

Vice-Senior General Soe Win awards winners in Union-Level MSME Expo

A ceremony to present awards to winners in the Union-level MSME Exhibition and Competition took place at Tabaung Ground near Up-patasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon, attended by Chairman of MSME Development Work Committee Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win.

Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Than Tun Oo and Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Myo Thein Kyaw presented special prizes to winners in the small-scale industry model product and performance for foodstuff, personal goods, weaving products, handiworks, manufacturing cooperative society and microbusiness, respectively.

Union Minister for Commerce U Tun Ohn and Union Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than also handed honorary medals, certificates and cash awards to special award winners in the small-scale, medium-scale enterprises and One Region One Product genres, respectively.

Union Minister for Cooperatives and Rural Development U Hla Moe and Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Min Naung awarded the best prize winners in the One Region One Product genre, model product winners in the small-scale industry genre, third prize winners in the MSME genre, and performance award winners in the small-scale industry, medium-scale industry and manufacturing cooperative society genres, respectively.

Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein presented second prize winners in the MSME businesses and manufacturing cooperative society genres, respectively.

The Vice-Senior General presented honorary medals, cer-

A total of 63 awards were presented to winners in seven categories based on different competition types.



State Administration Council Vice-Chair Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win presents the first prize to Daw May Hnin Wai of the Healthy & Happy foodstuffs industry.

tificates and cash awards for the first prize to Daw May Hnin Wai of the Healthy & Happy foodstuffs industry from Mandalay Region in the micro-scale business, U

Pyae Phyo Hlaing of Thansin Sun Moon honey purified plant from Sagaing Region in small-scale industry, U Htoo Wai of Thalawady Co Ltd from Yangon Region in

medium-scale industry, and an official of Anawrahta oil mill from NyaungU Township Cooperative Syndicate of Mandalay Region, respectively. **SEE PAGE 3**

Union-Level MSME Expo extended by two days

THE Union-Level MSME Product Exhibition and Competition marking the 78th Anniversary of Union Day are currently being held at Tabaung Ground near Up-patasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw from 10 to 14 February.

The event will be extended by two days — 15 and 16 February — to coordinate among curators of galleries and regional and state agencies for the product distributions nationwide, providing opportunities for entrepreneurs, government employees, locals and students, who visit the events during the office days, to be able to learn and buy the essential products, and allowing the government employees, entrepreneurs and people from different regions and states to observe the events on Saturday and Sunday. — MNA/KTZH

NATIONAL PAGE 6



Used cars (K50-100M) and new cars (K200-300M) in high demand

BUSINESS PAGE 11



MSME loans offered by 2 State banks, 16 private lenders

NATIONAL

Towards a Prosperous Future: Achieving Harmonious Development in Myanmar's Key Sectors

MYANMAR must achieve harmonious development across the economic, social, educational, and health sectors to become a peaceful, prosperous, modern, and developed nation.
Education is essential for all.

(Excerpt from the speech given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting to provide guidance to outstanding students for the 2023-2024 academic year on 26 April 2024)

31st Tatmadaw military band competition kicks off

THE opening ceremony of the 31st Competition of the Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Military Band commemorating the 80th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day, was organized at the parade ground of Nay Pyi Taw Transit Centre yesterday.

It was attended by Armed Forces Day Organizing Leading Committee Chairman and Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Htein Win, the Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, senior Tatmadaw officers, committee members, judges, contestants and invitees.

The Armed Forces Training Chief and attendees first saluted the State Flag and fallen Tatmadaw members, and he made an opening speech.

The Chief of Armed Forces Training and attendees enjoyed the performance of the Tatmadaw band, and the Armed Forces Training Chief presented cash prizes to the band members.

The 31st Competition of the Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Military Band Chief the 80th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day, will take place until 24 February comprising 26 bands. — MNA/KTZH



The 31st Tatmadaw military band competition opening event in progress yesterday.

Electric vehicles arrive at Yangon Port



Officials inspect the newly arrivals of battery electric vehicles at Yangon Port.

ELECTRIC vehicles have been imported into Myanmar with approval from the Steering Committee on National-Level Development for Electric Vehicles and Related Industries.

These include the China-made GAC Toyota BZ4X electric vehicles imported by Amazing Auto Co Ltd, the Dongfeng Nissan Ariya vehicles brought in by Asia Pacific Automaker Corporation Co Ltd, the BYD Dolphin Mini and the BYD Dolphin electric vehicles imported by Golden Mandala Co Ltd and the BYD Dolphin imported by EV Power Co Ltd. These vehicles arrived at Yangon Port and have been officially cleared in line with the rules and regulations. — MNA/MKKS

Weather

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Friday 14 February 2025)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 15 February 2025: Rain will be scattered in Kachin State and isolated in Upper Sagaing Region. Degree of certainty is 80 per cent. Weather will be partly cloudy in Taninthayi Region and Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and 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 in Kachin State.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 15 February 2025: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 15 February 2025: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 15 February 2025: Generally fair weather.

WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR WEEKEND: Weather will be generally fair in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay Regions. — DMH

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

After the ceremony, the Vice-Senior General cordially greeted and gave words of encouragement to prize winners.

Also present at the ceremony were Union ministers, Union-level dignitaries, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, deputy ministers, chairs of MSME agencies from regions and states, officials from organizations, curators, departmental heads and residents.

The expo aims to develop cooperation among MSMEs in regions and states to fulfil requirements for each other in the production chain and analyze strong and weak points, to help businesspersons seek the significant points for manufacturing better quality products at

Vice-Senior General Soe Win awards winners in Union-Level MSME Expo

fair prices than others, to encourage successful implementation of the One Region One Product scheme, to continuously enhance products and services of MSMEs, to produce value-added products at home as import-substitute goods and penetrate into foreign market, to further cooperate between MSMEs and local and foreign investors, to honour model product awards to MSMEs and contribute to long-standing

of MSME.

The exhibition and competition are being held from 10 to 16 February, featuring a total of 96 booths, including ministerial exhibition booths, State and regional exhibition booths, traditional ethnic food stalls, a “digital corner” showcasing technology, MSME-related business exhibition booths, a Business Matching Hall, where economic attachés from Myanmar embassies

abroad can connect with local entrepreneurs looking to export their products, a service booth providing business advertisement production services from the Ministry of Information, exhibition booths displaying foreign machinery and products, and small-scale industrial and manufacturing cooperative society booths.

A total of 63 awards were presented in seven categories

based on different competition types. At the award ceremony, in line with the practical implementation of Digital Transformation, the winners received digital trophies, certificates of recognition, and a total cash prize of K750 million. The cash awards were transferred using a digital payment system, and recipients received their respective prize amounts directly through their e-banking accounts. — MNA/TTA

Deputy PM inspects Yangon-Mandalay railway

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Union Minister for Transport and Communications General Mya Tun Oo, along with Deputy Minister U Aung Myaing and officials, inspected the upgrade of the Toungoo-Pyinmana railway section yesterday afternoon. The inspection was conducted by travelling from Pyinmana Station on an RBE train, covering a 59-mile stretch of the railway where speed enhancements are being implemented.

During the inspection, the Deputy Prime Minister examined track joint areas where train speeds are currently reduced at station entrances. He instructed concerned personnel to swiftly replace existing crossings with modern cast manganese steel crossings to



Deputy Prime Minister MoTC Union Minister General Mya Tun Oo inspects the upgrading and speed enhancements in the Yangon-Mandalay railway section.

ensure safe and efficient train movement. He called for im-

provements in railway bridge approaches to enhance safety

and durability, systematic relocation of old railway tracks

stored along station premises, and the filling of required track ballast to support speed enhancement. Instructions were also given to maintain cleanliness along the railway and ensure that station staff diligently perform their assigned duties.

