Embrace the Future: Unfolding a New Chapter with a Fresh Vision

The Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

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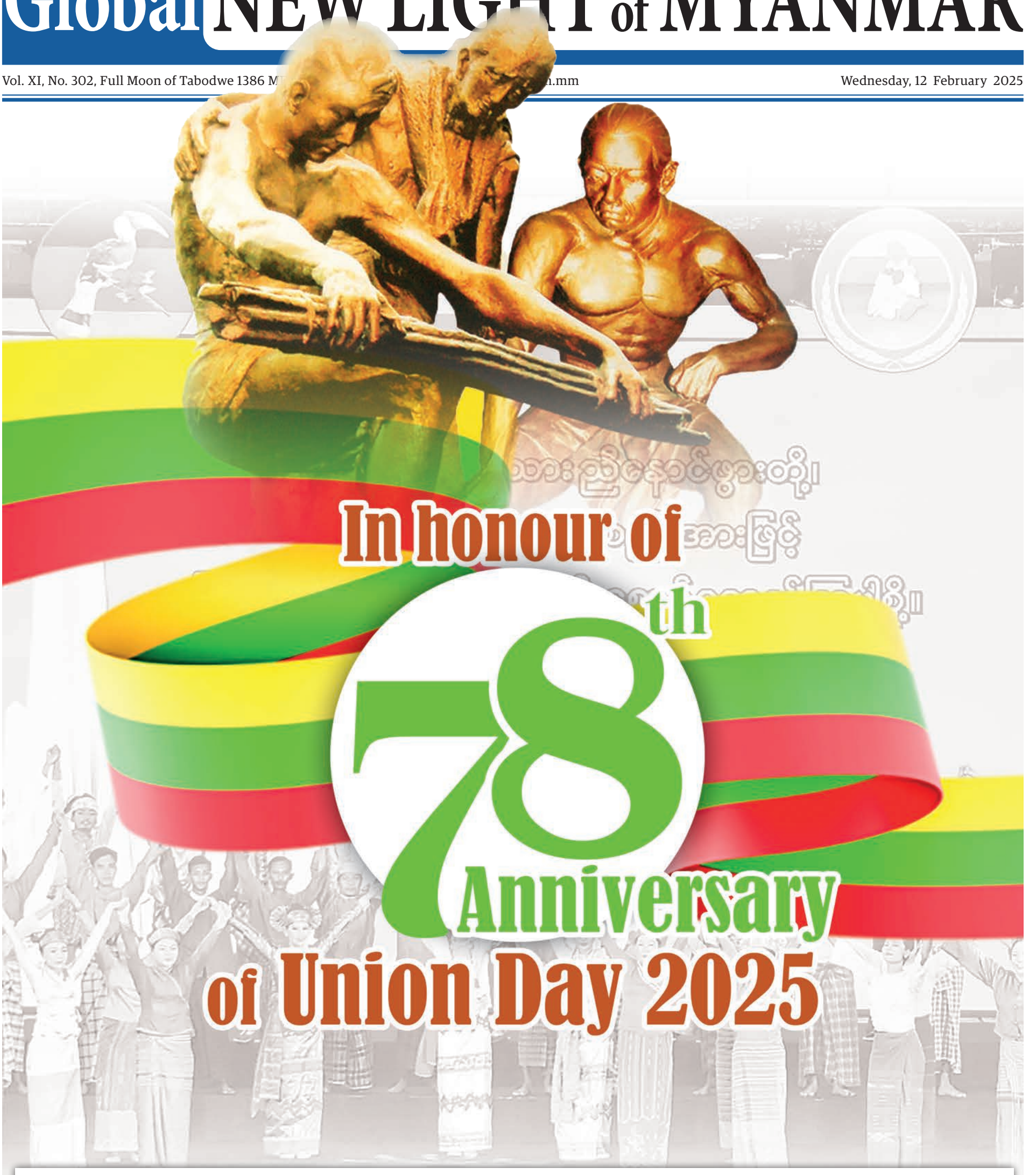

National Objectives for 78th Anniversary of Union Day 2025

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.

NATIONAL

Promoting Forest Establishment: A Collaborative Effort to Reduce Disaster Risk and Combat Deforestation

- Establishing forests can help reduce disaster risk; therefore, forest plantations should be developed in relevant village-tracts. Officials must collaborate with the community to successfully establish forests nationwide.
- A united effort is needed to prevent deforestation and to promote stewardship with a national spirit.

(Excerpt from the speech given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the Union government meeting 4/2024 on 22 April 2024)

MAI debuts 4th international route: Mandalay-Chiang Mai

AS its fourth international flight schedule, Myanmar Airways International said a new direct flight from Mandalay Airport to Chiang Mai was launched on 10 February.

MAI said it is the fourth direct international flight, to provide more options for more convenient travel for passengers, after previous direct flights to Bangkok-Suvarnabhumi, Bangkok-Don Mueang and Novosibirsk from Mandalay.

The Mandalay-Chiang Mai flight will run on every Monday and Friday weekly, it said. — MT/ZS

This photo shows MAI's new flight launch.

The opening of the First MMC Book and Painting Fair is in progress.

First MMC Book and Painting Fair honours Union Day

HONOURING the 78th Anniversary of Union Day, the first MMC Book and Painting Fair was opened at Myawady Media Centre on Mogaung Road in Yankin Township of Yangon Region on Tuesday.

The ceremony was attended by the managing director of Myawady Media Centre, general managers, consultants, scholars from literary and fine arts arenas, and guests.

The fair was formally opened by officials.

A total of 15 literary and publishing houses sell fiction and non-fiction books together with more than 100 paintings by different artists.

The fair will last for three days from 11 to 13 February. Interested persons can visit it from 9 am to 5 pm daily.

Moreover, the fair arranges a special programme for a talk among writers, artists and audiences. In addition, the fair features a caricature programme for the creation of artistic works for readers and painting lovers. — UKK/TTA

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 4:00 pm Tuesday 11 February 2025)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL MORNING OF 12 February 2025: Light rain or thundershowers are likely to be scattered in Kachin State and isolated in Upper Sagaing region. Degree of certainty is 80%. Weather will be partly cloudy in Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Kayin, Mon eastern Shan States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about 4-6 feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 12 February 2025: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 12 February 2025: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 12 February 2025: Generally fair weather.

DMH

Condition of La Nina in February 2025

Issued at 11 February 2025

a. The Sea Surface Temperature (SST) over Tropical Pacific Ocean near the Equator and atmosphere phenomena reaches weak La Nina condition. According to the International Meteorological Agency, Numerical Weather prediction models are expected to remain weak La Nina level during February.

b. Although the La Nina conditions occur at Pacific Ocean, more frequently occur Easterly Waves, more low pressure areas may form over the Bay of Bengal, above Rainfall conditions will occur due to the impact of La Nina.

c. La Nina Condition will be updated in time.

DMH

NATIONAL

Door to peace talks remains open for political solutions

The government, Tatmadaw, and people must remain united in spirit and effort to ensure the nation's survival and stability.

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing sent a message to the ceremony to mark the 78th Anniversary of Union Day 2025. The full text of the translated message is as follows:-

Esteemed ethnic national brethren of the Union,

On this auspicious occasion of the 78th Anniversary of Union Day, which falls on 12 February 2025, I extend my heartfelt greetings and best wishes to all our national brethren who live together in unity and harmony across the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. May you all be blessed with prosperity, happiness, and physical and mental well-being.

Myanmar stood tall as a unified sovereign nation in the world throughout its history, from the Bagan era to the Konbaung era. However, due to three aggressive invasions by British colonialists, the entire country fell under colonial rule in 1885.

The people of the Union struggled long with unity and determination to regain the independence and sovereignty they had lost. Even when the British granted independence to Myanmar, they attempted to divide the country by granting independence only to the mainland while leaving the mountainous areas out, implementing a divide-and-rule policy to weaken national unity.

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Effective action urged against illegal trade and telecom fraud

The government plans to provide K20,000 per month per displaced person from incidents of terror attacks from January to December 2025.

SENIOR General Min Aung Hlaing underlined that local people's militia and residents have to join hands with the government to ensure the rule of law, peace and stability and socioeconomic development.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing met chief ministers of regions and states who attended the Union-level MSME Exhibition and Competition, at Bayintnaung Villa in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning and presented financial aid from the National Disaster Management Fund to the displaced people who left their native places in the terror attacks.

Also present at the meeting were SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Council Secretary General Aung Lin Dwe, Joint Secretary General Ye Win Oo, council members, Union ministers, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commanderin-Chief and officials.

State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds the meeting with chief ministers from regions and states yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General said that the past two democratic governments experienced trade deficit worth more than US$24 billion. They filled the deficit with foreign loans, financial aid and incomes from non-trade processes.

