expressed gratitude on behalf of the prize recipients.

The Union minister and party observed the record photos displayed in the hall. — MNA/KTZH

Myanmar delegation attends 21st HLTF-ACV Meeting

THE Myanmar delegation led by Dr Wah Wah Maung, an Eminent Person (EP) of Myanmar for the High-Level Task Force on ASEAN Community Vision 2045 and Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations of the Republic of the Union Myanmar attended the 21st Meeting of High-Level Task Force on ASEAN Community Vision 2045 (21st HLTF-ACV) which was held in Manila, the Philippines on 3–5 February 2025, accompanied by officials from the ASEAN Affairs Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Drafting sessions of the High-Level Representatives were also held on the sideline of the 21st Meeting of HLTF-ACV and concluded the final reading with 100 per cent completion of the draft ASEAN Political and Security Community (APSC)

Strategic Plan. The 21st HLTF-ACV Meeting was co-chaired by Eminent Persons (EP) of Malaysia and the Philippines as the permanent shepherd Member States, and attended by Eminent Persons, High-Level Representatives and officials from the ASEAN Member States, representatives from Timor-Leste as well as ASEAN Secretary-General and officials from the ASEAN Secretariat. At the meeting, the HLTF-ACV had an Interface Meeting with the Chair of the High-Level Task Force on ASEAN Economic Integration (HLTF-EI), Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Development of the ASCC Post-2025 Strategic Plan and Chair of the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC), Senior Officials Respon-

sible for Information (SOMRI), and the respective pillars have updated their progress in developing their respective ASEAN Community Vision 2045 strategic plans. The Meeting exchanged views on the development of the respective strategic plans and effective implementation. During the meeting, the Draft Kuala Lumpur Declaration on ASEAN Community Vision 2045 is set to be adopted at the 46th ASEAN Summit in Malaysia in 2025. The meeting also deliberated on the Draft APSC Strategic Plan of ASEAN Community Vision 2045, Institutional Strengthening related Strategic Measures, Cross-pillar Strategic Measures, and the Monitoring and Evaluation mechanism for the implementation of Strategic Plans as well as the development of Strategic Plans by the respec-



MIFER Deputy Minister Dr Wah Wah Maung and Myanmar delegates participate in the 21st HLTF-ACV Meeting in Manila on 3-5 February.

tive pillars. The upcoming 22nd HLTF-ACV Meeting scheduled to be held in March 2025 in Penang, Malaysia, will delve into further discussions on the Strategic Plans of the ASEAN Community Pillars. In addition, the Meeting will address key issues such as ensuring harmonization among strategic measures of the respective pillars, avoiding duplication, identification of lead sec-

toral bodies and pillars to take ownership for the implementation of strategic measures, strengthening linkages and coordination among sectoral bodies as well as Monitoring and Evaluation mechanisms of the Strategic Plans. The Meeting will also emphasize the timely conclusion of the Strategic Plans for their adoption at the 46th ASEAN Summit in May 2025 in Malaysia. — MNA

Stone coal to be allowed for import from abroad

STONE coal will be allowed for import starting from February 2025 to boost the production capacity of domestic factories and ensure the continuous operation of cement factories as it is a necessary raw material for these industries. Thus, cement factories in need of the material will be able to apply for import licences. — MNA/KZL

NATIONAL

SAC Information Team Leader clarifies government's efforts in combatting online scams and other criminal activities, replies to questions on people's military service

TODAY, I will reply to questions raised by the media about the efforts of the government in combatting online scams and other criminal activities and people's military service issues.

Myanmar's government cooperates with international communities in effectively combatting online scams and other crimes. On 3 February this year, the Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister instructed Union ministers and chief ministers of regions and states to effectively take action against online scams and gambling as the State faces hardships due to these crimes at the Union government's meeting. The Prime Minister also said that the government is actively cooperating with international communities in eradicating criminal cases. He stressed the need to strictly handle exposing and taking action against those who committed online gambling and scams in addition to other criminal cases. Moreover, the Prime Minister emphasized the need to follow his guidance to take effective action against officials from relevant regions if they are involved in crimes in addition to those who committed drug cases and other crimes. With regard to combatting the online gambling cases, a total of 61 persons – 39 Chinese, one from Kazakhstan, five from Indonesia, one from Ethiopia, one from Pakistan, one from Malaysia and 13 from India

who were forcibly trafficked to commit online scams and gambling in Shwokokko and KK Park near Myawady on the Thai-Myanmar border – were exposed, and officials from Myanmar government, Myanmar Police Force and Immigration Body handed them over to officials from Thailand on 6 February 2025. According to the confessions, they were lured online to work at computerized jobs and translation employment with high salaries. They initially arrived in Mae Sot on the Myanmar-Thai border via Bangkok, Thailand, from their relevant countries. Representatives from online gambling and scam businesses took them illegally crossing the Thaungyin River of the Thai-Myanmar border and forcibly ordered them to work at online scams and gambling businesses in Shwokokko and KK Park, Myawady.

Likewise, the government is accelerating an operation to combat criminal cases related to online gambling and scams in the eastern part of the northeast of Shan State. On 5 February, acting on a tip-off that scams and gambling were being undertaken, security forces went to the Mongha area in Mongyai, Shan State, and inspected the region. They found seven buildings where scams and gambling activities were conducted near Nawnghan Village in the Mongha region, Mongyai Township. Hence, they combed the area and seized arms, ammunition,



Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun – SAC Information Team Leader.

181 mobile phones, 25 laptops, 21 desktops, 28 keyboards, two Wi-Fi devices, two sets of Starlink internet communication devices, solar panels, and batteries used in online scam and gambling processes.