General Mya Tun Oo and officials also inspected upgrade efforts between Toungoo Station and Thaungtainggon Station, particularly on the upper railway. To raise train speeds, old wooden sleepers are being replaced with synthetic ones, and 75-pound rails are upgraded to stronger 100-pound 50N rails. The General assessed these reinforcement efforts and encouraged Myanmar Railways staff on-site. — MNA/KZL

NATIONAL

Myanmar, China intensify crackdown on online gambling and scams



Union Minister Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung holds talks with China's Ambassador Ms Ma Jia and Chinese Assistant Minister for Public Security Mr Liu Zhong Yi yesterday.

UNION Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung received Ms Ma Jia, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar, and Chinese Assistant Minister for Public Security Mr Liu Zhong Yi, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed the enhancement of bilateral cooperation in security and rule of law measures, the Myanmar-China joint operation to combat transnational crimes including online gambling and scams and further bilateral friendship.

Moreover, they exchanged views on bilateral cooperation in combating online scams and online gambling in Myawady of Kayin State, taking strong measures to tackle online scams, recuse and transfer of Chinese nationals, and international communications in sharing of information regarding legal action under the law and expulsion of foreigners who enter the country illegally.

They also focused on the expulsion of foreigners in

Myawady of Kayin State as per the procedures, arrests of online scammers and gamblers in the Mongha region of Mongyai Township in Shan State (North), transfer of Chinese fugitives, holding of China-Myanmar-Thailand senior official meeting to combat online scams and gambling in Myawady region of Kayin State, ongoing cooperation between the two ministries and future cooperation.

They finally exchanged gifts. — MNA/KTZH

Media granted access to cover key election phases

UNION Election Commission (UEC) Chairman U Ko Ko met Chairman Dr Tin Tun Oo of the Myanmar Press Council and members at the commission office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, the UEC chairman outlined the measures to ensure a free and fair multiparty democratic election, including media access during the election, coordination measures for the election handbook for media, election awareness and media-related concerns.

He also stated that the commission will collaborate closely with the media for the upcoming election, adding that the public can contact the commission or the State Administration Council's Information Team for further

information.

He added that the media will be allowed to cover news systematically in three sections of the election period, and the commission is willing to issue media guidelines by negotiation with the Myanmar Press Council.

He then mentioned the commission's bad reputation from the 2020 general election and pledged to hold a fair and lawful election.

The chairperson and vice-chairpersons of the Myanmar Press Council discussed the council's role in press development and media access to elections.

The two sides had friendly discussions on collaborating closely on press-related issues during the election period. — MNA/KTZH



The meeting between UEC Chair U Ko Ko and the Myanmar Press Council yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

MIFER Union Minister departs to attend 9th Global Business Summit

AT the invitation of The Times Group of India, Dr Kan Zaw, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, left Yangon by flight yesterday morning to attend the 9th Global Business Summit in India, New Delhi.

The Union minister and party were seen off by Mr Amit Shreeansh and Mr Ashok Kumar, the first secretaries of the Indian Embassy and the officials from the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA). The Union minister was accompanied by Director-General U Thant Sin Lwin of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

The 9th Global Business Summit will be held on 15 and 16 February at the Taj Palace, New Delhi, and international senior officers, economic experts and policymakers will attend this Global Business Summit. — MNA

Yangon hosts 37th respect-paying ceremony of MFB retiree association

THE 37th respect paying ceremony and annual meeting of the Myanmar Fire Brigade retiree organization was organized at the Myanmar Fire Brigade (head office) in Yangon yesterday.

It was attended by director-general U Myat Thu of the Fire Services Department, relevant officials, executive members of organizations, and district and township officials.

The director-general and members first paid respect to old members of 75 and above, and the director-general handed over K21,180,000 — K16.million



The 37th respect-paying event of the Myanmar Fire Brigade retiree association in progress yesterday.

donated by assistant department heads of Training No 4 and K1.5 million donated by well-wishers to U Myint Tun, patron of the organization.

Moreover, the organization donated K5 million for the construction of a cen-

tre for elderly members, K3 million donated by the Yangon region department head, K200,000 by assistant department heads of Training No 1 and K200,000 for the construction of a religious hall at the Rajamuni Buddha Image in the Fire Services

Department (Nay Pyi Taw).

Organization's Chair U Zaw Win gave certificates of honour to donors and had documentary photos taken together with attendees.

The director-general of the Fire Services Department delivered the opening speech at the annual meeting of the Myanmar Fire Brigade members organization, and the patron and chairperson of the organization made remarks respectively. The organization secretary submitted the annual report, and the meeting was concluded. — Nyein Thu(MNA)/KTZH

NATIONAL

MSME Trade Fair extended due to high public interest



Myanmar Computer Federation captures commemorative photo at Nay Pyi Taw MSME Expo. PHOTOS: KO AYE THAN

THE event was especially lively with enthusiastic visitors.

In commemorating the 78th Union Day, the fifth day of the Union-Level MSME Expo continued at the Tabaung Grounds near Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw.

The event features MSME products from Nay Pyi Taw and various states and regions, attracting a diverse crowd, including government employees and

their families, students, residents, MSME entrepreneurs, foreign visitors from Thilawa Industrial Zone and other international guests in Nay Pyi Taw.

Due to the overwhelming public interest, organizers have decided to extend the trade fair by two more days, running until 16 February.

The event showcases agricultural and livestock technology, with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation

exhibiting solar-powered water pumps, handheld rice transplanters, seed planters, and small-scale natural sediment ponds. Many visitors showed keen interest, with officials providing detailed explanations of modern farming techniques.

A mobile technical training school display features basic electrical, mechanical, welding, and vehicle maintenance

training courses, drawing many young attendees eager to learn new skills.

Representatives from different states and regions actively engage with visitors, answering questions about regional products and exports. The business networking section is bustling with MSME entrepreneurs discussing domestic and international market expansion, investment opportu-

nities, and government-provided one-stop services. Experts share insights on improving product quality and expanding into new markets.

The exhibition also highlights iconic cultural showcases from different regions, attracting students, youths, government staff, and families who take memorable photos. The food stalls offer a variety of regional delicacies at affordable prices, with visitors crowding around to sample traditional ethnic foods.

One visitor, U Ye Lin Oo from Lewe Township, shared his experience: “The Mandalay food stall is popular, but I couldn’t try anything as they sold out quickly. I’ll come back tomorrow to taste ethnic dishes like Thingyan rice, Kayin ‘Talapo’ soup, and ‘Sabuthee’ snacks. I enjoy hearing different ethnic languages and experiencing the diverse culture here”.

Cooperative associations, the Ministry of Industry, Myanmar Economic Corporation (MEC), Myanmar Economic Holdings Public Company Limited and the Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers Association are also offering consumer goods and food products at special prices, making the trade fair a bustling hub of commerce and cultural exchange. — Than Min Aung and Aung Min Htun/KZL



Photos reveal bustling crowds exploring booths at the Nay Pyi Taw MSME Product Expo yesterday.

Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanmar Alinn, the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit www.moi.gov.mm/mal, www.moi.gov.mm/km, www.moi.gov.mm/nlm and www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper.

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NATIONAL

Deputy PM MoFA Union Minister holds talks with China’s Public Security Assistant Minister



Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe meets Mr Liu Zhongyi, China’s Assistant Minister of Public Security and Chinese Ambassador Ms Ma Jia yesterday.

U THAN SWE, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar held a bilateral meeting together with Mr Liu Zhongyi, Assistant Minister of Public Security of the People’s Republic of the of China and Ms Ma Jia, Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China to Myanmar, yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw.

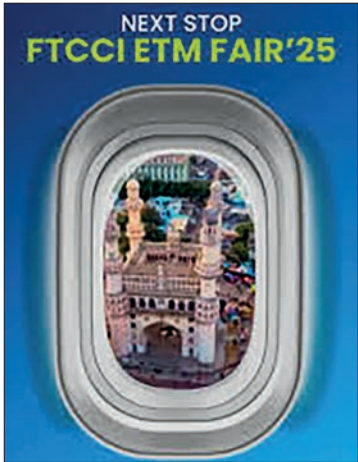
At the meeting, they cordially discussed the matters pertaining to the further consolidation of the existing Pauk-Phaw relations, continued

implementation of bilateral cooperation projects between the two countries, promotion of legal cooperation to jointly crack down trans-border crimes, boosting collaboration between the relevant departments to combat online gambling and telecommunication fraud networks along the border areas, strengthening trilateral cooperation between Myanmar, China and Thailand including cooperation with regional and international community and maintenance of peace and stability along the Myanmar-China borders.