He continued that, currently, the government does not have foreign loans. So, the government emphasizes an increase in production. So, the government gets foreign currency from

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However, with the firm resolution that independence should be achieved collectively without distinction between the central region and the ethnic states, General Aung San and 23 ethnic leaders signed the historic Panglong Agreement on the morning of 12 February 1947 in Panglong. As a result, Myanmar regained its independence and sovereignty on 4 January 1948. In honour of this spirit of unity, 12 February, the day the historic Panglong Agreement for the sake of regaining independence of the nation was signed, was designated as Union Day. Union Day celebrations have been held annually for the past 78 years.

Esteemed ethnic, national brethren of the Union,

The unique characteristic of our nation is that more than 130 ethnic groups live together in unity throughout the entire Union. If people from different regions and ethnic backgrounds treat one another with loving-kindness, compassion, empathetic joy, and equanimity – the four cardinal virtues – they will be able to build a peaceful and prosperous society. Similarly, if all the citizen live together in unity, based on a deep sense of patriotism – protecting and preserving their nation and ethnicity, maintaining national prestige, and safeguarding cultural and national identity – then the Union will remain strong and stable for a long time.

It is the inherent duty of all Union-born ethnic nationals to safeguard and preserve the territorial integrity of the Union, which has been inherited from ancient Myanmar kings and ancestors. This includes safeguarding the non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity, and perpetuation of sovereignty. Therefore, all Union citizens are urged to uphold the **"Union spirit, nationalistic spirit, and genuine patriotism to ensure the lasting stability and development of the Union.**

Esteemed ethnic national brethren of the Union,

All ethnic groups residing in Myanmar have been national brethren, living together on the same land and sharing the same fortune for countless generations. Although they may differ in birthplace, region of residence, upbringing, religion, language, literature, culture, arts, and traditions, they share the same Union blood. With this sense of unity, they have always respected and valued one another, living together in harmony with a long-standing tradition of solidarity and mutual affection.

Ethnic national people inherently possess a peaceful nature, a desire to live harmoniously, compassion for one another, and a strong willingness to support each other. They have a sincere and pure-hearted mindset. However, due to the colonial "divide-and-rule" strategy, armed conflicts have persisted among ethnic national brethren, disrupting peace and stability to this day. Over generations, peace negotiations have been conducted to address these conflicts. Continued efforts have been made to achieve lasting and durable peace by signing the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) to end armed conflicts.

The State Administration Council is engaged in discussions with political parties and ethnic armed organizations to achieve internal peace and durable peace. While there may be differences in opinions among individuals when applying the multiparty democratic system, demanding one's desires by means of armed terror act is an incorrect approach that will not lead to beneficial results. Therefore, misunderstandings and conflicts between our ethnic groups should only be resolved through dialogue. Consequently, we continuously open the door to peace and welcome efforts to solve political problems through political means. We also request that local ethnic people encourage ethnic armed groups to seek solutions to their desires through political means by engaging in detailed negotiations. Thus, I would like to urge ethnic people **"to actively work together towards achieving durable peace, emphasizing the importance of engaging in dialogue and negotiations to cease armed conflicts".**

Esteemed ethnic, national brethren of the Union,

A united country, a harmonious country, and a country that strives together will always be in a state of perpetual development and progress. Without unity and harmony, a country will decay and vanish like salt in water. Therefore, the development and progress of a country must be driven by the unity and harmony of its people. The most fundamental and essential requirement for a country's development is peace and stability. Only when the country forges peace and stability will the government initiate the rule of law, ensuring the safety and security of the people's lives, property, and the protection of their livelihoods, as well as the growth of the social economy.

Some foreign countries are intentionally escalating domestic conflicts in our nation to the point of regional conflicts while attempting to solve our internal issues and disputes. We must be cautious that, should the unity of our country fracture, external forces might exploit the situation to extend their influence under the guise of neocolonialism. To ensure that the Republic of the Union of Myanmar remains strong, independent, and sovereign and to prevent it from becoming a puppet state under the control of others, all ethnic people of the country must unite, reject terrorism, and work towards the stability, peace, rule of law, and economic development of the nation. The government, Tatmadaw, and people must remain united in spirit and effort to ensure the nation's survival and stability. Therefore, I urge all ethnic people in the Union to work together with the government, Tatmadaw, and citizens for the peaceful stability and rule of law in our country.

Esteemed ethnic, national brethren of the Union,

The State Administration Council will continue to work towards transferring power to a government that emerges from a free and fair multiparty democratic general election following the five-step roadmap. A credible election and a prestigious parliament will be organized. Political parties are allowed to register under the law, and we are focused on ensuring the participation of all parties. Preparations for the election are ongoing, including the successful completion of the national population and household registration in 2024. The initial voter list has been officially published, and the accurate, verified list has been submitted to the Union Election Commission to continue the process of preparations for the election.

The election will apply a voting system with the use of Myanmar Electronic Voting Machine to prevent voting fraud and correct and accurate ballots in the election. Efforts are underway to protect the rights of all eligible voters and hold an election correctly.

In initiating a multiparty democratic system, in line with democratic culture, it is essential to address the needs and desires of individuals or groups through peaceful means, avoiding the agitation of conflicts or resorting to terror actions. In a democratic system, elections are of utmost importance, and it is necessary to cooperate in maintaining stability and peace to ensure the proper conduct of elections. Therefore, I would like to urge all of you that **"efforts be made to ensure nationwide stability and peace to successfully hold a multiparty democratic general election."**

Esteemed ethnic, national brethren of the Union,

Between states and regions, as well as within each state and region and between rural and urban areas, the gaps in living standards and the disparities in wealth must be reduced as much as possible. Everyone must work together for balanced and sustainable development. The State Administration Council has adopted national visions to ensure the prosperity of the nation and food security. The participation of ethnic people in maintaining harmony and unity is essential to ensure peace and prosperity in the nation, as well as the ethnic leaders' perspective on national interests, which is equally important.

Efforts are underway to achieve the goals of ensuring food security through the production of agriculture and livestock-based industries. Similarly, agricultural and livestock production businesses are being implemented under a cooperative system for rural development and poverty reduction. In addition to the development of rural infrastructure and the systematic growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises with quality standards, vocational training courses that align with local conditions are being opened to provide opportunities for skills and employment. Depending on the region's water resources, climate, and local conditions, it is essential to discuss and coordinate which short-term and long-term businesses should be operated and what types of job opportunities should be created for regional development cooperation.

In both states and regions, agricultural produce and consumer goods should be manufactured not only through traditional methods but also by using modern techniques and systems to innovate and enhance production. If domestic consumption is sufficient and exports are possible, the nation's economy will grow, and as a result, the socioeconomic lives of all ethnic people across the Union will improve. This will lead to the equitable development of all states and regions.

Because one can work when healthy, emphasis is being placed on ensuring that healthcare services are provided equally and comprehensively, regardless of location. In this regard, human resources are crucial, and health experts, specialists, and skilled professionals are being systematically trained and turned out.

Currently, efforts are being made to nurture and develop the youth, the future power of the nation, by enhancing their talents, abilities, and potential through comprehensive education. As a result, it is essential that every citizen achieves at least a completion of the KG+9 level of education and that they become individuals with full knowledge and skills. This goal is being achieved through the expansion of schools,

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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)

Door to peace talks remains open for political solutions

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the improvement of teachers' capabilities, and the enhancement of the school infrastructures. As more educated individuals with good health emerge, productivity levels increase, and socioeconomic life improves, reducing the disparities between states and regions.

Therefore, I would like to urge all relevant stakeholders and ethnic people to work together **to ensure the equitable development and progress of all states and regions, as well as to improve the health, education, and employment opportunities for ethnic people.**

Esteemed ethnic, national brethren of the Union,

I send this message urging all ethnic groups residing across the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to embrace the concept of successfully implementing the national objectives of the 78th Anniversary of Union Day as a national duty to ensure the Union's durability and development.

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

Effective action urged against illegal trade and telecom ...

FROM PAGE 3

CMP products and incomes from workers abroad. Hence, the government is striving to earn foreign exchange from trade.

Myanmar's GDP is lower than that of ASEAN member states. Only when the government encourages agricultural production will the country have a higher GDP. Enhancing agricultural production can improve the export sector and increase the earning of foreign exchange. Hence, it is necessary to promote the production of rice, maize and coffee for foreign markets.

As agriculture and livestock industries are interconnected, regional and state governments have to submit the plans for development of these sectors.

The people's security system was initiated in 2023. Chief ministers from regions and states have to encourage police forces to discharge their duties with aid. Local people's militia and residents have to join hands with the government to ensure the rule of law, peace and stability and socioeconomic development.