At the same time, security forces took security measures at the site, southeast of Mongyai Town but faced the firing of five armed insurgents who protected the online gambling and scams. So, the security forces counterattacked them. In the incidents, some casualties happened. In this regard, seven Chinese males and one female, eight Myanmar males and four females were arrested with six arms. The area was combed in detail on 6 February. At that time, three more Chinese males and one female who hid themselves in two places, southwest of Mongkaung were arrested. Moreover, the security forces searched the southwest of Mongkaung and arrested 18 Vietnamese females, two Myanmar males and 25 females,

totalling 45 were arrested with 72 computers, five Starlink internet devices, 79 assorted mobile phones, five gaming machines and two vehicles. Those arrestees will be under necessary investigation and more processes will be conducted under the work procedures.

Regarding online gambling and scamming, the Myanmar government issued a transparent press release on 20 January about the ongoing crackdown on online gambling operations in border areas. The SAC Chairman Prime Minister instructed the government organizations during a government meeting, emphasizing that online scams and gambling are not only crimes against Myanmar citizens but also crimes against humanity. The Myanmar government stated that it will take decisive action against these crimes in collaboration with international organizations.

For one more issue, he explained that after issuing the People's Military Service Rules,

malicious media and terrorist instigators are working to mislead and intimidate the public. Arrangements have already been made to allow extensive reading and study of the People's Military Servants Law. It can be accessed on the websites and web portals of the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Legal Affairs, the Ministry of Information, the Myawady web portal, and the Myanmar National Portal. Moreover, the Central Committee for Summoning People's Military Servants has announced that inquiries related to conscription, as well as complaints about misconduct, can be made through official channels. However, it also warns that false reports or misinformation will be investigated, and appropriate action will be taken under existing laws.

Furthermore, it has already been updated to display the listed phone numbers in that location. Regarding this, reports have been made from this area, leading to investigations and action being taken against misconduct. In addition, both the People's Military Service Law and Rules specify the required ages for men and women. Based on this, there have been findings of threats directed at women. What I want to make clear is that although the People's Military Service Law and Rules technically include provisions for women to serve, there is currently no plan to conscript female people's military personnel.

New Star Bus schedule starts on 8 Feb

TO make its service more convenient, Start Bus has changed a new schedule on 8 February, according to Star City Thanlyin.

Under the new schedule, starting from 8 February during weekdays, Star Bus way 1 will run at 7:30 am, 9:30 am, 11:30 am, 3 pm and 5 pm from Star City and 8:30 am, 10:30 am, 12:30 pm, 4 pm and 6 pm from Junction City Bogoyoke Market. Similarly, way 2 will

begin at 7:30 am 9:30 am, 11:30 am, 3 pm and 5 pm from Star City and at 8:30 am, 10:30 am, 12:30 pm, 4 pm and 6 pm from Myanmar Plaza.

On weekends and public holidays, it will run from Star City as a shopping trip at 8 am, 10 am and 3 pm. The shuttle bus is a cashless system and bus fare can be paid easily by online payment platforms such as Wave Pay and KBZPay but can be also paid in

cash at management offices and a ticket will be given free for 10 tickets. Contact number 09 765444683 is provided for more information. — MT/ZS

This image showcases Star Bus's new schedule.

STAR BUS SCHEDULE					
SHUTTLE TIMINGS (SAT,SUN AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS)					
SHOPPING TRIP			THIS SCHEDULE STARTS ON 8 TH FEB 2025		
MORNING (8:00)		MORNING (10:00)		AFTERNOON (15:00)	
START	8:00	START	10:00	START	15:00
STARCITY	8:00	STARCITY	10:00	STARCITY	15:00
KANDAWGYI PARK / KAN THAR YAR CENTRE	8:45	CAPITAL (THANABETHI)	10:25	CAPITAL (THANABETHI)	15:25
SHWEDAGON PAGODA	9:00	MAKRO	10:50	MAKRO	15:50
		JUNCTION CITY	11:20	JUNCTION CITY	16:20
		JUNCTION CITY	12:00	JUNCTION CITY	17:00
SHWEDAGON PAGODA	11:00	MAKRO	12:30	MAKRO	17:30
KANDAWGYI PARK / KAN THAR YAR CENTRE	11:15	CAPITAL (THANABETHI)	12:50	CAPITAL (THANABETHI)	17:50
STARCITY	12:00	STARCITY	13:15	STARCITY	18:15
END		END		END	

Myanmar arrests 81 alleged online scam operators in Shan State

THE government is actively cracking down on online fraud (Zia Pian in Mandarin Chinese) and online gambling by cooperating with international organizations. Moreover, the relevant officers in respective regions and states uncover and take action decisively against online gambling and scams including other destructive actions and the combined team comprising of security force members investigate the cases strictly.

Acting on the tip-off, security forces raided the places where the online gambling and scams are concentrated in Mongyai Township, Shan State (North), and an armed engagement occurred with security members of 'Zia Pian' in the southeast of Mongyai on 5 February. During the clash, security forces captured two dead bodies, five 'Zia Pian' securities, six weapons, eight Chinese nationals — seven males and one female — and seven Myanmar nationals — three males and four females.

Security forces also seized seven buildings and 181 mobile phones, 25 laptops, 21 desk-

tops, 28 keyboards, two Wi-Fi devices, two Starlink devices, one gun and five bullets and other gambling materials near Naunghan village.

On 6 February, security forces arrested nine Chinese nationals — eight males and one female, 18 Vietnamese females and 27 Myanmar nationals — two males and 25 females — near Naunghan village in Mongha area together with 72 computers, five Starlink devices, 79 mobile phones, five fish gambling machines and two vehicles.

On 7 February, 12 Chinese males were arrested with one Alphard vehicle and one generator near the vicinity of Naunghan village.

From 5 to 7 February, 29 Chinese nationals — 27 males and two females, 18 Vietnamese females and 34 Myanmar nationals — five males and 29 females, totalling 81 offenders were arrested in Mongha region, Mongyai township.

Systematic prosecution will be made against the offenders, and foreigners will be transferred to their respective countries on bilateral relations



18 Vietnamese women arrested for online gambling scams and fraud.



This photo shows items seized from online gambling scam and fraud gangs.

of the countries and humanitarian grounds.