— MNA

FTCCI MICE Fair 2025 welcomes Myanmar businesspeople

MYANMAR businesspersons are invited to join FTCCI Expe-



An advertisement for the FTCCI Experiential Tourism MICE Fair 2025.

riential Tourism MICE Fair 2025, organized by the Federation of Telangana Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FTCCI, India), said the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization.

The event, which is scheduled to take place from 26 to 27 May 2025, will enable Myanmar to let the world know about Myanmar’s cultural heritage and natural scenery and the potential of the tourism industry and give a special opportunity to get connected with the global network.

Interested Myanmar businesspersons can register at event.td.myantrade@gmail.com or 067 408622. — MT/ZS

Used cars (K50-100M) and new cars (K200-300M) in high demand

USED cars are being sold for between K50 and K100 million, while new cars are being sold for between K200 and K300 million, according to U Kyaw Swa Tun Myint, General Secretary of the Myanmar Automobile Manufacturers and Distributors Association.

The current car market is in a negative trend compared to the past two years, and the market is in a cold state.

“Among the regular transactions, the prices of used cars are between K50 and K100 million. Used ones are right-hand drive cars imported from Japan. New cars are traded at least between K200 and K300 million, including EVs and ICEs,” he said.

According to the current market situation, the trading is cold with only regular transactions and no busy trading like before. Last year, the market was slow in January and February, active again in May. The car prices rose until September before they became stable since



A car market page showing some cars that are selling well.

mid-September.

The Myanmar car market is usually in a normal situation in February, March and April, active after Thingyan, and then starting to pick up in May and June every year, he added. — MT/ZN

Top websites and web portals to access Military Service Rules				
1. Ministry of Defence https://www.mod.gov.mm	2. Ministry of Legal Affairs https://www.mlis.gov.mm	3. Ministry of Information https://www.moi.gov.mm	4. Myawady Webportal https://myawady.net.mm	5. Myanmar National Portal https://myanmar.gov.mm

www.gnlm.com.mm

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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

29 arrested in Shan State for online gambling, scams

THE government is actively cracking down on telecom fraud and online gambling in addition to destructive elements by co-operating with international organizations.

Moreover, the 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.

The security forces raided the house in San Seng Ward A, Tachilek Township in Shan State (East) rented by Wel San from Thailand, and arrested 16 offenders — 11 men and five women



This image shows the building rented by Wel San, where scammers were accommodated.

totalling 29, were arrested in San Seng Ward A, Tachilek Township, together with 440 computers, 90 system CPUs, 390 assorted mobile phones, two unregistered vehicles, four packs containing one kilogramme each of kratom leaves (wet), 10 bottles containing one litre of boiled kratom leave and 30 bottles of cough syrup.

According to the confession, the Thai nationals entered Tachilek in Myanmar for the visit and job prospects via Friendship Bridge I, and the online scam and gambling operators contacted them. Therefore, they committed such scams and gambling.

Security measures are being conducted to arrest online



Photos show telecom frausters, online scammers and related items arrested and seized in San Seng Ward A, Tachilek Township in Shan State.

including online gambling in charge Min Kyaw and interpreter and accountant Yi Yi Phy, together with 61 laptops, 329 flat desktops, 90 system CPUs, 90 assorted mobile phones, two unregistered vehicles and other gambling materials, on 13 February.

The combined team also investigated and arrested seven Thai nationals, one Myanmar man and five women, totalling 13, in the same ward on the same evening, together with 50 computers, 300 assorted mobile phones, four packs containing one kilogramme each of fresh kratom leaves, 10 bottles containing one litre of boiled speciose and 30 bottles of cough syrup.

Therefore, on 12 and 13 February, seven Thai nationals, 12 Myanmar men and 10 women, game owner Thai national Wel San and his wife Yan Kyuu, residing in Chiang Mai as quickly as possible. Systematic prosecution will be made against the offenders under the law. — MNA/KTZH

Counter-argument to false information

Malicious news media spread false reports on airstrikes in Kalay

REPORTS claiming that airstrikes were conducted on villages in Kalay Township, Sagaing Region, have been widely circulated by malicious news media, which spread misinformation.

A security official in the area stated that terrorists targeted security forces, who were carrying out their duties of territorial security, and launched drone and bomb attacks on villages and neighbourhoods, destroying areas of refuge within the villages.

Reports suggest that subversive news media intentionally fabricated this story to conceal terrorist activities and mislead the public about the actions of security forces. — MNA/MKKS

This screenshot discloses false claims.



Public Notice

THE Anti-Corruption Commission has established corruption prevention units within ministries to curb corruption effectively.

The ACC used SMS on mobile phones to ask the public who sought services at an office of the department of the relevant ministries via short code No “1111” for feedback, including the public feedback programme (PFP).

According to the PFP, the proper replies of the citizens via short code No “1111” will provide the quality of services of each department and the requirements for corruption prevention to be fixed.

Therefore, the public should reply to the questions of the ACC and corruption prevention units of the ministries via SMS at short code “1111”. Such doing is a supportive measure for PFP, and the people are urged to cooperate in the operations.

Anti-Corruption Commission

Carefully prevent desertification for global people

AS IT is now the dry season, all environments in Myanmar are pleasant and beautiful due to the lack of rain and wet conditions. As a result, people can travel anywhere without worrying about muddy or dirty paths. This makes it the best time for travellers in both the inbound and outbound tourism industries.

Although this may be an ideal time for travel, the world must prioritize preventing excessive dryness and combating desertification. According to research released by the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) on 9 December 2024, more than

It is essential for all living beings including global people to emphasize the perpetual existence of the world where they reside. Otherwise, they will face catastrophes based on utter devastation in the future. Control of desertification depends on the policies of relevant governments. As such, these governments need to emphasize the implementation of projects to grow trees, control farmlands and rehabilitate societies to prevent desertification.

The UNCCD identifies the characteristics of desertification as including irregular rainfall patterns, reduced frequency of rainfall, water scarcity, extreme heat and drought, prolonged exposure to rising atmospheric and soil temperatures, excessive fluctuations in temperature, high rates of soil evaporation, low humidity levels, soil dryness, degradation of soil quality, and increased erosion of topsoil due to wind and water.

The world is an invaluable gift of nature to society. Currently, around 1.6 billion people globally rely on forests for their livelihoods, as forests are home to more than 80 per cent of all living species, including humans. Additionally, approximately 2.6 billion people depend on agriculture for their sustenance. Therefore, the expansion of desertification poses significant challenges to food security and the survival of all living beings.

It is essential for all living beings including global people to emphasize the perpetual existence of the world where they reside. Otherwise, they will face catastrophes based on utter devastation in the future. Control of desertification depends on the policies of relevant governments. As such, these governments need to emphasize the implementation of projects to grow trees, control farmlands and rehabilitate societies to prevent desertification.

77 per cent of the world has permanently dried compared to 30 years ago.

The survey reported that the land area affected by desertification expanded by 4.3 million square kilometres, approximately one-third of India's size. Additionally, 40 per cent of the world's land area, excluding Antarctica, has become arid and unsuitable for agriculture. This drying of lands has led to a decline in crop yields. According to the UNCCD, desertification could cause a loss of 16 per cent of GDP in Africa and seven per cent in Asia within the next half-decade.

Desertification results from unsustainable human activities in the natural environment. Excessive timber extraction, agricultural expansion, mining, dam and reservoir construction, and urbanization have led to deforestation and soil degradation in tropical forests, ultimately causing desertification.