As terrorists commit terror acts on communication tracks, emphasis must be placed on transport security in relevant regions.

He underscored that now is the time for political parties to make necessary preparations to take part in the election. Elections will be conducted under the law for Pyithu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw and region and state Hluttaws.

Polytechnic universities, agriculture, livestock and technical high schools are opened to teach students to produce necessary human resources for MSME businesses in addition to plans to establish agriculture and veterinary science universities. Moreover, the issuance of capital for MSMEs in regions and states must be aligned with prescribed rules.

The Senior General highlighted that Myanmar has to participate in the international activities of transboundary haze pollution. Action must be taken against offenders in unregistered vehicles as well as officials from administration and security bodies. Illegal trade must be effectively cracked down and effective action must be taken against telecom fraud. Moreover, drug trafficking must be exposed and action taken.

Officials were urged to systematically expose the cases of illegal marriage of foreigners who committed crimes at border regions for their attempts to take citizenship of Myanmar. He also emphasized the development of libraries and raising reading habits. In addition, the Senior General stressed the need to prioritize quick-win projects for the education and health sectors.

The government has decided to provide K20,000 per month per displaced person from incidents of terror attacks from January to December 2025. More IDPs must be collected under systematic verification to demand financial aid for them.

During the long summer school holidays, arrangements are being made to conduct refresher courses for education staff to enhance their capacity. Regional and state chief ministers reported on regional requirements and work processes.

The Senior General continued his guidance, saying that the government will arrange increased production of crude oil, and regional and state authorities need to verify vacant and virgin lands in regions and states to generate electricity from solar energy by building solar power plants.

He presented cash aid for IDP from terror attacks to chief ministers of regions and states including Nay Pyi Taw Council.

Chairman of Industrial Development Commission General Mya Tun Oo, Chairman of Electricity and Energy Development Commission Admiral Tin Aung San, Union Minister for Defence General Maung Maung Aye, Chairman of Agriculture and Livestock Development Commission General Nyo Saw and Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein reported on implementation of the industrial development measures, electricity and energy development, people's military servant summoning process, implementation of agriculture and livestock projects, efforts to increase region and state GDPs, issuance of capital for businesses from the State economic promotion fund, and financial aid for IDPs.

Council Joint Secretary General Ye Win Oo reported on security, the rule of law, eradication of trafficking of arms and ammunition and narcotic drugs, verification of unregistered vehicles and environmental conservation.

The Vice-Senior General stressed that the summoning of people's military servants and the scrutiny process must be conducted under the law and disciplines. It should not be forced recruitment. Regional and state chief ministers have to successfully implement the generation of electricity from solar energy to operate MSME businesses.

He continued to say that MSME businesspersons have a chance to connect with economic attaches from relevant Myanmar embassies to seek foreign markets and to take financial aid from banks thanks to organizing the Union-level MSME expo. Moreover, he stressed that situations at border areas must be submitted to the State Administration Council in time, he added.

At the meeting, Union ministers submitted reports on international relations, capacity building for police members, and development of agriculture and livestock sectors. — MNA/TTA

Salient points from the speech delivered by the Senior General at the meeting with Regional and State Chief Ministers

1. Region and state authorities need to verify vacant and virgin lands in regions and states to generate electricity from solar energy by building solar power plants.
2. Now is the time for political parties to make the necessary preparations to take part in the election.
3. Elections will be conducted under the law for Pyithu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw and region and state Hluttaws.
4. Issuance of capital for MSMEs in regions and states must be aligned with prescribed disciplines.

NATIONAL

MoLA, China-ASEAN Centre discuss legal cooperation & research

Union Minister Dr Thida Oo holds talks with the China-ASEAN Research Centre yesterday.

THE Ministry of Legal Affairs and China-ASEAN Research Centre organized a bilateral meeting on legal cooperation and legislative research projects in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

It was attended by Union Minister and Union Attorney-General Dr Thida Oo, Deputy Minister and Deputy Attorney-General Dr Htein Lin Oo, departmental officials and a delegation led by Dr Zhong Jia of the China-ASEAN Research Centre.

At the event, the Union Minister said that the ministry is accelerating the legal awareness campaigns as per the 2020-2024 Strategic Plan entitled, "Providing Legal Service for Justice". Therefore, the research projects under the legal service theme are the key roles as well as for the development of the legal sector, right legal services and legal advice. If the two sides deepen the legal cooperation and legislative research project, it can bring mutual benefits. The successful holding of bilateral dialogue between the ministry and the centre can implement the MoU on legal cooperation and legislative research projects and enhance the bilateral relations between Myanmar and China.

The meeting also discussed the research topics in the rule of law, formation of research groups, exchange of legislation, the establishment of China-Myanmar Legal Research Centre on research in combatting telecom fraud, online gambling, drug cases and other transnational crimes, China-Myanmar Commercial Arbitration Centre and teaching session of Union Minister and Union Attorney-General Dr Thida Oo at Southwest University of Political Science and Law (SWUL) as professor emeritus in 2025. — MNA/KTZH

Human rights awareness raising talk conducted

UNDER Section 22 (a) of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Law, the Commission is dedicated to raising public awareness about human rights by disseminating information and public education. To implement the 2025 Framework for Action and the Annual Work Plan, to further enhance the understanding of human rights among the executive members of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Interfaith Dialogue Organization (Nay Pyi Taw), and to support the organization's goal of promoting cooperation and solidarity in public welfare efforts, a human rights awareness seminar was held as part of the Commission's implementation of the 2025 at the Department of Traditional Medicine Hall, Botanical Park, Pyinmana-Taungnyo main road, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area from 2 pm to 5 pm yesterday. The event was attended by U Paw Lwin Sein, Chairman of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, along with fellow commissioners, officers, and staff; Chairman U Wunna of the Union of Myanmar Interfaith Dialogue Organization (Central), Chairman U Myo Aung of the Union of Myanmar Interfaith Dialogue Organization (Nay Pyi Taw), vice-chairpersons, executive members, and about 100 other guests.

During the opening ceremony, the Chairman of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission delivered the keynote address. The Chairman of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Interfaith Dialogue Organization (Nay Pyi Taw) then expressed gratitude for the talk. Director U Zaw Lwin Htoo subsequently presented the fundamental concepts of human rights, exploring their broad interpretations, characteristics, categories and shared insights into the history of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, particularly focusing on the right to freedom of religion as specified in the Declaration. Additionally, Deputy Director Daw Mi Mi Khaing discussed the establishment and activities of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission. The session concluded with a Q&A and discussion period, wrapping up at 5 pm. — MNHRC

The public awareness-raising event of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission in progress yesterday.

Campaign boosts Myanma Thanaka for UNESCO Heritage List nomination

The campaign for Myanma Thanaka for UNESCO Heritage list underway yesterday, attended by Deputy Minister Daw Nu Mra Zan.

THE campaign for Myanma Thanaka to be listed in the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity and marking "Myanma Thanaka Day", which will fall on 12 February, was held in the National Library (Nay Pyi Taw) yesterday.

The event was attended by Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Daw Nu Mra Zan, departmental officials, teachers and students from the post-primary school (Nyaungpingyisu) and the Honey Tree private school.

During the event, the librarian briefed the history, traditions and culture of Myanma Thanaka, the benefits of Thanaka via video clips, displayed the books related to Thanaka, and also arranged the website link to explore the Thanaka-related data. Students also recited poems depicting Myanma Thanaka and also wore Thanaka.

Similarly, the national museums, cultural museums and libraries in regions and states under the ministry are also urged to participate in Thanaka Week or Thanaka Month during the whole of February. — MNA/KTZH

NATIONAL

Union-Level MSME Expo attracts massive crowds

IN commemoration of the 78th Union Day, the Union-level MSME Product Exhibition and Competition is in full swing, with MSME products from Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, regions and states showcased at the Tabaung Ground near Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw. On the second day, students, government employees and residents flocked to the event.

Entrepreneurs engaged in MSME businesses and those planning to start their ventures were seen eagerly exploring the exhibition. Ko Kyaw Tun Min, a visitor, expressed his enthusiasm, "This event allows us to purchase products from all over the country in one place, sample local delicacies, and interact with business owners. It provides valuable opportunities to expand market networks and explore potential exports. What stands out this year is the active support from relevant departments, helping entrepreneurs enhance their businesses".

The exhibition features booths from regions and states, offering insights into traditional culture, regional knowledge, iconic landmarks and local socio-economic development. Attendees can explore traditional foods and MSME products, while booth representatives provide information on domestic and international market entry, quality standards, and innovative business strategies. The event has drawn considerable entrepreneurs and curious visitors eager to learn and engage.

Enthusiasts explore vibrant booths showcased at yesterday's expo.