The government actively investigates online gambling

to take effective actions and cooperates with international organizations including neighbouring countries to crack

down on online gambling and 'Zia Pian' in the border areas. — MNA/KTZH

Recycling of demolished building materials on the rise

MATERIALS from demolished buildings are cheap nearly half compared to new materials, encouraging people to reuse them, according to old houses and warehouses demolition businesses.

Old building materials are cheap about two third of new construction materials, and people can find all the materials they need from a demolished building.

"Recycling old building materials has been widespread recently. The price of new and old materials differs nearly two-thirds, so people prefer the reuse of old materials and they can find everything they need from a demolished building," said an official from the Mata Mikhin old building demolition business in Dagon Myo-thit (Seikkan) Township.

Some people demolish their old buildings in concrete wood or steel structures for either renovation or extension. On the other hand, some people construct or repair their houses by reusing the demolished building materials



A house is being reconstructed using predominantly salvaged materials from demolished buildings. available in all sizes of wooden and iron materials. — Thit Taw/ZS

Counter-argument to false information

Security forces accused of killing elder, detaining 3 in Myaing

MALICIOUS media outlets deliberately spread false news, claiming that security forces killed an elderly man and detained three locals from Myaing Township, Magway Region.

According to a security official, PDF terrorists launched attacks in towns and villages, causing residents to flee the areas. Security forces followed proper procedures and conducted security measures in line with the rules and regulations, ensuring that no locals were killed or arrested.

These subversive media outlets intentionally circulate misinformation to undermine

the peace and stability of the region, as well as to mislead the public about the actions of security forces. — MNA/MKKS



This screenshot discloses misinformation.

OPINION

Speed up development efforts in Shan State

SHAN State, the largest state in Myanmar by area, is a melting pot of diverse cultures and ethnicities. It is home to numerous ethnic groups including the Shan, Pa-O, Palaung, Danu, Intha, Taunggyo, Wa, Htanot, Kokang, Lahu, Yinnet, Yinkya, Myaungzee, and A kha communities, as well as groups such as the Kachin, Kayah, and Lisu. For generations, these communities have coexisted harmoniously, embodying the spirit of unity and the enduring commitment to the Union that characterizes Myanmar.

A significant milestone in Shan State's history occurred on 7 February 1947, when the 14-member Shan State Council Executive Committee was established. This body played a crucial role in Myanmar's path to independence,

culminating in an agreement that united Shan State with the rest of the country. Shortly thereafter, on 11 February 1947 at the historic Panglong Conference, 7 February was officially designated as Shan State Day. This year marks the 78th anniversary of that pivotal moment — a day that stands as a testament to the contributions of Shan State and its people in supporting the nation's journey to freedom.

However, in some parts of Shan State, ongoing conflicts involving armed groups have caused significant disruption and hardship. Local communities, worn down by recurring violence and instability, are increasingly calling for an end to conflicts that not only disrupt their lives but also undermine national development and unity.

To overcome these challenges, it is essential for all ethnic communities to come together in dialogue and political negotiation. By resolving conflicts through peaceful means, the region can pave the way for economic development and improved social conditions. A nation that is committed to its own stability must be able to rely on the strength and resilience of its people, united in their efforts to protect the country's sovereignty and foster national development.

Tasked with safeguarding national security, everybody must work hand in hand with all national brethren to ensure that the nation remains robust and independent. Patriotism and unity are indispensable qualities during times of uncertainty, and they are the foundation upon which durable peace and progress can be built.

As Shan State Day is celebrated, it is a call for every member of this diverse society to uphold the spirit of unity that was forged in 1947. In doing so, the people of Shan State can look forward to a future marked by peace, prosperity, and modern development — a future where all ethnic groups contribute to a secure and thriving nation.

■

“Let's cooperate in combatting illegal trade by informing responsibly”

By Alinn Yaung (Htun)

Regarding illegal trade, since illegal drug and arms trade, environmentally valuable rare animals, plants, ancient heritage items, unregistered medicines, consumer goods, and food products are being illegally traded in countries around the world, it is found to be threatening not only to the security and stability of the country but also to the economic development and social prosperity of the people.

SINCE illegal trade is being pursued as a lucrative business for selfish and greedy businesspeople, to reduce illegal trade, awareness programmes are widely conducted for the public, businessmen and companies involved in trade and commerce to be able to understand the law, regula-

tions and directives currently practised by the State. Moreover, if illegal trade activities are found when investigating, actions are taken against the traders and businesspeople by making them return to the legal trade path. To rule the law, reduce illegal trade and tax evasion, collecting infor-

mation and taking actions are being conducted with the cooperation of relevant partner departments, and state-level, district-level and township-level special teams for combatting illegal trade.

Regarding illegal trade, since illegal drug and arms trade, environmentally valua-



Illegal goods entering our country can cause losses to domestic manufacturing industries, and if such industries are suspended, it can lead to the loss of job opportunities. **ILLUSTRATION: REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE/CONCEPT ART**

ble rare animals, plants, ancient heritage items, unregistered medicines, consumer goods, and

food products are being illegally traded in countries around the world, it is found to be threat-

ening not only to the security and stability of the country but also to the economic develop-

Global Health Perspective (Significant Changes in Health Systems due to COVID-19)

By Dr Zeyar Win

In terms of social and cultural changes, online education has become not only the standard for basic education but also for higher education. Additionally, people have become more focused on healthy living, including maintaining balanced diets, exercising, and taking steps to prevent illness, which has led to an increase in health-conscious behaviours.

Government and Policy Responses

On the global level, international cooperation and frame-

works, such as agreements on pandemic preparedness led by the World Health Organization (WHO), have been put in place. Governments have begun drafting policies and laws to better manage future health emergencies by allocating resources more efficiently and responding quickly.

During the pandemic, one of the challenges was building trust. Public trust in healthcare systems was tested, highlighting the need for transparent and accountable healthcare manage-

ment. It became clear that effective leadership and openness are essential to ensuring public confidence in health authorities.