IT STARTS with a familiar pang — the sharp, bittersweet feeling that you are being left behind. You pick up your phone, scroll through social media, and there they are: your friends at a concert, their faces glowing in the neon lights; a coworker on a spontaneous weekend road trip; an old schoolmate posting pictures from a wedding you had to decline. You imagine the laughter, the music, the excitement, and suddenly, your quiet evening at home feels unbearably small. That's the moment when FOMO — the fear of missing out — tightens its grip.

FOMO is something that nearly everyone experiences from time to time, but when we have a chronic illness, it takes on a deeper, more persistent form. It's not just about missing an occasional social event — it's about missing out on life itself. It's about feeling like an observer rather than a participant, watching the world move forward while we remain stuck in place, tethered by our health.

Having a chronic illness means that even simple plans require careful consideration. Unlike those who can spontaneously decide to go out with friends or take on a new adventure, people with chronic illnesses must navigate a minefield of unpredictability. Will we have enough energy? Will the outing trigger a flare-up? Will the phys-

ical and mental toll be worth the momentary enjoyment? These are the questions that hover over every decision, turning even the most casual invitation into a complex calculation. And often, the answer is "no".

Declining invitations can be heartbreaking, especially when it becomes a pattern. We watch as our social circle continues to bond through shared experiences while we remain on the periphery. Over time, the invitations start to dwindle. People assume we'll say no, and so they stop asking. We begin to feel forgotten, even when it's no one's fault. The isolation that stems from chronic illness isn't just about missing events — it's about missing connection, spontaneity, and the sense of belonging that comes with being actively involved in the lives of those we care about.

FOMO, for those with chronic illnesses, is not just a fleeting feeling. It's a deep, aching sense of loss — loss of opportunities, of freedom, of the life we might have had if our health were different. And that kind of grief is



FOMO - the fear of missing out - is that unsettling feeling you get when you think others are having more fun, enjoying life more, or experiencing better things than you are. It's like the party you weren't invited to but heard was absolutely amazing. **ILLUSTRATION: CONCEPT ART**

not easy to shake off.

While the emotional weight of FOMO is real, there are ways to ease its grip. The first step is understanding that missing

out is an unavoidable part of life — chronic illness or not. Everyone experiences FOMO in some form, even those who appear to be living their best

How to Navigate FOMO When Our Body Says 'No'

By Laura Htet (UDE)

lives on social media. The truth is, no one is everywhere, doing everything, all at once. There will always be things we miss, and that is simply the nature of life. The challenge is not in avoiding FOMO entirely, but in learning to coexist with it in a healthy way.

One of the most powerful shifts in perspective is to stop comparing our reality to the highlight reels of others. Social media can be deceptive — it showcases the most exciting, curated moments, rarely revealing the struggles, exhaustion, or even the moments of loneliness that people experience behind the scenes. It's easy to assume that everyone else is living a full and uninterrupted life, but in truth, everyone has limitations. Our life, with all its complexities, is not less meaningful just because it looks different from someone else's.

Instead of focusing on what we're missing, consider what we can do to create moments of fulfilment within the boundaries

of our health. The definition of a meaningful life is not limited to high-energy activities, grand adventures, or social gatherings. Joy can be found in the quieter moments — reading a book that transports us to another world, engaging in a creative hobby, having deep conversations with close friends, or simply taking in the beauty of a peaceful evening.

Creating our own version of "fun" is essential. If we can't go out for a late-night party, can we have a cosy movie night at home with a few trusted friends? If travelling is too demanding, can we explore new cultures through books, films, or online experiences? The key is to find activities that bring us joy without pushing our bodies beyond their limits.

FOMO often stems from a fear of disconnection, so finding ways to maintain meaningful relationships is crucial. Even if we can't physically be present at every event, we can still be involved in other ways. Send a message to let our friends know

we're thinking of them, schedule a virtual hangout, or ask them to share their experiences with us afterwards. True friendships are not defined by how often we show up in person but by the quality of the connection we maintain.

Communicating openly about our illness can also help bridge the gap. Many people don't fully understand the limitations of chronic illness, and they may not realize how much we wish we could be there. Letting our friends know that we appreciate their invitations — even when we have to decline — can keep the lines of connection open and remind them that we still value their presence in our lives.

One of the hardest but most important lessons in handling FOMO with a chronic illness is learning to embrace our life as it is, rather than mourning the life we think we should have had. It's natural to grieve for the things we can't do, but that grief should not overshadow the things we can do. Our life, even with its limitations, is still ours to shape.

Finding purpose in what we can do, rather than focusing on what we can't, allows us to reclaim control. Maybe we can't dance all night at a concert, but we can write music or discover new artists from the comfort of our homes. Maybe we can't join in on a spontaneous trip, but we can create a bucket list of places we'd love to explore in the future,

planning ways to make it possible on our own terms.

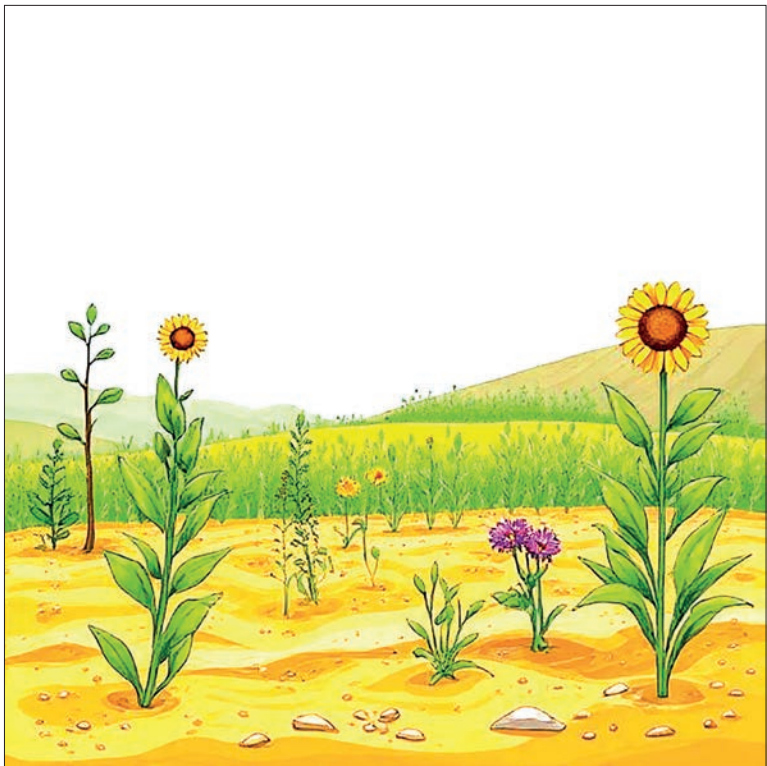
FOMO feeds on the belief that happiness exists somewhere else, always out of reach. But fulfilment is not about chasing experiences — it's about finding contentment in the moment, in the life that is uniquely ours. It's about appreciating the joys, big and small, that exist within our reality.

So, the next time we feel the sting of FOMO creeping in, take a step back. Remind ourselves that missing one event does not mean missing out on life. Our journey is still unfolding, in ways that are meaningful, valuable, and entirely our own. And that, in itself, is something worth celebrating.

In sum, FOMO, especially when living with a chronic illness, can feel overwhelming, but it's possible to navigate it by shifting our perspective. Instead of comparing our lives to others' highlight reels, we can focus on creating meaningful moments within our own boundaries. By redefining joy, maintaining connections, and embracing our unique journey, we can find fulfilment in the life we have, rather than mourning what we feel we've missed. True contentment lies in appreciating the present and celebrating the small, meaningful victories that make our lives uniquely ours.

Discovering the genetics of climate adaptation

Learning how plants adapt to their surroundings helps us grow stronger crops for a changing climate.



This challenge is especially urgent for crops, as drought and heat-resistant plants are critical to ensuring food security in an unpredictable future. **ILLUSTRATIVE IMAGE: CONCEPT ART**

AS CLIMATE change accelerates, plants are under increasing pressure to adapt to changing habitats and environmental conditions.