Ethnic traditional food stalls offer local delicacies, souvenirs, regional products and traditional attire at affordable prices. The exhibition also includes cooperative society product booths, displays from the Ministry of Industry, Myanmar Economic Corporation (MEC), Myanmar Economic Holdings Limited and the Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association, offering food and consumer goods at special discounted prices.

In the evening, various entertainment activities allowed visitors to relax and joyfully enjoy themselves. Numerous attendees were actively participating in the events as artistes from the Myanmar Radio and Television-MRTV and the Department of Fine Arts performed unity songs.

People from nearby and distant areas visited and engaged with the cultural activities, and purchased local products and traditional foods with enthusiasm. Business owners also showed keen interest in the economic and technological opportunities on display. Departmental staff members, along with their families also attended in full participation.

The total number of visitors reportedly has exceeded 5,550, with around 700 vehicles and 400 motorcycles arriving at the event. — MNA/KZL

CBM Chair urges stronger anti-money laundering measures

CBM Chair Daw Than Than Swe presides over the meeting to combat money laundering and terrorism financing yesterday.

A meeting of the task force on combatting money laundering and terrorism financing was held yesterday at the Central Bank of Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, the Chair of the Working Committee and Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar Daw Than Than Swe discussed Myanmar's progress in implementing measures against money laundering and terrorist financing. She addressed the 13th Progress Report related to the Asia Pacific Joint Group (APJG) face-to-face meeting and noted Myanmar's improvement in certain action plan items. She also highlighted the remaining points that need to be addressed and the key topics to be discussed at the upcoming Financial Action Task Force (FATF) plenary meeting.

The committee members also deliberated on amendments to the Anti-Money Laundering Law in line with FATF recommendations. They also discussed parallel financial investigations conducted by legal enforcement agencies to enhance the identification of proceeds of crime. They then reviewed the technical assistance required by respective departments and coordinated their positions for discussions at this month's FATF plenary meeting. — MNA/KZL

OPINION

Forge Union spirit in building a peaceful, prosperous nation

A UNITED country, a harmonious country, and a country that strives together will always be in a state of perpetual development and progress. Without unity and harmony, a country will decay and vanish like salt in water. Therefore, the development and progress of a country must be driven by the unity and harmony of its people.

The fundamental and most essential requirement for a country's development is peace and stability. Only when the country forges peace and stability will the government initiate the rule of law, ensuring the safety and security of the people's lives, property, and the protection of their livelihoods, as well as the growth of the social economy.

> As all our national brethren, misunderstandings and conflicts between ethnic groups should only be resolved through dialogue. Consequently, we continuously open the door to peace and welcome efforts to solve political problems through political means. We also request that local ethnic people encourage ethnic armed groups to seek solutions to their desires through political means by engaging in detailed negotiations. If so, the people of the entire nation can see a peaceful, prosperous and progressive nation in the future without fail.

To ensure that the Republic of the Union of Myanmar remains strong, independent, and sovereign and to prevent it from becoming a puppet state under the control of others, it is crucial for all ethnic people of the country to unite, reject terrorism, and work towards the stability, peace, rule of law, and economic development of the nation. The government, Tatmadaw, and people must remain united in spirit and effort to ensure the nation's survival and stability.

Between states and regions, as well as within each state and region and between rural and urban areas, the gaps in living standards and the disparities in wealth must be reduced as much as possible. The participation of ethnic people in maintaining harmony and unity is essential to ensure peace and prosperity in the nation, as well as the ethnic leaders' perspective on national interests, which is equally important.

The State Administration Council will continue to work towards transferring power to a government that emerges from a free and fair multiparty democratic general election following the five-step roadmap. In a democratic system, elections are of utmost importance, and it is necessary to cooperate in maintaining stability and peace to ensure the proper conduct of elections.

As all our national brethren, misunderstandings and conflicts between ethnic groups should only be resolved through dialogue. Consequently, we continuously open the door to peace and welcome efforts to solve political problems through political means. We also request that local ethnic people encourage ethnic armed groups to seek solutions to their desires through political means by engaging in detailed negotiations. If so, the people of the entire nation can see a peaceful, prosperous and progressive nation in the future without fail.

ARTICLE

Warmly Welcome to the Newly Appointed Dental Surgeons

By Dr Than Lwin Tun

THE Ministry of Health (MoH), Myanmar, laid down two objectives: to enable every citizen to attain full life expectancy and enjoy longevity of life and to ensure that every citizen is free from diseases. To do that, the newly appointed dental surgeons are one of the main implementing human resources for health.

Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win attended the ceremony of appointment of new dental surgeons as Government Gazette Officers on 31 January 2025 at MoH. At the ceremony, the Union Minister mentioned that dental care is an important part of public health care, and with a strong spirit and attitude, I want all of you to focus on oral healthcare activities following medical ethics and carry out professional activities. Then, Myanmar Dental Council Chairman Dr Paing Soe stressed the need to follow Myanmar Dental Council Law and carefully follow staff rules and ethics. In this ceremony, 199 dental surgeons were newly appointed.

Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win delivers an opening speech to newly appointed dental surgeons.

Taking refreshments together with Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win and newly appointed dental surgeons

Oral health is the state of the mouth, teeth and orofacial structures that enable individuals to perform essential functions such as eating, breathing and speaking. When newly appointed dental surgeons begin their careers, they need to focus on several fundamental principles to guide their practice. The mentioned points are some basic principles that are typically emphasized: Patient-centred Care, Clinical Competence, Professionalism, Communication Skills, Teamwork and Collaboration, Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving, Empathy and Compassion, Adaptability, Ethical Practice and Lifelong Learning.

These principles help new dental surgeons navigate their roles effectively and provide high-quality care to their patients while maintaining their own professional growth and well-being.

It is with immense joy and enthusiasm that we extend a heartfelt welcome to our newly appointed dental surgeons. Your arrival marks an exciting new chapter for our dental practice. Your expertise, passion, and commitment to oral healthcare will undoubtedly enrich our practice and enhance the quality of service we provide to our patients.

As you step into this new role, we want you to know that you are not just joining a workplace but becoming part of a family. Our practice has always been built on the foundation of collaboration, compassion, and excellence. We believe that every member of our team plays a vital role in achieving our shared goal: to deliver exceptional dental care and create lasting smiles. Your unique skills and fresh perspectives will contribute significantly to this mission, and we are excited to see the positive impact you will make.

The field of dentistry is both challenging and rewarding, requiring a blend of technical expertise, empathy, and a genuine desire to improve the lives of others. We do not doubt that you possess these qualities and more. Your journey to becoming a dental surgeon is a testament to your hard work, dedication, and perseverance. We are confident that you will bring the same level of commitment and enthusiasm to our practice, inspiring both your colleagues and patients alike.

Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win offers an appointment order to a new dental surgeon.

As you settle into your new role, we encourage you to embrace the opportunities for growth and learning that come your way. Our practice is committed to fostering a supportive environment where you can thrive professionally and personally. Whether it's through continuing education, mentorship, or collaboration with your peers, we are here to support you every step of the way.

To our patients, we are delighted to introduce you to our new dental surgeons. They bring with them a wealth of knowledge, a passion for patient care, and a commitment to excellence. We are confident that you will find their approach to dentistry both reassuring and inspiring. Together, we will continue to provide the highest standard of care, ensuring that your dental experience is comfortable, effective, and tailored to your needs.

Once again, warmly welcome to the newly appointed dental surgeons. We are excited to embark on this journey with you and look forward to achieving great things together and filled with shared achievements and countless smiles. ■

Some species are susceptible to broad range of viruses: Study

There were positive correlations in susceptibility: fly species resistant to one virus were generally resistant to others, including very different types.

A STUDY on fruit flies revealed that certain species are extremely vulnerable to a variety of viruses.

In the study — by the University of Exeter — 35 fruit fly species were exposed to 11 different viruses of diverse types

As expected, fly species that were less affected by a certain virus also tended to respond well to related viruses.

But the findings also show "positive correlations in susceptibility" to viruses in general. In other words, fly species that were resistant to one virus were generally resistant to others — including very different types of virus.

"Large-scale tests like this help us understand how pathogens shift to new host species, with findings broadly applicable to other animals – including humans," said Dr Ryan Imrie, now at the MRC-University of Glasgow Centre for Virus Research.

"These flies shared a common ancestor 50 million years ago, giving them equivalent diversity to mammals, and so we are asking questions over the evolutionary distances which host shifts typically occur. Lots of people are trying to predict the next pandemic. "It's impossible to test every virus, so we need to try and understand general rules about how viruses behave in new hosts."

Professor Ben Longdon, of the Centre for Ecology and Conservation on Exeter's Penryn Campus in Cornwall, added: "Information about new viruses can partly be inferred from their relatedness to existing viruses."