Environmental Improvements Amid the Pandemic

Notably, environmental improvements occurred during the pandemic, especially concerning air quality. Lockdowns and stay-at-home measures reduced travel and vehicular emissions, leading to a temporary

decrease in carbon emissions. This momentary improvement in air quality demonstrated the potential for environmental recovery and highlighted the need for continued efforts to preserve the environment.

Health System Development During the Pandemic

Due to restrictions on gatherings, telehealth services became widely popular and were successfully integrated into reg-

ment and social prosperity of the people.

Importing quality goods from abroad

Required specifications of Myanmar Standards and mandatory requirements had been issued by the Standards Technical Committees of the relevant departments with the approval from the National Standards Council in order to import quality goods from abroad. The process of issuing mandatory requirements for the import of imported goods is ongoing so that the public can safely purchase and use foodstuffs and consumer goods in official trade. A coordination working group has been formed to implement non-tariff measures for the importation of quality goods from abroad. The coordination meetings have been held with relevant departments from various ministries and departments, and the provision of notifications relating to the standard requirements for goods to be imported from abroad are being implemented by the relevant departments.

Illegal goods entering our country can cause losses to domestic manufacturing industries, and if such industries are suspended, it can lead to the loss of job opportunities. Since

effective policies are being established and implemented to combat illegal trade, the government and private sectors must continue to work together with great speed and efficiency through comprehensive and effective cooperation from all sectors.

To cooperate responsibly in combatting illegal trade

Awareness activities to the public to widely understand the negative impacts and dangers caused by the illegal trade have been provided increasingly. In fact, combatting illegal trade is not only beneficial to our country but also to neighbouring countries and countries around the world.

Therefore, responsible organizations, departments, and private associations are working together to effectively prevent the illegal export and import of goods and the illegal transportation and sale of drugs. If you want to inform about illegal trade, please contact the mobile phone number 09 404339969, office telephone number 067 409883, and email antiillegal-tradeinfo@gmail.com. We urge all to participate responsibly in combatting illegal trade by sending accurate and timely information.

■



The rapid development of mRNA vaccines is one of the most significant innovations in biotechnology that emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic. **ILLUSTRATION: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/CONCEPT ART**

ular healthcare delivery. During the pandemic, online healthcare services, including mental health support, became common and are now likely to remain part of the healthcare system. Public

health systems also improved, particularly in areas such as early disease detection, research, and vaccine development.

SEE PAGE 11

NATIONAL

Inlay Traditional Regatta Festival to boost tourism



This photo showcases an event of Inlay Lake’s traditional regatta festival held in the previous year.

THE Inlay region will host the traditional regatta festival as a tourist attraction to promote tourism, according to the General Administration Department (GAD) of Nyaungshwe Township, Shan State (South).

The Inlay traditional regatta festival will take place over two days, from 8

to 9 February, at Namkat Creek in the Inlay region.

A total of 12 teams will compete, with four teams each in men’s, women’s, and students’ rowing events.

The race aims to promote tourism in the Inlay region, explore new tourist attractions, and preserve traditional

foot-paddling practices.

In the past, the Inlay Lake traditional regatta festival was held alongside the PhaungdawU Pagoda Festival. However, this year, due to flooding caused by Typhoon Yagi, the two festivals will not be held together. — ASH/MKKS

EJU applications open 10 Feb

APPLICATIONS for the Examination for Japanese University Admission for International Students (EJU), which is scheduled to be held in June 2025, will be accepted from 10 February, as announced by the organizing committee, Myanmar Association of Japan Alumni (MAJA).

EJU features science subjects- Japanese as a Foreign Language, Science and Mathematics and arts subjects — Japanese as a Foreign Language, Japan

and the World and Mathematics and will take place in Yangon on 15 June. The examination fee for all subjects is K60,000.

The duration of the acceptance of the application is from 10 February until 6 March, from Monday to Friday, from 9:30 am to 4 pm. Applications will be accepted at MAJA head office (Yangon) No 2B (4), Snow Garden Housing, Thumingala Road, Thingangyun Township, Yangon via 09 262602121 and 09 428612151, and at the MAJA office Mandalay, 1st Floor, Block

1, Unit 6, Mingala Mandalay, Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay via 09 255162533.

Three 3 by 4 centimetres licence photos in blue or white background (must be clear and shot in the last three months) and a copy of your ID card is required.

Filling of information should be complete and accurate and no change is allowed after submission, and candidates have to answer corresponding to subjects they chose, it said. — MT/ZS

Eint Chit to drop new album celebrating 20 years in music

TO celebrate her 20-year milestone in the music industry, singer Eint Chit will release a special album titled Eint Chit (Live at FG Studio) on 9 February.

The album will feature a collection of her most successful songs, re-recorded in a studio live version. It includes 10 songs composed by well-known composers such as Min Chit Thu, Naung Naung SF, Remo, Ye Lay, Thar Gyi, Kabar, ArT, Bunny Phyto and Eint Chit herself.

Speaking about the album, Eint Chit shared, “This album is a special memory for my 20th anniversary in music. It will be released in audio format on 9 February. It features fan-favourite songs performed with live instrumentals by Lucky Hand Band and produced by FG Production. Fans can listen to Eint Chit (Live at FG Studio) on iTunes and Spotify starting 9 February, and it will also be available on local music apps soon”.

The album includes hit songs such as ‘Htoh Kyaunt Way Kya Thee’, ‘Kyway Lwint Ya Doe Mel’, and ‘Chit Chin Ko Ma Khwel Par Naet among others. — ASH/KZL



Images from Eint Chit’s new album promotion.

MRCS, ICRC conduct Red Cross courses at Mandalay Universities



This photo depicts students attending the Red Cross introductory course.

MYANMAR Red Cross Society in cooperation with its partner International Committee of the Red Cross conducted Red Cross introductory courses across universities and colleges in Mandalay Region between 21 January and 2 February 2025.