This challenge is especially urgent for crops, as drought and heat-resistant plants are critical to ensuring food security in an unpredictable future. Fortunately, plants can adapt astonishingly well to a variety of settings and temperatures: Arabidopsis thaliana, for example, thrives in climates as disparate as Sweden

and Italy.

The study, by the labs of Liam Dolan and Frederic Berger at the Gregor Mendel Institute (GMI) of Molecular Plant Biology, as well as Kelly Swarts, former GMI group leader and now at the Umea Plant Science Centre, and Masaki Shimamura at Hiroshima University.

Understanding how plants naturally adapt to different local conditions is key to predicting their response to climate change, and can help produce more re-

silient crops. A recent study provides new insight into the genetic underpinnings of plant climate adaptation. By combining population genetics and global climate data, the researchers identified genetic variants underlying climate adaptation in Marchantia polymorpha.

Genetic variants underlying certain traits, like enhanced heat resistance or different seed sizes, are often selected in environments where they provide a survival or reproductive edge.

However, which genetic variants are responsible for climate adaptation is mostly unknown.

To uncover these variants, the researchers compared the genetics of different regional subpopulations of Marchantia polymorpha collected across Europe, America and Japan, creating a population genomics database. By integrating this database with a worldwide climate dataset, the scientists correlated each subpopulation's genetic profile with its local climate.

"Comparing populations in Europe and Japan, we found genetic variants associated with warmer and colder summer temperatures, as well as with the

amount of summer precipitation," explains Liam Dolan. "These adaptations could be crucial for optimizing reproduction in different conditions."

The study also revealed that genetic variability differs notably between populations of Marchantia polymorpha. Populations collected from different areas in Europe were similar to each other but presented high genetic variability among their individuals.

In contrast, geographically isolated Japanese populations exhibited more uniform genetic profiles, distinct from those in Europe. These patterns suggest that climate adaptation may favour different reproductive strategies

in Europe and Japan, as Marchantia and other bryophytes can famously reproduce both sexually and asexually.

The new population genomics database — the first of its kind for Marchantia polymorpha — offers scientists worldwide a powerful platform to study genetic variability. "We're eager to expand this database with samples from around the globe, enhancing the robustness of future research," Liam Dolan points out. "Our platform opens up exciting possibilities for addressing a wide range of biological questions related to plant growth and development."

SOURCE: ANI

NATIONAL

MRCSS holds annual meeting for Kachin Special Project



This photo reveals the opening ceremony of the Annual Evaluation and Planning Meeting. in progress.

THE Disaster Management Department of the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCSS) hosted the opening ceremony of the Annual Evaluation and Planning Meeting for the Kachin Special Project yesterday at Zealax Hotel in Ahlon Township, Yangon.

MRCSS Vice-President Dr Daw Tin Tin Lay delivered an opening speech, followed by a welcome address by Mr Fabio Beltramini, Country Manager of the Danish Red Cross.

The event saw the society

vice-president, full-time and part-time executives, the chairperson and members of the Kachin State Red Cross Supervisory Committee, the deputy secretary-general, assistant secretary-general, directors, department heads, deputy directors, officials from the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Danish Red Cross, as well as staff from the Kachin Special Project.

The meeting is scheduled to continue on 13 and 14 February.

— ASH/KZL

EV taxi service launched for Yangon-Mawlamyine routes

ACCORDING to the Swan Thu Aung EV Taxi Group, an EV taxi service has been operating Yangon-Mawlamyine-Yangon trips since 9 February.

The Swan Thu Aung EV Taxi Station is located at the entrance to Thakin Mya Park, Upper Kyimyindine Road, Yangon, and at No 41/A, Bogyoke Aung San Road, Myaing Thaya, Mawlamyine.

“A total of 10 EV taxis operate the Yangon-Mawlamyine route daily. The price for the shotgun seat is K60,000, while the rear seat costs K50,000. Each taxi can carry up to four passengers. From 9 to 15 February, the service is available at a 50 per cent discount. EV taxis offer the advantages of air conditioning throughout the route, a quiet and comfortable ride, and home delivery to the nearest destination,” said U Aung Myat Thu, in charge of the Swan Thu Aung EV Taxi Station.

The EV charter vehicles will be based in Yangon and will operate routes to Nay Pyi Taw, Patheingyi, Chaungtha, Ngazun, and Kyaukse. — ASH/MKKS



This photo showcases EV taxis running between Yangon and Mawlamyine.

Task force to boost quality standards for agri-tools



This picture shows a demonstration of locally produced farming apparatuses.

THE Ministry of Industry stated that a technical task force will be formed to ensure farm equipment that is being distributed across the country meets quality criteria for safety and

productivity.

Moreover, it also aims to provide quality agricultural implements at a lower price. Manufacturers of farming machinery and agri-mechanization tools will be invited to join an open discussion to exchange and develop ideas and produce agricultural equipment of high standards.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation will coordinate ministries concerned to manufacture some tools that they still cannot produce to fulfil their needs and to analyze the advantages and disadvantages of the machinery. — ASH/KK

Second realty seminar for seafarers takes place

A seminar on how seafarers can invest in suitable houses and land plots on loans was held for the second time on 14 February at the Myanmar Seafarers Federation (MSF) office in Kyauktada Township so that young seafarers will have no problems at their retirement age.

By the end of 2022, the federation formed a committee to support and care for elderly seafarers and observed that most elderly seafarers did not own a house, said Captain Soe



The second real estate investment seminar is in progress.

Min Aung, MSF’s general secretary.

“This is the second time the seminar has been held. One of the biggest needs is housing. The MSF formed a senior citizen health care committee after the end of 2022 and observed that some owned houses, but most of them did not,” he said. The committee has currently provided financial and medical support to 800 elderly seafarers.

Due to this finding, the seminar on real estate is aimed at seafarers who will retire in the next 10 to 20 years to prepare for their retirement in advance.

“I would like to encourage seafarers to try and own their homes. If they have more than one house, they can rent it out when they are not working and earn income from it,” he said.

— MT/ZN

The people are urged to receive vaccination of COVID-19 without fail as full-time vaccination of COVID-19 and receiving booster shots can effectively mitigate infection of the virus, severe suffering from the disease and increase of death rate due to the disease.

CBM injects CNY548,000, THB597,000 into fuel oil sector on 13 Feb

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold over 548,000 yuan and 597,000 baht on 13 February.

CBM announced on 11 February to sell \$21 million to fuel oil importers and shortly after, injected over \$21.4 million and 500,000 baht into the markets on that day.

It sold \$82,000, 220,000 yuan and one million baht into the financial market on 10 February, \$23 million and 600,000 yuan on 7 February and over \$150,000 and 214,830 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 baht 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 collaborating 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



The facade view of the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) in Nay Pyi Taw.



Workers meticulously processing food products at an MSME facility.

MSME loans offered by 2 State banks, 16 private lenders

MICRO, Small and Medium Entrepreneurs can get access to loans at State-owned Myanmar Economic Bank (MEB), Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank (MADB) and 16 private banks, the MSME Development Fund Management Body notified on 14 February.

MSME entrepreneurs from Nay Pyi Taw, regions and states can apply for MSME loans through the respective MSME agencies to expand businesses, and purchase equipment and raw materials.

The State put K170 billion

in the MSME Development Fund and K150 billion of that will be disbursed for MSMEs. In line with the State Administration Council's economic objectives, state-owned banks (Myanmar Economic Bank and Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank) and 15 private banks held a signing ceremony of participating agreement with participating financial institutions (PFI) regarding loan disbursement on 3 October in MEB (headquarter) in Nay Pyi Taw, in which K150 billion loans will be disbursed at a cheaper interest

rate through PFIs.

The managing director of the Myanmar Economic Bank and PFI's representatives signed the participation agreements in the presence of the chairperson and vice-chairpersons of the fund management task force. Officials of the State owned banks and representatives of the private banks elaborated on loan term regulation, loan proposals, documents and loan procedures, and they responded to questions raised by attendees during the signing event. — NN/KK

SMVTI opens enrolment for new trainees

SINGAPORE-MYANMAR Vocational Training Institute (SMVTI) is inviting new trainees to join six-month courses in aspects of Hospitality, Tourism, Engineering and Technology subjects, that will be opened starting on 5 May 2025.