"However, a small number of mutations can change that — giving new viruses very different properties than their close relatives."

"Studies like this can help reveal the fundamental processes behind this."

Susceptibility in the study was measured by "viral load" — how much a virus had replicated and persisted two days into an infection.

Explaining why some fly species might be generally poor at resisting viruses, Dr Longdon said: "Immunity is very costly, so the highly susceptible species in our study may be ones that evolved in an environment with relatively few viruses, or species that viruses are particularly well able to hijack and successfully infect."

"We found no negative correlations (where high resistance to one virus came with low resistance to another)."

"This could suggest that, as fruit fly immune systems have evolved in response to infection, they have not resulted in 'trade-offs' where increased resistance to one virus has decreased resistance to others."

SOURCE: ANI

Findings contribute to efforts in predicting the next pandemic by identifying general rules about virus behaviour in new hosts. **ILLUSTRATION: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/CONCEPT ART**

NATIONAL

Moeyungyi Lake welcomes 8 endangered migratory bird species

Photos highlight rare and endangered migratory and resident birds at Moeyungyi Wildlife Santuary.

THE migratory birds migrate from the northern part of the world to warmer regions to eat and breed every year. This winter, the Moeyungyi Wildlife Sanctuary in Bago Region hosts migratory birds including eight endangered species of the world.

The sanctuary recorded the entry of water birds like black-headed ibis, bar-tailed godwit, barn swallow (Hirundo rustica), ferruginous duck and river tern, and the resident birds such as stork, Sarus crane and migrating bird dalmatian pelican.

"One species is lower than the previous year, but the bird population is high this year. We collected the Asian water bird population by cooperating with the Zoological Department of Bago University as the students grabbed the experience and collected the numbers of birds. Therefore, we have a plan to work together in the coming years. As it is the major lake of Bago Region, the arrival of water birds proves the proper cooperation of the department concerned and locals for the lake's sustainability. This year, we see the migration of world rare bird species and the endangered species yellow-breasted bunting and black bulbul are found in Moeyungyi Lake and so it is such a pride for us," said the warden of the Moeyungyi Wildlife Sanctuary.

This winter, the Moeyungyi Lake hosts 10,394 birds of 33 water bird species, 6,024 birds of 66 land bird species and 12,983 birds of 22 resident bird species, totalling 29,410 birds of 121 species. The migratory birds take shelter in Myanmar from the last week of October and April mostly in Moeyungyi, Indawgyi and Inlay lakes.

The migratory birds fly to Myanmar via the Central Asian Flyway and East Asia Australasian Flyway out of nine flyways, and the water birds migrate in Moeyungyi Lake yearly. The Central Asian Flyway is home to 182 seasonal migratory birds and 20 endangered species, and over 50 birds fly through the East Asia Australasian Flyway including 492 seasonal migratory birds and 28 endangered species.

A total of 10,473 bird species are registered in the world – 1,136 species in Myanmar, 982 in Thailand, 781 in Malaysia, 375 in Singapore, 710 in Laos, 900 in Nepal, 657 in the Philippines, 848 in Vietnam and 553 in Cambodia are respectively found. Myanmar is rich in bird species and has a natural habitat of critically endangered bird species. — Thitsa(MNA)/KTZH

Rising temperatures boost domestic watermelon sales

This image shows watermelon being arranged for sale at the fruit shop.

WITH the elevated temperature, the consumption of watermelon has increased, helping the sale of watermelon expanded internally.

The temperature has started rising from this month, meanwhile, watermelon trade has mounted as people buy it for eating, or reselling or making juice as watermelon is a fruit which improves hydration.

"In summer, people enjoy eating watermelon so the trade is usually high when the weather is hot. Now, there are people who buy watermelon for eating, reselling or making juice," said a watermelon seller from Danyingone market.

As overseas market, watermelon export goes to China through land borders, and under the current situation, the watermelon trade has been promising in the domestic market too, said an official from the Khwanyo fruits trading wholesale centre.

Watermelon contains many health benefits and rich in nutrients such as Vitamin A and C, potassium and magnesium and it is perfect to eat in summer. — MT/ZS

Bamboo market's best seller: Ten-piece bundles

BAMBOO bundles in ten were the most popular sale item in this month, according to the bamboo market in Htantabin Township.

"This month, bamboo bundles in ten are the most popular because it is a little cheaper for temporary roofing. People who can't afford much often use it. Although the price has gone up a little, it is still the cheapest at the shop. Many people use it and they are the best seller. Bean sprout workshops often order it. In the coming Taboung or Tagu, they can be out of stock, "said a bamboo wholesaler and retailer in Htantabin.

The second best sellers include 'Waya', 'Wanet' (local types of bamboo) and floating poles in this month when there were abundant supplies, and starting next month, they will become scarce and the prices will be better.

"The second best sellers include 'Waya', 'Wanet' and floating poles. The prices have not gone up yet. This month, the prices will stay at this level. Next month, it will go up. In March, there will be scarce supplies and prices will go up, " he said. In January, 'Dhani' (Nipapalm) were sold well in the bamboo market, and since bamboo prices will rise in the coming months, people have started preparing in advance for roofing and making extensions, leading to better trading, market sources said. — Thit Taw/ZN

NATIONAL

K3.7B worth of stimulant pills seized in Thazi, Hpa-an

A total of 1.49 million stimulant tablets, valued at over K3.7 billion, were seized in Thazi and Hpa-an Townships, according to the Myanmar Police Force.

Acting on a tip-off, a joint team, including members of the Anti-Drug Police Force, stopped a Mitsubishi Pajero travelling from Taunggyi to Yangon near Kyweltatsone village in Thazi Township at 10:30 pm on 6 February. The vehicle, driven by Arr Ba (aka) Arr Sar and accompanied by Ma Moe Moe Aye, was found to contain 500,000 stimulant tablets.

In a separate operation, police arrested Htun Zaw Day Oo and Ma Phyu Phyu Aung at 8:30 am on 7 February in the compound of a highway bus station in Hpa-an Township. They possessed 990,000 stimulant tablets concealed in dried fish bags inside a Toyota Noah Voxy. Further investigation led to the arrest of three more suspects — Saw Ohn Kywe (aka) Ohn Kyaw, Toe Tet Htun (aka) Toe Gyi, and Kaung Set Kyaw (aka) Ko Set — in Myawady Township at 2 pm the same day.

The suspects admitted that the seized drugs were being transported from Shan State to the Myawady border. Legal action has been taken against them, and investigations are ongoing to identify others involved in the drug trafficking. — MNA/MKKS

Arrestees are seen alongside seized drugs and vehicle.

Counter-argument to false information

False reports spread on medicine, parcel restrictions at Pathein Prison

A Facebook page under the name "Khit Thit Media" spread false reports claiming that security was tightened in Pathein Prison and the delivery of medicines and parcels restricted as the military situation intensified in Ayeyawady Region.

There are no political prisoners in the facility; only individuals convicted of violating existing laws are detained. Families of inmates can send medicine following a structured process, where all medicines undergo inspection and registration before being verified by the prison doctor. These are then distributed under the supervision of healthcare personnel after health checks on the inmates.

Regarding parcel and book deliveries, only items listed under the prison regulations are accepted, while unauthorized items are prohibited. Purchases made by inmates with their deposited money are arranged at prices consistent with external markets, refuting allegations of inflated rates within the prison's canteen, as clarified by prison authorities.

Measures have been implemented to ensure sufficient drinking water supply for inmates. A 7,000-gallon ground tank pumps purified water into 20-litre bottles delivered twice daily – once in the morning and once in the evening. Reservoirs are regularly cleaned to maintain water hygiene. Claims that inmates must drink bathwater due to a lack of potable water or that bathing reservoirs contain only contaminated water with lead elements are entirely untrue.

Healthcare services in the prison are provided daily by the prison doctor, in collaboration with the Department of Health, which also conducts monthly medical check-ups. External healthcare services and medical check-ups can be accessed on the official website of the Prison Department. The false reports by the Facebook page "Khit Thit Media" are deliberate fabrications intended to mislead the public. — Thitsa/KZL

Security forces accused of killing one in Pauk

THE malicious media intentionally fabricated stories, claiming that security forces killed one civilian after torching about 30 houses in Magyizin Village of Pauk Township in Magway Region.

According to a local security official, such news was invalid. Although security forces conducted security measures, they did not set the villages ablaze or kill the people unlawfully. Terrorists burnt down homes, arrested and killed the locals.

Subversive media outlets intend to circulate false claims to mislead the public about security forces carrying out security duties. — MNA/KTZH

Malicious media spreads false allegations against prison officials

A Facebook page: Khit Thit Media circulated false information on 30 January, stating that prison authorities and security personnel at Kalay Prison engaged in sexual harassment against the family members of political prisoners.