Myanmar Red Cross Society, Mandalay Region Red Cross Supervisory Committee, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies – IFRC, International Committee of Red Cross — ICRC and German Red Cross jointly offered Red Cross introductory courses in Kyaukse University, Mandalay University, Cooperative College, Mandalay

Education Degree College, Yadanabon University, Mandalay Technological University, Government Technological College (Mandalay), University of Medicine (Mandalay), Technological University of Mandalay and University of Medical Technology (Mandalay).

Volunteers of Red Cross elaborated on Red Cross Movement, seven fundamental principles, guidelines and regulations on the use of Red Cross Emblem and seal, activities of MRCS, cooperation and engagement with rural communities and things to abide by, roles of volunteers and youths, ethics and rules of volunteers during the courses as well. — ASH/KK

Tatmadaw vessel Thanlwin completes coastal healthcare mission

THANLWIN Tatmadaw Vessel returned after providing healthcare services to local people in Taninthayi, Yangon and Ayeyawady coastal areas.

The Tatmadaw's special medical team includes doctors, surgeons, and nurses, aboard the Thanlwin Tatmadaw Vessel who have completed a healthcare mission for local people in towns, villages and surrounding areas along the Taninthayi coastal region, as well as in Yangon Region's Cocokyun Township and Ayeyawady Region's Hainggyikyun Town.

The medical team carried out healthcare services from 16 January to 5 February. The vessel arrived back in Yangon yesterday, docking at the No 2 Naval Jetty (Thilawa), where they were welcomed by Tatmadaw members and families from Thanlyin Station.

The medical team on board the Thanlwin vessel provided services along the coastal areas in Taninthayi Region,



Medical team from Tatmadaw hospital ship welcomed by members and families at Thanlyin Station.

including Palaw Township, villages near Mali Island, Kyunsu Township, villages around Kyunsu, Bokpyin Township, villages near Pearl Island and Kawthoung Township, as well as surrounding areas in

Yangon Region's Cocokyun Township and Ayeyawady Region's Hainggyikyun, Ngaputaw Township, and surrounding villages.

Throughout this mission, the team treated a total of

6,559 people including 1,732 with general diseases, 439 with surgical conditions, 399 with OG cases, 528 with child diseases, 894 with orthopaedic diseases, 360 with ear, nose, and throat issues, 1,404 with

eye problems and 803 with dental issues. Among them, 71 underwent surgeries for general conditions and 125 received eye surgeries on board the vessel.

In turn, 251 patients received X-ray tests, 430 were examined using ultrasound, 499 underwent ECG heart tests and 672 had laboratory tests. The medical team also successfully assisted in the delivery of one pregnant woman, while 93 individuals were referred to local Tatmadaw and general hospitals for further treatment.

Commodore Thein Htoo, on behalf of the State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, presented gifts to mobile medical teams. This mission marks its 18th trip, during which 163,646 people received healthcare services. During these missions, the team has also helped deliver 22 babies safely. — MNA/KZL

Global Health Perspective (Significant Changes in Health Systems due to COVID-19)

FROM PAGE 9

Technological innovation in health monitoring was another area of advancement. Artificial intelligence (AI) and data utilization played crucial roles in tracking disease spread, creating models, and efficiently distributing resources. Digital health certificates and health apps for the general public became common tools for public health management.

Biotechnology Advancements

The rapid development of mRNA vaccines is one of the most significant innovations in biotechnology that emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic. The technology, initially devel-

oped for COVID-19 vaccines, has potential applications for other diseases, such as cancer and HIV, which may lead to groundbreaking treatments in the future.

Global Cooperation and Environmental Restoration

The pandemic also emphasized the need for global cooperation in managing disease outbreaks and fostering environmental sustainability. Governments and businesses have increasingly focused on reducing carbon emissions and investing in green technologies as part of efforts to rebuild a sustainable environment. The pandemic demonstrated the resilience of communities, with

cities redesigning public spaces to facilitate better air circulation and social distancing in anticipation of future health crises.

Lessons Learned

The pandemic highlighted the strengths and weaknesses of global healthcare systems. It underscored the need for equitable access to healthcare services around the world. COVID-19 showed that pandemics, regardless of location, affect the entire world. This has reinforced the importance of universal access to healthcare systems.

The pandemic also brought attention to the importance of international collaboration and disease prevention. The role of global health organizations has

become more critical than ever, as they continue to coordinate efforts to combat current and future pandemics. The lack of investment in healthcare systems before the pandemic led to widespread disruptions, prompting increased investment in healthcare infrastructure.

Moreover, the pandemic revealed disparities in access to healthcare, with vulnerable populations lacking sufficient protection, including in vaccine distribution. There is a clear need for continued efforts to address these disparities, particularly for marginalized communities.

Long-Term Global Changes

The pandemic has led to

major changes in the healthcare sector, the economy, society, and culture. Technology, governance, and environmental conservation have all seen progress. However, challenges remain, such as long-term COVID complications and worsening inequalities in social and economic spheres. The pandemic also showed how interconnected the world is, and how future health systems must be more resilient, equitable, and sustainable.

The lessons learned from COVID-19 will likely shape the future of global healthcare, ensuring better preparedness, cooperation, and investment in health systems for the benefit of all people, everywhere.

NATIONAL

BUSINESS

YGEA to offer AML-CFT course on 10 Feb

THE Yangon Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA) will conduct the Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) course (batch 21) from 9 am to 3 pm on 10 February.

Gold shop owners and traders can enquire about the course and make free registration at 42/50 on Shwelonbha Street, Pabedan Township via 09 450049282 and 09 880002052.

The precious metal dealers' licences can be sought only with the AML/CFT course completion certificate under Section 3 (G) of Chapter 2 of the directive 2/2022 issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs' Central Body on Anti-Money Laundering. — NN/KK



Gold ornaments are displayed at the jewellery outlet in Yangon.