Those aged over 17 years who passed matriculation education under the old curriculum or new curriculum or those who passed Government Technical High School are eligible to attend the courses. They will offer courses with advanced laboratories through theoretical and practical approaches to produce skilled trainees.

As the nature of the work in the technical and vocational industry, trainees must be fit enough. Those who will get into the related industry will be prioritized.

They must present an education



The aerial view of the Singapore-Myanmar Vocational Training Institute (SMVTI).

pass certificate, a citizenship scrutiny card and copy, three passport-sized photos, a criminal clearance certificate and a ward administrator recommendation certificate. SMVTI will offer courses for Hospitality & Tourism (14th batch), Front Office Operations, Housekeeping Operations, Restaurant Operations Courses for Engineering & Technology (13th batch), Electrical Technology, Electronics, Residential Air-Conditioning, Mechatronics (Basic Servicing), and General Welding.

Interested individuals can enrol in the courses at SMVTI located at No 123, Natmauk Street, Bahan Township, Yangon by 14 March. An oral entrance test will be held at 10 am on 26 July. Individuals can enquire about further details through the contact number 09 781002572 during office hours. — NN/KK

UAE leverages BRICS membership to boost global trade resilience, infrastructure development

THE United Arab Emirates (UAE) is leveraging its membership in BRICS to enhance global trade resilience and drive infrastructure leadership, according to panellists at the World Governments Summit 2025 in Dubai.

During a panel discussion on Wednesday, Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem, chairman and CEO of DP World, and Mohamed Saif Al Suwaidi, director-general of the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD), highlighted the UAE's strategic role in strengthening economic ties within BRICS and beyond.

"By leveraging our strategic location and advanced logistics capabilities, the UAE is enhancing supply chain resilience and strengthening trade corridors that will benefit economies worldwide," bin Sulayem said.

He noted that the UAE has positioned itself as a logistics hub for BRICS by developing multi-modal trade routes that cut transit times and unlock economic growth opportunities.

"The UAE's inclusion in BRICS presents a unique opportunity to strengthen economic ties, not only through government cooperation but also by engaging the private sector," Al-Suwaidi said, underscoring the UAE's commitment to fostering sustainable economic growth through its BRICS membership.

Al-Suwaidi also highlighted the UAE's focus on large-scale infrastructure projects, including ports, railways, and airports, which are essential for enhancing trade flows and economic exchange. — Xinhua

The UAE's inclusion in BRICS strengthens economic ties through government and private sector cooperation.



BRICS is a group of emerging economies that play a significant role in global affairs. A file picture shows a cargo ship docked at Dubai's Jebel Ali port. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

NEWS IN BRIEF

China-Japan venture producing automotive aluminium sheets unveiled in Shanghai

Kobelco Baosteel Automotive Aluminium Rolled Products Co Ltd, a Sino-Japanese joint venture specializing in automotive aluminium sheets, was officially unveiled in Shanghai on Thursday. The occasion signified strengthened collaboration between Chinese and Japanese enterprises in the automotive materials sector.

The company, jointly established by China's Baoshan Iron and Steel Co Ltd (Baosteel), Baowu Aluminum Technology Co Ltd and Japan's Kobe Steel, has a registered capital of nearly 1 billion yuan (about US\$139.4 million).

With an equal investment from China and Japan, the joint venture will supply environmentally friendly aluminium sheets to automakers. — Xinhua



A drone photo taken on 23 January 2025 shows a scene of a fishing port of Igneada town on the Black Sea coast of Türkiye. **PHOTO: SAFAR RAJABOV/XINHUA**

Tens of thousands go hungry in Sudan after Trump aid freeze

FOR the first time in nearly two years of war, soup kitchens in famine-stricken Sudan are being forced to turn people away, with US President Donald Trump's aid freeze gutting the life-saving schemes.

"People will die because of these decisions," said a Sudanese fundraising volunteer, who has been scrambling to find money to feed tens of thousands of people in the capital Khartoum.

"We have 40 kitchens across the country feeding between 30,000 to 35,000 people every day," another Sudanese volunteer told AFP, saying all of them had closed after Trump announced the freezing of foreign assistance and the dismantling of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). "Women and children are being turned away and we can't promise them when we can feed them again," she said, requesting anonymity for fear that speaking publicly could jeopardize her work. — AFP



The war in Sudan has pushed parts the country into famine, even before the cuts in US aid. **PHOTO: AFP**

Fishing boom in NW Türkiye brings record catches, revenues for fishermen

AS the first light of dawn bathes the tranquil waters of Igneada, a town in the northwestern Turkish province of Kırklareli, Captain Sinan Girit stands at the helm of his fishing vessel, eyes fixed on the horizon.

Schools of fish have been detected by sonar just 15 miles inside Bulgarian waters. Within hours, or by the next day, they will cross into Turkish territory, where Girit expects a bountiful catch.

Nestled along Türkiye's Black Sea coast, Igneada has long been a key waypoint for migratory fish from the waters of Ukraine, Romania, and Bulgaria.

Local fish species such as anchovies, mackerels, bonitos, and red mullets thrive here, making the region crucial not only for local fishermen like Girit but also for Türkiye's fishing industry. — Xinhua

German sports carmaker Porsche to cut 1,900 jobs

SPORTS car manufacturer Porsche said Thursday it will axe 1,900 jobs after sales slumped in China and amid a tricky shift to electric vehicles, the latest blow for Germany’s stalling auto sector.

The cuts will be made in the coming years in Germany, at the luxury brand’s Stuttgart headquarters and the firm’s nearby research centre, Porsche said.

Hit by high manufacturing costs at home, weak demand, fierce competition and a sluggish shift to EVs, Germany’s flagship auto sector is battling a growing crisis.

“We have many challenges to overcome,” Porsche’s human resources chief Andreas Haffner said in an interview with daily the Stuttgarter Zeitung.

He cited “the delayed ramp-up of electromobility and challenging geopolitical and economic conditions”, although he insisted none of the looming cuts would be made via compulsory redundancies.

The maker of the 911 sports car employs about 42,000 workers worldwide. It had already started cutting staff in Germany last year by letting temporary contracts expire, but has decided it needs to go further.

Porsche had long been one of more profitable subsidiaries of the Volkswagen empire, Europe’s top auto manufacturer that makes 10 brands in total. — AFP



Sports car manufacturer Porsche said Thursday it will axe 1,900 jobs. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Yamaha Motor unveils Next-Gen Smart Factory for enhanced production

The company has developed the “Super General Purpose Production Line” to adapt to seasonal demands and diverse customer orders.

YAMAHA Motor manufactures four million motorcycles in its global factories.

To create a factory system adaptable to seasonal demands and diverse customer orders, the company has developed the “Super General Purpose Production Line”, featuring an Automated Guided Vehicle (AGV) bypass system.

Kenji Sogai, an official of Yamaha Motor, said “Motorbikes are seasonal products. For example, off-road bikes are in demand during summer, while sports bikes see higher demand in winter.

The key challenge in improving production efficiency was minimizing factory losses throughout the



Motorbikes are seasonal products. Off-road bikes are in demand during summer, while sports bikes see higher demand in winter. **PHOTO: ANI**

year. To address this, we introduced a bypass line to create a highly adaptable production system.

Instead of a long assembly line with a conventional slat conveyor, we implemented a more flexible approach. Smaller models with fewer parts move halfway through the line before automatically branching off to the final completion and inspection area. — ANI

China’s mobile phone shipments up 22.1% in Dec

CHINA’S mobile phone shipments surged 22.1 per cent year on year in December 2024 to nearly 34.53 million units, data from the China Academy of Information and Communications Technology (CAICT) showed Friday.

5G mobile phones accounted for 88.1 per cent of the December shipments, totaling 30.43 million units, marking an increase of 25.8 percent year on year, said the CAICT, a research institute under the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology.