The false report also accused a prison officer of calling the wife of a released political prisoner and making inappropriate advances towards her. Upon verification, Assistant Director U Aung Moe Win, responsible for Kalay Prison clarified that except for attending official departmental coordination meetings, he does not leave the prison compound on other days. Following prison regulations, officials do not have any personal interactions with the family members or relatives of inmates.

Similarly, Assistant Supervisor 1 U Han Win Aung, who manages prisoner transfers to Kalay District General Hospital when necessary, stated that apart from those official duties conducted in coordination with the Myanmar Police Force, he remains engaged in administrative tasks at the office and has no contact with inmates' families or relatives.

As a result, if any form of sexual harassment were to occur against the family members of inmates, the affected individuals are encouraged to file a formal complaint and appropriate action will be taken following an investigation. The report from the Khit Thit Media is intended to mislead public opinion through fabricated allegations. — Thitsa/KZL

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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.

NATIONAL

Lamai Tsp hosts Mon candlelight procession on Tabodwe Full Moon night

This photo captures the vibrant light procession in Lamai Township from last year.

THE traditional candlelight procession festival on the full moon night of Tabodwe will take place in Lamai Township, Mawlamyine District, Mon State, on the evening of 12 February, following Mon cultural traditions, according to Nai Pe Tin, chairman of the Lamai Township Light Procession Organizing Committee.

"This festival is held annually without fail, preserving our traditions. The procession will begin in the square in front of Kyaikkaylatha Pagoda in Lamai Township, where youths and students dressed in traditional Mon attire will walk through the township streets, holding candlelight," said Nai Pe Tin.

The event will feature the participation of young people from Lamai Township, as well as students from elementary, middle, and high schools, who will join in the candlelight procession to celebrate the full moon night of Tabodwe. — ASH/MKKS

Chin State govt plans to hold 77th Chin National Day celebration

This photo showcases the Chin National Day celebration last year.

THE 77th Chin National Day celebration, an annual event, will be held at the Chin State Government Office in Hakha Township, Chin State, on 20 February this year, according to a member of the state government.

"As is tradition, the annual festival will be held on a grand scale. Representatives of the Chin ethnic groups from both the highlands and the plains will attend in full," said an official from the Chin State government office.

After Myanmar gained independence, a public conference was held in Falam Township on 20 February 1948, during which it was decided to change the system of governance from chieftainship (Saopha) to a democratic system. At the seventh Chin Traditional Council conference, held in Yangon on 9 October 1950, a proposal was made to establish Chin National Day. According to the wishes of the members present, 20 February, the date of the public conference in Falam, was chosen as Chin National Day.

Chin National Day is a special occasion for the Chin people, all of whom share the same language, culture, history, and traditions. — ASH/TH

CBM sells US$82,000, CNY220,000, THB1M on 10 Feb

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) injected US$82,000, 220,000 yuan and one million Thai baht into the financial market on 10 February. CBM sold $23 million and 600,000 yuan on 7 February and over $150,000 and 214,000 yuan on 6 February.

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 and 4.8M yuan into financial markets in January 2025.

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 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

Union-Level MSME Expo, Competition draw 193 entrepreneurs

A total of 193 entrepreneurs from regions and states participated in the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Product Exhibition and Competition.

It will present 31 awards in six categories, in which 29 entrepreneurs are competing for the Micro-scale Product Award, 34 for the Small-scale Product Award, 42 for the SME handicraft award, 28 for the Medium-scale Product Award, 35 for the One Region One Product Award, 25 cooperatives for Cooperatives Excellence Award. The winners will receive digital trophies and cash via e-banking. Entrepreneurs will be awarded on 14 February at Tabaung Ground near Uppatasanti Pagoda, Nay Pyi Taw.

Businesses showcasing One Region One Product (OROP), export businesses, import-substituting businesses, agriculture and livestock-based businesses and value-added products with the use of locally sourced raw materials, products from regions and states can be observed. The objectives of this Union-level MSMEs Product Exhibition and Competition are to enhance MSMEs towards sustainable economic growth and produce commercially valued goods that have export potential. The MSME Competition was held on 7-9 February 2025 at Office No 16 of the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development in Nay Pyi Taw. — ASH/KK

Veteran actress returns to silver screen

AFTER a long break from the film industry, veteran actress Academy Award winner Htet Htet Moe Oo will be making a return to the big screen.

According to Lavender Film Production, she will star in the Myanmar film 'Maya Yahta Moung Tae Meinma' (A deceptive and exaggerative woman) and the movie is scheduled to be released in theatres at the end of February.

The film's script and storyline were written by Yaza Win Ko, with the film being directed by himself as a director for Lavender Film Production.

The 'Maya Yahta Moung Tae Meinma' movie features many famous actors and actresses including Academy Award winners Htet Htet Moe Oo, Academy Award winner May Thinza Oo and Academy Award winner Ye Aung, as well as Ye Yint Aung, Ei Chaw Poe, Nan Su Oo, Shwe Eain Si, Sai Si Twan Kham, Chan Min Ye Htut, August Moe, Wai Shein and Lin Kha. — ASH/KZL

Tesla battery Megafactory in Shanghai launches production

US carmaker Tesla's new Megafactory in Shanghai, dedicated to manufacturing its energy-storage batteries, known as Megapacks, launched production on Tuesday, marking a significant expansion of the company's presence in China.

With an initial annual production capacity of 10,000 units, or roughly 40 gigawatt-hours of energy storage, this Megafactory is set to significantly contribute to Tesla's global energy storage goals. The company anticipates a year-on-year increase of 50 per cent in energy storage deployments in 2025.

Covering an area of approximately 200,000 square metres, the new Shanghai plant represents a total investment of about 1.45 billion yuan (around US$202 million), according to the administration of the Lin-gang Special Area of China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone, where this Tesla facility is located. Notably, mass production at the factory commenced just eight months after construction began, serving as a new example of "Tesla speed" in China, with the Shanghai Gigafactory, Tesla's first plant in the country's eastern financial hub, having been built and inaugurated within a year in 2019.

"We've witnessed the incredible speed of Shanghai and Tesla once again. I'm excited to have this factory kick off an exciting year for Tesla," said Mike Snyder, vice president of Tesla, at the launch ceremony on Tuesday, expressing confidence that the new factory will become a cornerstone of Tesla's global production network. — Xinhua

An aerial drone photo shows US carmaker Tesla's Megafactory in Shanghai, east China, 8 February 2025. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Belarus foreign trade grows 5.1% in 2024

BELARUSIAN foreign trade in goods and services exceeded US$100 billion in 2024, an increase of 5.1 per cent compared to 2023, the country's central bank said on Monday.

Belarusian exports of goods and services amounted to $49.4 billion, rising 3.5 per cent compared to 2023, including exports of goods growth by 1.2 per cent to $39.5 billion, and exports of services growth by 14 per cent to $9.9 billion, the bank said.

The country's imports of goods and services amounted to $50.7 billion, including imports of goods at $44.2 billion and imports of services at $6.5 billion. The balance of foreign trade in goods and services was negative $1.3 billion in 2024, the bank said. – Xinhua

S Korea vows to 'protect' firms' interests after new Trump tariffs

SOUTH Korea's acting president on Tuesday vowed to "protect" local firms' interests, after US President Donald Trump signed off on 25 per cent tariffs on steel and aluminium imports.

On Monday, Trump said he was "simplifying our tariffs" on steel and aluminium, slapping "25 per cent without exceptions or exemptions".

South Korea is the fourth biggest steel exporter to the United States, following Canada, Brazil and Mexico. On Tuesday, acting President Choi Sang-mok said Seoul was "committed to protecting the interests of our companies and reducing uncertainties by building a close relationship with the Trump administration and expanding diplomatic options".

There are "concerns about deteriorating profitability for our industries", Choi added, but the government will "work closely" with relevant businesses.

Trade Minister Cheong In-kyo also said Tuesday that the government will "actively consider" whether there is room for negotiation on the tariffs. — AFP

BP pledges strategic 'reset' as profit tumbles

BRITAIN'S BP on Tuesday said its annual net profit slumped 97 per cent last year, as the struggling oil and gas giant pledged to "fundamentally reset" its strategy.

Profit after tax tumbled to $381 million in 2024 from $15.2 billion in 2023, owing to weaker refining margins, asset write-downs and unfavourable accounting effects linked to gas prices, BP said in a results statement.

Total revenues dropped nine per cent to $195 billion. "We now plan to fundamentally reset our strategy and drive further improvements in performance," said chief executive Murray Auchincloss.

He said it would be a "new direction for BP", which is set to be revealed at an eagerly anticipated investor day on 26 February.