Transport Planning Dept to simplify domestic operator licensing



Freight lorries lined up to transport cargo across regions and states. PHOTO: YRTC

THE Department of Transport Planning under the Ministry of Transport and Communications notified that domestic operator licence renewal and amendment processes will go digital on a trial basis starting from 10 February 2025 at respective offices in Yangon and Mandalay regions.

The department is planning to transform the licensing process into digital for domestic operator licences issued under Road Transport Operations Law 2016 to facilitate the process and streamline workflow.

Furthermore, the department will provide full service using a digital system starting from 1 April 2025, urging transport operators to cooperate in this. Individuals can enquire about details through its website www.dotp.gov.mm.

Under the approval of the Union Government's 6/2024 meeting, U Thint Myat Thu, Director-General of the department and U Tun Tun Win, CEO of Secure Link Co Ltd signed an agreement to automate licensing on 9 August 2024 at the meeting hall of the

department in Nay Pyi Taw.

According to that agreement, the digitalization of domestic operator licence renewal and amendment process will be initially implemented at offices in Yangon and Mandalay regions six months after building the system. The second phase includes domestic operator licensing through website, web portal and mobile (IOS/Android) across all offices in regions and states in the next six months. The public can receive the online licensing service of the department at that time. — NN/KK

'Pheegyan' banana trade booms in Mandalay



'Pheegyan' bananas are organized for sale at the market.

IN the Mandalay banana market, the 'Pheegyan' banana trade has elevated among other bananas.

'Pheegyan' bananas are available in all seasons and are the most consumed. The majority of the orders for 'Pheegyan' bananas grown in Mandalay are from Yangon Region, as well as from Meiktila, Kyaikto and Mawlamyine.

"'Pheegyan' sales have surged compared to Rakhine and 'Theemhwe'

bananas. 'Pheegyan' is the most-consumed banana in Myanmar and it is available in all seasons and the price is also good. Yangon is the major destination," said Ko Shwe Yoe, a banana trader from Mandalay.

Traders said that 'Pheegyan' banana sales were better in the previous monsoon season. The banana market is slightly different depending on regions and states. — Thit Taw/ZS

CBM to pump \$23M into fuel oil sector

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) announced on 5 February that it would inject \$23 million into the fuel oil sector.

CBM sold \$490,000 and 500,000 yuan on 5 February, over 105,900 yuan on 4 February and 500,000 yuan on 3 February. CBM pumped in \$124M, 13.8M baht and 4.8M yuan into financial markets in January 2025.

CBM aims to curb the instability in the foreign exchange market and the cur-

rency devaluation. According to CBM's notification on 15 March, it has been joining hands 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



Vehicles refuel at a petrol station in downtown Yangon.

China, Indonesia renew currency swap agreement

The currency swap arrangement will enhance financial cooperation, promote trade, investment, and stabilize financial markets.

THE People's Bank of China (PBOC), the country's central bank, has renewed a bilateral currency swap agreement with the Bank Indonesia.

The total value of the agreement is 400 billion yuan (about US\$ 55.79 bil-

lion), or 878 trillion Indonesian rupiah, the PBOC said in a statement on its website.

The agreement is valid for five years and can be renewed upon mutual consent, according to the statement. The currency

swap arrangement will strengthen financial cooperation between China and Indonesia, promote and facilitate bilateral trade and investment, and safeguard the stability of the financial markets, the statement added. — Xinhua



Photo taken on 1 August 2022 shows the street view during the evening rush hour in Jakarta, Indonesia. **PHOTO: XU QIN/XINHUA/FILE**



There are only weak signs of recovery in the Finnish forestry sector, citing slow economic growth in Europe, cautious consumer behavior, and a lack of increased demand from construction and industrial sectors. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/AFP/FILE**

Finnish forestry giant UPM reports 21% profit increase in 2024

FINLAND-BASED forestry giant United Paper Mills (UPM) reported a profit of 1.2 billion euros (US\$1.25 billion) in 2024, marking a 21 per cent increase from the previous year, the company said on Wednesday.

However, annual sales for 2024 declined by one per cent to 10.4 billion euros. Massimo Reynaud, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of UPM, attributed the improved performance to the company's new pulp mill in Uruguay and increased sales volumes in advanced mate-

rials. However, he noted that "the wood market in Finland continued to be structurally tight, keeping wood costs high and availability limited". According to Finnish business daily Kauppalehti, Finland's forestry sector has struggled with a challenging market environment for the past few years, and the outlook remains uncertain. The decline in global pulp prices last autumn, coupled with high raw wood purchase costs, has weighed on companies operating in Finland. — Xinhua

Daily oil production at Tengiz increases to 870,000 barrels in January

DAILY oil production at the Tengiz field in January increased to 870,000 barrels, according to a press release from the Ministry of Energy of Kazakhstan on Wednesday.

"As of January, daily oil production at Tengizchevroil (TCO), the operator of one of Kazakhstan's largest oil fields, reached 870,000 barrels," the press release stated.

The ministry specified that this figure is 45 percent higher than the average level for 2024.

According to TCO, the project is expected to increase Tengiz's total crude oil production by 12 million tons per year.

The Tengiz oil and gas field is one of the largest in Kazakhstan, with oil reserves of 3.1 billion tons. It is located in the Atyrau region. — Xinhua

Malaysia's Proton begins construction of new EV plant

MALAYSIA'S national automaker Proton has begun construction of its new electric vehicle (EV) production plant at its high-tech Tanjung Malim facility in Malaysia.

Proton said in a statement on Friday that targeted for completion by the end of 2025 at an investment cost of 82 million ringgit (US\$18.46 million), the first phase of the company's EV assembly plant will have an initial planned capacity of 20,000 units per

year.

Once completed, it will produce multiple models based on the Global Modular Architecture (GMA) platform starting with the Proton e.MAS 7, the first EV model from a Malaysian automotive brand.