In 2024, total cell-phone shipments grew by 8.7 per cent year on year to 314 million units, of which 272 million units were 5G mobile phones, up 13.4 per cent year on year, the CAICT data showed. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (251N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (251N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **15-2-2025** 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V AFRICAN PETREL VOY.NO. (001L)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V AFRICAN PETREL VOY.NO. (001L)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **15-2-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **IBTT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BELTIGER VOY.NO. (2412)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BELTIGER VOY.NO. (2412)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **17-2-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT-5** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S ELDER TRIUMPHANT SHIPPING LINES PTE., LTD

GLOBAL VIEWPOINTS:
FEATURED REPORTS FOR THIS WEEK



Trump threats to South Africa rattle automakers

South Africa exports vehicles worth about \$1.9 billion annually to the United States under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), which is now at risk due to pressure from President Donald Trump. The AGOA trade deal provides preferential access to the US market, allowing South Africa to export cars without tariffs, significantly supporting its auto industry.

SOUTH Africa exports vehicles worth about \$1.9 billion every year, many to the United States under a trade deal now in jeopardy as President Donald Trump piles pressure on the country. “I don’t think that South Africa has got a chance of the renewal” of the African Growth and Opportunity Act, said Neil Diamond, president of the South African Chamber of Commerce in the United States.

Known as AGOA, the

trade deal offers preferential access to the US market for many African countries. The arrangement means Washington charges no tariffs on cars imported from South Africa.

That deal has bolstered the South African auto industry. Motor vehicles account for 22 per cent of South Africa’s exports to the United States, worth \$1.88 billion — behind only precious metals, according to government statistics.

Seven big automak-

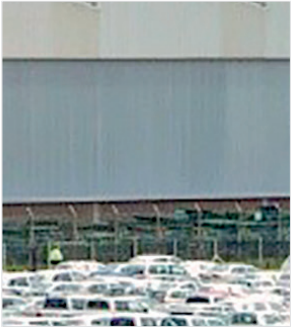
ers operate in South Africa: BMW, Ford, Isuzu, Mercedes-Benz, Nissan, Toyota and Volkswagen.

“It’s half a million people that are employed in the industry, so right across the value chain,” said Billy Tom, head of The Automotive Business Council, known as Naamsa. AGOA is up for renewal in September 2025. If it lapses, the consequences in South Africa — its biggest beneficiary — could be disastrous.



“It would be a big impact in the sense that the United States is the

Seven big automakers operate in South Africa. PHOTO: MICHAEL SHEEHAN/AFP/FILE



third-biggest export market for us. And that market has grown over the years,” Tom told AFP. — AFP

TikTok returns to Apple, Google app stores in US

The app, used by 170 million Americans, had gone dark shortly before the law took effect on 19 January.

TIKTOK was once again available for download in the Apple app store and Google Play store in the United States on Thursday.

The video-sharing app, used by 170 million Americans, went dark shortly before a US law requiring ByteDance, TikTok’s parent company, to sell the app to an American company or face a ban took effect on 19 January.

Apple and Google had removed TikTok from their US app stores as hosting or distributing the app in the country could result in penalties under the law.

The app resumed operations after US President Donald



TikTok was reinstated for download in the Apple App Store and Google Play Store in the United States after being removed due to a law requiring its parent company, ByteDance, to sell the app or face a ban. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Trump announced that he would delay enforcing the ban. On his first day in office on 20 January, he signed an executive order extending the law’s deadline by 75 days to 5 April.

Despite being removed

from the two digital marketplaces for nearly a month, TikTok had recovered about 90 per cent of the traffic compared with the pre-shutdown level by late January, according to data from Cloudflare Radar. — Xinhua

Paris conference on Syria voices support for Syria’s transition

PARTIES attending Thursday’s Paris conference on Syria vowed to support Syria’s transition.

In a joint statement, the participants vowed to support Syria in achieving a peaceful, credible, orderly and swift inclusive transition, in line with the key principles of UN Security Council Resolution 2254.

Emphasizing that Syria’s transition must be Syrian-led and Syrian-owned, they promised to work together to enable the Syrian people to build a safer, more promising and more peaceful future.

They also expressed their wish to “ensure the sovereignty and territorial integrity and unity of Syria” in accordance with the principles of the UN Charter, international law and relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

They would also facilitate the voluntary and lasting return of refugees through supporting Syria’s economic recovery.

The parties added that they are committed to supporting the maintenance, rehabilitation, conservation and promotion of Syrian heritage. — Xinhua

SPORTS

OCA first vice-president declares Harbin Asian Winter Games closed

TIMOTHY Fok Tsun-ting, first vice-president of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA), declared the 9th Asian Winter Games closed at the Harbin International Conference, Exhibition and Sports Centre on Friday night.

“This is truly a unique and charming part of China and the world - not only for the beauty of the city and the landscape but also for the warmth and friendliness of the local people,” Fok said in his speech during the closing ceremony.

The Games, officially opened on 7 February, showcased over 1,200 athletes from 34 countries and regions across Asia, making this edition the largest in terms of participating delegations and athletes.

On the final day of competition, the Philippines claimed its

first-ever gold medal in Asian Winter Games history by defeating South Korea 5-3 in the men's curling final, while China beat Hong Kong, China 10-3 to secure the bronze. In the women's curling final, South Korea won over China 7-2, with Japan taking the bronze.

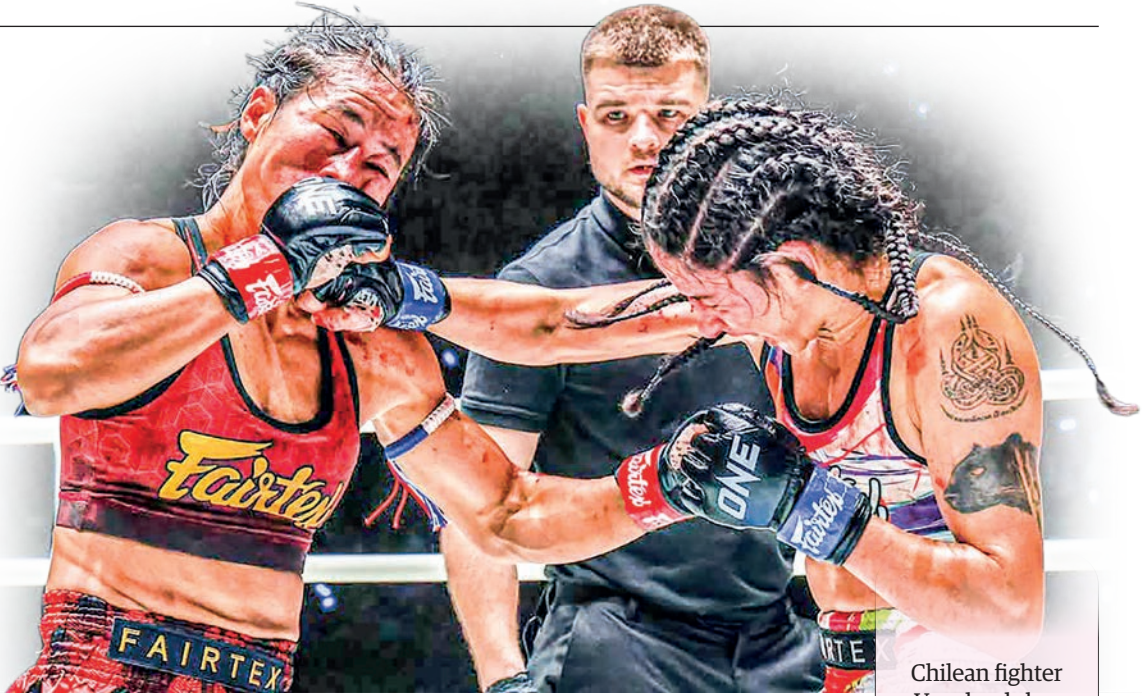
In ice hockey, Kazakhstan and Japan defended the men's and women's titles, respectively, on Friday.