Auchincloss has put the emphasis on oil and gas to boost profits, scaling back on the group's key climate targets since taking the helm just over a year ago. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V BLPL BLESSING VOY.NO. (2502S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BLPL BLESSING VOY.NO. (2502S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **12-2-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S BLPL SHIPPING LINE

CHANGING THE NAME OF TRADING

Notice is hereby given that the official trade name has been changed of AGRO ASIA STAR GROUP COMPANY LIMITED for the following product manufactured by Nanjing Loyal Chemical CO., LTD.

Sr.	Old Trade Name	New Trade Name	Active Ingredient Name	Registration Type	Registration Number
1.	Poe Killer	Bernard	Thiamethoxam 20% WDG	Provisional	P2024-6398

We invite objections to Co-secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon from all parties within a period of fourteen (14) days from the publication of this notice. If no objections are received within the period prescribed, parties mentioned above shall proceed with the completion of formalities recorded with the Pesticide Registration Board.

AGRO ASIA STAR GROUP COMPANY LIMITED (Address: BET (31*32) ST, BET (85*86) ST NO. (4) MALONKHAELAN TAN, CHANAYE THARZAN TOWNSHIP, MANDALAY. Ph: 09-450008663,09403723854)

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

Multilateral cooperation essential to countering terrorism: UN official

The UN Security Council meeting on threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts is held at the UN headquarters in New York, 10 February 2025. **PHOTO: MANUEL ELIAS/UN PHOTO/HANDOUT VIA XINHUA**

THE Islamic State (IS) terrorist group remains a serious global security threat and multilateral cooperation is essential to combatting terrorism effectively, the UN's top counter-terrorism official said on Monday.

"Terrorism remains a significant and evolving threat to global peace and security, one that no state can confront in isolation," Vladimir Voronkov, under-secretary-general for the Office of Counter-Terrorism, said during his briefing to the UN Security Council.

Voronkov underscored that sustained multilateral cooperation remains essential to countering terrorism effectively.

The volatile situation in Syria "is of great concern, especially as there is a risk that stockpiles of advanced weapons could fall into the hands of terrorists", he said, adding that the risk is particularly high in Badia region, which serves as the hub for the IS external operational planning.

In Afghanistan, ISIL-K, one of the most dangerous branches of the Islamic State, continued to pose a significant threat, Voronkov said. "In addition to attacks in Afghanistan, ISIL-K supporters plotted attacks in Europe and were actively seeking to recruit individuals from Central Asian States."

He warned against Afghanistan becoming again a hot bed of terrorist activities.

Meanwhile, in sub-Saharan Africa, the Islamic State and its affiliates continue to increase their operations and expand territorial control. — Xinhua

Australian research discovers brain swelling in long COVID, chronic fatigue patients

SWELLING in an area of the brain associated with memory and concentration has been identified in long COVID and chronic fatigue patients by Australian researchers.

In a study published on Tuesday, researchers from Griffith University used an ultra high-field magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) machine to analyze how long COVID and myalgic encephalomyelitis — also known as chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS) — similarly impact brain structure.

The team identified significantly larger hippocampus volume in long COVID and CFS patients compared to healthy individuals.

The hippocampus is a small but important part of the brain that helps with learning and converting short-term memories into long-term memories as well as verbal and spatial memory.

The research found that hippocampal volume was similar among long COVID and CFS patients and that hippocampal swelling was linked to symptom severity in both groups.

Kiran Thapaliya, lead author of the new study, said that the findings show that hippocampal impairment in long COVID and CFS patients "may play a significant role in cognitive difficulties such as memory problems, difficulty concentrating, and delayed responses to questions or conversations."

He said that the larger volume could be caused by neurogenesis — the process by which new cells are formed in the brain — or by a virus in the brain. — Xinhua

Musk urges closure of Voice of America, Radio Free Europe

US billionaire Elon Musk, head of the Department of Government Efficiency, has called for the shutdown of US government-funded propaganda machines Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, and Voice of America. Musk made the remarks Sunday on social platform X in response to a post by Richard Grenell, the US special envoy for special missions, who criticized the outlets as taxpayer-funded media filled with "far-left activities". "These outlets are a relic of the past. We don't need government-paid media outlets," Grenell wrote. Musk echoed Grenell. "Yes, shut them down," wrote Musk on X. "It's just radical left crazy people talking to themselves while torching US$1 billion a year of US taxpayer money." — Xinhua

WHO launches plan for free child cancer medicines

THE World Health Organization on Tuesday launched a new platform providing cost-free cancer medicines for thousands of children living in low- and middle-income countries, in a bid to improve lagging survival rates.

The first medicines were being delivered to Mongolia and Uzbekistan, the WHO said, with further shipments planned for Ecuador, Jordan, Nepal and Zambia, as part of the project's pilot phase.

The treatments are expected to reach around 5,000 children with cancer this year across at least 30 hospitals in those six nations.

"Countries in the pilot phase will receive an uninterrupted supply of quality-assured childhood cancer medicines at no cost," the UN health agency said in a statement. — AFP

This photograph taken on 2 December 2021 shows a sign of the World Health Organization (WHO) next to theirs headquarters, in Geneva **PHOTO: AFP**

SPORTS

Shan United crowned MNL Champions for sixth time

SHAN United secured the championship title of the Myanmar National League with three matches remaining after a dominant 5-0 victory over ISPE FC yesterday at Thuwunna Youth Training Centre in Yangon.

Taking advantage of Yangon United's slip-up, Shan United capitalised on their opportunity by defeating ISPE FC, securing the title with matches to spare. This marks Shan United's sixth league title in the last seven seasons and their fifth consecutive championship win, making them the most successful club in MNL history. They are also the first team to win five consecutive league titles.

Shan United have also remained unbeaten throughout the current season, having played 19 matches without a loss. If they maintain this record in the remaining three matches, they will become the first team to complete an entire season undefeated. Since the 2020 season, they have gone 75 matches without defeat, and an unbeaten run this season would set a remarkable record of three straight seasons without a single loss.

Shan United have previously won the national league in the 2017, 2019, 2020, 2022, and 2023 seasons, with the 2021 competition not being held.

Determined to clinch the title, Shan United fielded a full-strength squad and took control early, scoring four goals in the first half. Barca Yoko opened the scoring in the 9th and 43rd minutes, while Ye Yint Aung and Hein Phyo Win added goals in the 17th and 25th minutes respectively. In the second half, Shan United continued to dominate with Barca Yoko completing his hat-trick in the 55th minute. He was named Man of the Match for his outstanding performance.

Following Fixture 19, Shan United led the table with 53 points from 19 matches, with 17 wins and two draws, remaining unbeaten. Yangon United sit second with 42 points, followed by Hanthawady United with 40 points, Dagon Star United with 37 points, Maha United with 29 points, ISPE FC with 28 points and Yadanabon FC with 26 points. Ayeyawady United and Thitsa Arman FC have 17 points each, while Dagon Port have 15 points. Rakhine United and Myawady FC occupy the bottom spots with 10 and eight points each. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Shan United's hat trick maker Barca Yoko (12) challenges ISPE FC's goalkeeper during an attacking play. **PHOTO: THAW GYI**

Kazakhstan captures first snow event gold at Asian Winter Games

ROMAN Ivanov and Sherzod Khashirbayev clinched the first snow event gold for Kazakhstan at the Harbin Asian Winter Games, as they triumphed in the freestyle skiing men's aerials synchro on Tuesday.

The pair delivered a stunning last-jump performance to overcome two Chinese duos, claiming the title with 97.92 points. China's Geng Hu and Yang Yuheng took the silver medal, while bronze went to their compatriots Li Xinpeng and Qi Guangpu.

All three pairs of podium finishers executed the same difficulty of 3.5250 in the final. The two Chinese pairs achieved a 1-2 finish after the first attempt, while the Kazakh duo trailed their Chinese contenders after a shaky jump. However, they followed up with a nearly perfect second jump to achieve the surprising victory.

In the women's aerials synchro, China's Feng Junxi and Wang Xue claimed gold with 87.12 points, edging their compatriots Chen Meiting and Xu Mengtao, who took the silver with 84.86 points. Kazakhstan's Ardana Makhanova and Ayana Zholdas earned the bronze medal. — Xinhua

Roman Ivanov/Sherzod Khashirbayev (L) of Kazakhstan compete during the Freestyle Skiing men's aerials synchro final at the 9th Asian Winter Games in Yabuli, northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, 11 February 2025. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Inter takes revenge on Fiorentina in Serie A

INTER Milan took revenge on Fiorentina in Serie A, beating the Viola 2-1 at San Siro on Monday. It was the two sides' second consecutive meeting in four days, as Fiorentina had enjoyed a 3-0 home victory on Thursday in a rescheduled fixture.