Proton already has plans in place for a second phase of its new production plant in anticipation of growing acceptance and demand for EVs from its customers. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MCL-15 VOY.NO. (03N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MCL-15 VOY. NO. (03N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **8-2-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **TMT** 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 MAWLAMYINE CENTURY LOGISTICS CO., LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V XO LUCKY VOY.NO. (X2503E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V XO LUCKY VOY.NO. (X2503E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **8-2-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S TI2 LOGISTICS PTE LTD

GLOBAL VIEWPOINTS:
FEATURED REPORTS FOR THIS WEEK



Germany's dual training turns to AI, digitalization amid worker shortage

Germany's dual vocational training system, blending academic and practical experience, faces a shortage of skilled professionals, especially in AI.

THE German vocational education, known for its dual training system, has been deemed a key driver of the country's economic development.

The system, which combines theory taught in public schools with job training at private companies, has also adapted to the development of the digital age, focusing on artificial intelligence (AI) and other innovations. Germany's dual vocational training system combines practical company experience with academic learning and typically spans two to three and a half years. Accessible to most, it generally requires a secondary school diploma or university qualification. Trainees divide their time between vocational schools and companies, with training standardized across



The German government slashed its growth forecasts for 2025 as industry leaders sent dire warnings over the country's economic health and staged nationwide protests to urge reforms. PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/AFP/FILE

industries. There are about 330 recognized professions requiring formal training, and certified apprentices typically earn a median monthly salary of around €3,500, with some occupations exceeding €4,300. Vocational careers, includ-

ing skilled trades, sales, and agriculture, are highly respected, and many apprentices pursue higher education after completing their training. However, Germany is facing challenges in addressing the

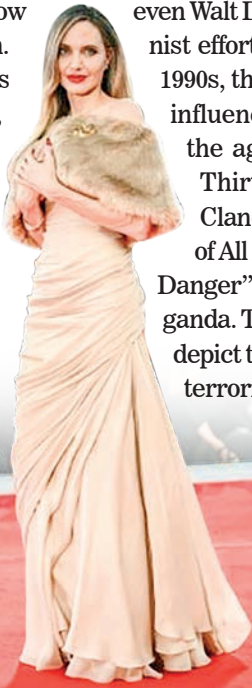
shortage of skilled professionals, especially in the digital and AI sectors. Reports predict that by 2027, two-thirds of AI-related positions may remain unfilled due to a lack of qualified workers. — Xinhua

Hollywood's CIA Ties Exposed: Celebs or Special Agents?

US filmmakers and movie stars have helped whitewash the image of US spies for years, portraying them as heroes who sometimes have to resort to drastic measures for the greater good.

Here's the list:
Angelina Jolie. She visited CIA headquarters for consultancy while preparing for her role in 'Salt', a 2010 spy thriller. Her activism around the globe, however, makes one wonder exactly how deep her relationship with the CIA might run.
Jennifer Garner. The star of TV series 'Alias' where she played a CIA double agent, Garner was invited to visit Langley. In 2004, she even starred in a short recruitment video for the agency.
Sean Penn. His interview with Mexican drug lord Joaquin Guzman (also known as "El Chapo"), which was soon followed by the latter's arrest, fueled speculation that Penn might be a US intelligence asset.

Ben Affleck. He starred as CIA Deputy Director Jack Ryan in the 2002 thriller 'The Sum of All Fears', as well as in 2012, Affleck produced and starred in 'Argo', a film lauding the CIA's efforts to rescue US diplomats during the Iran hostage crisis.
The CIA has had a longstanding relationship with Hollywood, with claims suggesting even Walt Disney assisted in anti-communist efforts during the Cold War. In the 1990s, the CIA set up a liaison office to influence filmmakers' portrayals of the agency. Films like "Zero Dark Thirty" and adaptations of Tom Clancy's works, such as "The Sum of All Fears" and "Clear and Present Danger", have been seen as CIA propaganda. TV series like "Homeland" also depict the agency's efforts in counter-terrorism. — SPUTNIK



Angelina Jolie portrays opera legend Maria Callas in the biographical film "Maria", directed by Pablo Larraín. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

New European Commission debuts amid homegrown, external challenges

THE European Parliament (EP) on Wednesday approved the new team of the European Commission, led by Germany's Ursula von der Leyen, who will serve her second five-year term as president. Analysts suggest that as the EU's executive body, the Commission faces domestic and international governance challenges. Domestically, it must address the declining economic competitiveness in Europe, while internationally, it urgently needs to strengthen the EU's strategic autonomy. The European Parliament approved the new 27-member European Commission with 370 votes in favor, 282 against, and 36 abstentions, following a contentious selection process. Ursula von der Leyen secured her second term as Commission president, but challenges emerged over the nominations, particu-

larly concerning two executive vice-presidents: Raffaele Fitto from Italy's far-right Brothers of Italy party and Spain's Teresa Ribera. Disputes over these appointments delayed the final approval until an agreement was reached on 20 November. Despite approval, the Commission received the least support in Parliament since 1993, with criticisms of inter-party bargaining. The new Commission faces overlapping challenges, both domestic and external. Internally, Europe is grappling with economic downturn risks, rising far-right movements, and divisions on issues like immigration and the green transition. A report by Mario Draghi highlighted stagnation in the eurozone economy and insufficient investment in defence, technology, and green transition. — Xinhua

SPORTS



Arne Slot is enjoying a near flawless first season as Liverpool manager. **PHOTO: AFP**

Slot keen to make Liverpool's 'good' season a 'great' one

LIVERPOOL boss Arne Slot refused to shy away from the possibility of completing an unprecedented quadruple in his first season in English football on Friday as he lavished praise on captain Virgil van Dijk.

The Reds romped into the League Cup final with a 4-1 aggregate win over Tottenham on Thursday.

Liverpool are six points clear at the top of the Premier League, with a game in hand over their challengers, and topped the Champions League group phase to progress to the last 16.

Next up Slot's men travel to Championship strugglers Plymouth on Sunday aiming to reach the fifth round of the FA Cup.

No English side has ever completed the clean sweep of the three domestic trophies and the Champions League in the same season.