Inter played aggressively from the outset and went ahead with a stroke of luck in the 28th minute when Hakan Calhanoglu's corner was redirected into the net by Fiorentina's defender Marin Pongracic.

Inter Milan's players celebrate after winning the Italian Serie A football match between Inter Milan and Fiorentina at San Siro stadium in Milan on 10 February 2025. **PHOTO: AFP**

The away side got back on level terms before half-time, being awarded a penalty after Matteo Darmian's handball, and Rolando Mandragora stepped up to convert the spot-kick. — Xinhua

Boxing organization to launch lawsuit over Olympic gender row

THE International Boxing Association (IBA) said on Monday it is to take legal action against the International Olympic Committee (IOC) over the inclusion of Algeria's Imane Khelif and Chinese Taipei's Lin Yu-ting at last year's Olympic Games.

The two female boxers had been excluded from the IBA's 2023 world championships after the fighters failed gender eligibility tests but the IOC cleared them to fight and both went on to win gold medals in Paris.

The IOC organized the boxing in Paris following the expulsion of the IBA from the Olympic movement after financial and ethical irregularities.

In its statement, which linked their action to US President Donald Trump's executive order last week seeking to ban transgender athletes from participating in women's sports, the IBA said that it is "filing an official complaint with the Attorney-General of Switzerland... regarding the IOC's actions".

It added that it was filing similar complaints in France and the United States. — AFP

Multilateral cooperation essential to countering terrorism: UN official
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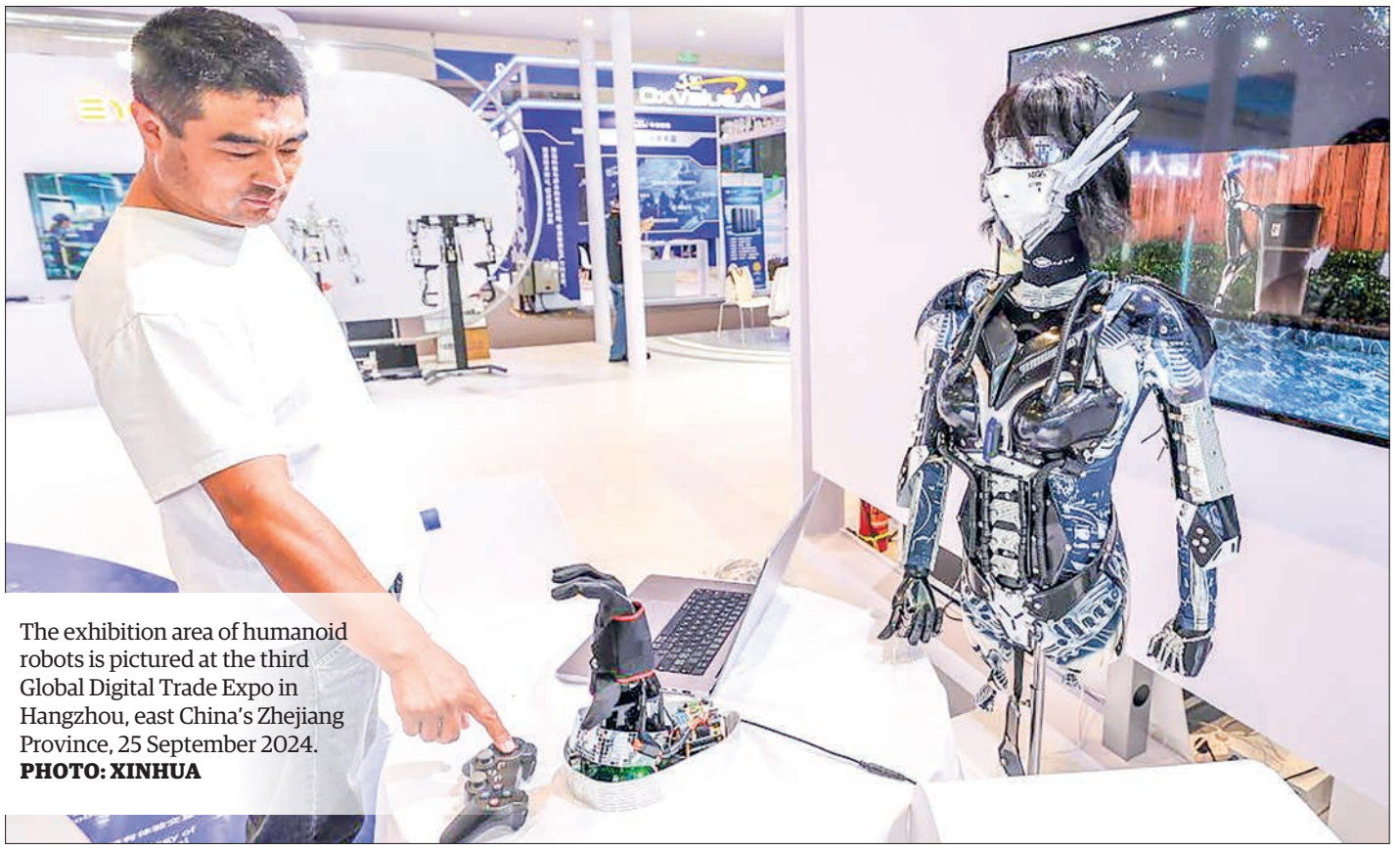
WORLD

China's tech hub unveils measures to boost innovation



The exhibition area of humanoid robots is pictured at the third Global Digital Trade Expo in Hangzhou, east China's Zhejiang Province, 25 September 2024.
PHOTO: XINHUA

THE eastern Chinese tech city of Hangzhou, home to e-commerce giant Alibaba and rising AI star DeepSeek, has announced a series of measures to further elevate its status as a high-level innovation hub.

The measures are aimed at enhancing high-level innovation platforms, promoting the technology transfer and application, and strengthening the role of enterprises as the main drivers of technological innovation, Lou Xiuhua, head of the municipal bureau of science and technology, said at a press conference.

Among the measures is a partnership plan, which encourages collaboration between tech innovation platforms, universities, enterprises and industrial chains.

The city will accelerate its construction of facilities and foundational projects such as large-scale models and computing power infrastructure. More computing power vouchers will also be allocated, Lou said.

Computing power vouchers are a government subsidy tool designed to help small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) access more computing resources at lower costs, aiming to promote innovative applications of AI technologies and digital transformation.

Additionally, Hangzhou will launch an "AI+" initiative to promote the integration and application of AI across industries. It will also introduce a reform related to the application of technological achievements, encouraging universities and research institutions to license their technological fruits to SMEs under a "use first, pay later" model.

Hangzhou, the capital of the economic powerhouse province of Zhejiang, has developed itself as an important hub in the internet and tech industries, driving advancements in e-commerce, AI and digital transformation. — Xinhua

India signs over 250 memos to build defence industry facilities: MoD

INDIA has signed more than 250 memorandums on the construction of industrial facilities in the defence industrial corridors in the states of Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Monday.

"We have also established two defence industrial corridors in the states of Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. So far, more than 250 agreements have been signed for the establishment of industrial units in the two corridors," Singh said at the Aero India 2025 international expo in Bengaluru.

The minister urged international defence firms to take interest in the project, adding that the Indian government has allowed 75 per cent foreign direct investment for companies seeking defence licences under automatic mode, while 100 per cent foreign direct investment will be allowed with government approval.

As the nature of modern warfare changes rapidly, players in the global defence industry need to constantly make and improve their decisions, Singh said. The extensive use of drones in recent conflicts indicates that the future will depend on the integrated efforts of manned, unmanned and autonomous combat systems, he added. — SPUTNIK

Gaza truce under strain after Trump warning

THE Gaza ceasefire appeared increasingly fragile Tuesday after Hamas said US President Donald Trump's latest warning "further complicates" the agreement with Israel, which has so far led to five hostage-prisoner swaps.

Trump said that "all hell" would break out if Hamas failed to release all Israeli hostages by the weekend. The truce, in place since 19 January, largely halted more than 15 months of fighting in Gaza but has come under strain in recent days.

International efforts to salvage it intensified, with Jordan's King Abdullah II expected to raise the issue during his meeting with Trump in Washington later Tuesday.

Tensions, which initially spiked after Trump proposed last month taking over Gaza and removing its more than two million inhabitants, have grown since his latest comments.

"As far as I'm concerned, if all of the hostages aren't returned by Saturday 12 o'clock — I think it's an appropriate time — I would say cancel it and all bets are off and let hell break out," Trump said on Monday. — AFP

A boy stands with a bicycle before the heavily-damaged Mathaf (Almathaf) Hotel in the north of Gaza City on 11 February 2025 amid the current ceasefire deal in the war between Israel and Hamas.
PHOTO: AFP