"I can only tell you that at this moment in time we are in a very good place. I'm not just talking about the results, but the players are fit and ready," said Slot on Friday.

"We are in a good place but we also know how long the season still is and how many difficult challenges there will still be for us.

"I'm not expecting us to win every game like we did yesterday (4-0 against Tottenham), but that is also not what I ask of them. We just try to do everything to win every single football match." Van Dijk rounded off the scoring as Liverpool swept Spurs aside to easily overturn a 1-0 first leg deficit. The Dutchman has been imperious since his compatriot took charge despite ongoing speculation over his future as Van Dijk's contract expires at the end of the season. — AFP

9th Asian Winter Games opens in Harbin

CHINESE President Xi Jinping opened the 9th Asian Winter Games in Harbin on Friday night during a festive ceremony highlighting the city's ice and snow culture.

Over 8,000 spectators at the Harbin International Conference, Exhibition and Sports Centre burst into cheers as Xi officially declared the Games open in the presence of visiting dignitaries including International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach.

The opening ceremony reached its climax as four torchbearers — two-time Olympic champion and short track speed skater Yang Yang, China's first male Winter Olympic gold medallist and freestyle skier Han Xiaopeng, Olympic race walk champion Wang Zhen, and Sochi Winter Olympics speed skating champion Zhang Hong — joined by children holding ice lanterns, lit the lilac-shaped cauldron at opening ceremony's sub-venue, Harbin Ice and Snow World, the world's largest ice and snow theme park.

Running from 7 to 14 February, the Harbin Games, with the slogan "Dream of Winter, Love among Asia" represents another major international winter sports event hosted by China following the Beijing Winter Olympics in 2022. It also marks the country's third time hosting the Asian Winter Games, following Harbin 1996 and Changchun 2007.

A record 34 countries and regions are competing in Harbin 2025, surpassing the previous high set at the 8th Asian Winter Games in Sapporo, Japan in 2017. Over 1,200 athletes are participating in ice events in Harbin and snow events in Yabuli, marking an increase from the previous record of 1,147 at the Sapporo Games. — Xinhua

The 9th Asian Winter Games are scheduled to take place from February 7 to 14 February 2025, in Harbin, China.



Artists perform prior to the opening ceremony of the 9th Asian Winter Games in Harbin, northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, 7 February 2025. **PHOTO: YANG LEI/XINHUA**



Lindsey Vonn continues her bid for a ninth world championship medal. **PHOTO: APA/AFP**

Rivals lurk as Vonn headlines world downhill

US star Lindsey Vonn gets her chance to bounce back from her super-G flop in the women's downhill at the World Ski Championships in Saalbach on Saturday.

It is, however, debatable how realistic Vonn's chances of a podium are, given the quality of likely title contenders.

AFP Sports looks at five things ahead of the downhill at the Austrian resort:

Venier leads Austrian hopes

Stephanie Venier streaked to victory in the super-G, and the whole of Austria will be hoping the 31-year-old can retain her form to push for a speed double.

She skied out of the final downhill training on Friday, but heads up a buoyant Austrian team including Mirjam Puchner and Cornelia Huetter. — AFP



India to co-chair AI summit, major announcements expected during PM Modi's visit to France

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi will co-chair the AI Summit in Paris on Monday. Notably, France had invited India to co-lead this meeting. Earlier summits were held in London and Seoul.

United States and China will be represented by US Vice-President and Chinese Vice-Prime Minister in the meet along with industry big names, start-ups and major stakeholders in a week long meet.

This is Prime Minister Modi's sixth official visit to France. Apart from co-chairing the AI meet, PM Modi will also attend VVIP dinner hosted by French government on 12 February.

"Artificial Intelligence foundation is also expected to be launched during the summit, French president has called it 'action summit'. Focus of summit will be on AI governance and make it inclusive, political message behind this meeting is that all countries should get involved in AI revolution that is challenging. Action summit will showcase convergence between France and India and create a bridge, innovation will be our new mantra," said diplomatic sources.

After co-chairing AI summit, Prime Minister Modi will also meet CEO's of top French companies in Paris at CEO forum, France is eleventh largest foreign investor in India. More than 800 French companies are operating in India.

— ANI

The summit focuses on AI governance, inclusivity, and innovation. Modi's visit will also include talks on aerospace, defense, and bilateral relations with France.



This is Prime Minister Modi's sixth official visit to France. **PHOTO: ANI**

Cybersecurity bill submitted to Japan Diet to bolster cyber defence

THE Japanese government submitted to parliament Friday a bill allowing police and the Self-Defence Forces to neutralize enemy servers in the event of a cyberat-

tack targeting critical infrastructure, in a bid to strengthen the nation's preemptive cyber defence capabilities.

The active cyber defence bill is

designed to provide more tools for the government to combat pressing cyber threats on national security. The country aims to enhance its cybersecurity capacity to levels on par with that of the United States and major European nations.

Police will first be tasked with neutralizing enemy servers, with the SDF's cyber unit stepping in on the prime minister's order when their expertise is required.

Situations that warrant the involvement of the SDF include highly organized cyberattacks by a foreign government entity on "essential computers", such as those used by central and local governments, core infrastructure operators, as well as the SDF and US forces in Japan.

— Kyodo



Japan's government introduced a bill to strengthen cybersecurity defence, allowing police and Self-Defence Forces to neutralize enemy servers during cyberattacks. **JAPAN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE/KYODO/FILE**

PREPARING FOR TRIAL

Philippine VP Sarah Duterte responds to House impeachment

PHILIPPINE Vice-President Sara Duterte held her first press briefing on Friday since the House of Representatives impeached her, saying her legal team was preparing to defend in the upcoming trial.

"I want to thank the people who love and trust me," Duterte made the remark at the Office of the Vice-President's main headquarters in Mandaluyong.

Duterte said the planning for the impeachment against her began as early as November 2023, and her lawyers have been reading relevant documents.

Duterte was impeached by the House of Representatives on Wednesday.

— Xinhua