China topped the medal tally with 32 gold, 27 silver, and 26 bronze medals, followed by South Korea with 16 gold, 15 silver, and 14 bronze medals. Japan ranked third with 10 gold, 12 silver, and 15 bronze medals.

The host nation tied the record for the most gold medals set by Kazakhstan at the 7th Asian Winter Games in Astana-Almaty in 2011. — Xinhua



The Chinese national flag is raised during the closing ceremony of the 9th Asian Winter Games in Harbin, northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, 14 February 2025. PHOTO: JIANG HAN/XINHUA



Chilean fighter Vera lands her punch on Vero Nika during the One Friday Fights 97 fight. PHOTO: ONE CHAMPIONSHIP THAILAND

Vero Nika falls to Chilean fighter by decision

MYANMAR'S female fighter Vero Nika suffered a split-decision loss to Chilean opponent Francisca Vera at One Championship's One Friday Fights 97, held last night in Bangkok, Thailand.

This bout marked Vero Nika's debut in One Championship. Vera capitalized on

her reach advantage, effectively using elbows and punches to control the fight. Analysts noted that Vero Nika appeared fatigued in the second round, contributing to her defeat.

Despite the loss, One Championship awarded bonuses to both fighters for their performances.

A former Myanmar traditional Lethwei champion Vero Nika made her history as the first Myanmar female fighter to sign a two-year contract with One Championship. Meanwhile, her opponent Vera entered the bout with five previous One Championship fights under her belt. — KZL

South Korea claims women's curling gold at Winter Asiad

SOUTH Korea claimed the women's curling gold at the 9th Asian Winter Games in Harbin on Friday, while the Philippines seized its first-ever gold medal in men's curling final.

In women's curling final, South Korea took a lead 3-0 after the second end, and the defending champion China scored two points in the third end before

South Korea regained the lead 4-2. After a scoreless fifth end, South Korea scored three points in the next two ends. China didn't manage to come back in the last end, and South Korea sealed the victory 7-2.

“It's a pity we didn't win the final, but I'm satisfied with my performance. I'm improving game by game, both in terms of

technical skills and in managing my mindset on the rink,” said China's Han Yu.

“In the upcoming training and competitions, I have set several goals for myself. I will focus on strengthening my physical fitness, and try to participate in more competitions to get more experience,” Han noted. — Xinhua

Barcelona wants to keep Lewandowski, says sporting director Deco

FC Barcelona sporting director Deco stated that the club authorities are extremely pleased with Robert Lewandowski and are keen for him to remain with the team. The Polish forward's contract is valid until June 2026.

In 2022, Lewandowski signed a three-year deal with an automatic one-year renewal clause, triggered if he plays in at least half of the team's matches during the season. If he starts Monday's match against Rayo Vallecano and plays a minimum of 45 min-



Robert Lewandowski scored the winning goal for Barcelona against Alaves on 2 February 2025. PHOTO: AFP

utes, the clause will automatically extend his contract.

Deco emphasized that, regardless of the clause, the club is committed to continuing their collaboration with Lewandowski - but ultimately, the decision rests with the player.

“We're clear that we want him to stay, but Robert isn't just a Barca player; he's a global figure, one of the best forwards in football history. I think he'll want to stay because, in addition to having a contract, we're very happy

with him. But if a player doesn't want to stay, it's always difficult to keep them,” he told Spanish media on Friday.

“That will be a question for Robert when the time comes, but I believe he'll stay. When you speak to him, he always talks about the future, the next season. He's very involved, feels comfortable here, as does his family, and he has plans with the club. He is one of the best professionals I have ever seen,” added Deco. — Xinhua



E-CIGARETTE PUFFS

French parliament
votes to ban
disposable
e-cigarettes

THE French parliament on Thursday voted to ban single-use electronic cigarettes, arguing that they are gateways to tobacco addiction for teenagers and harmful to the environment.

The bill was approved with a final vote in the Senate upper house. France now becomes the second EU country after Belgium to have introduced such a ban.

Pre-filled disposable e-cigarettes, known as “puffs”, are popular with young people, can have a high nicotine content, are cheap, and come in many flavours including apple, watermelon and chocolate.

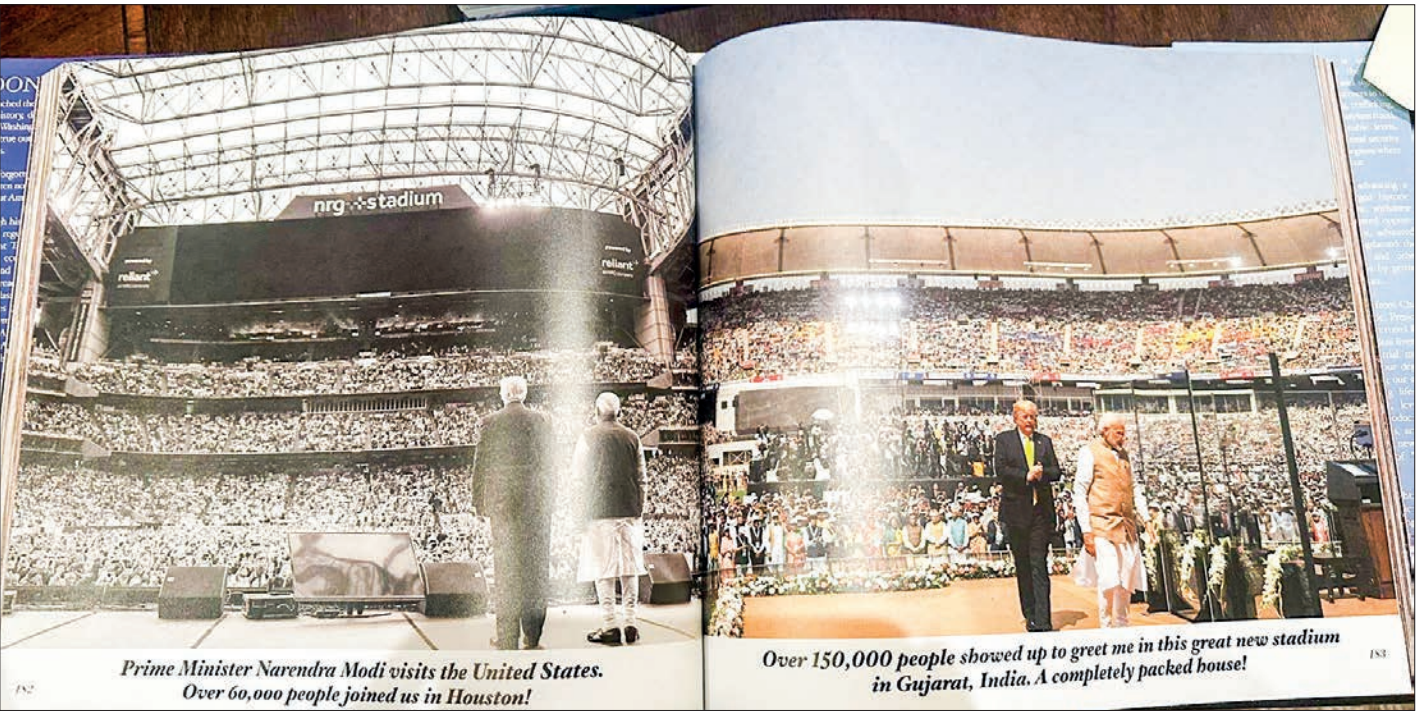
“It is a great victory in a two-pronged battle that we were fighting: an environmental battle against the polluting lithium batteries in these ‘puffs’, and a health battle for our schoolchildren,” Francesca Pasquini, the author of the bill, told AFP.

She said she hoped that France’s example could inspire other countries. The legislation was unanimously backed by the National Assembly lower house last week.

“A fine piece of cross-party work!” lawmaker Michel Lauzzana said on X. The bill prohibits the sale and distribution in France of devices “pre-filled with a liquid and not re-fillable, whether or not they have a rechargeable battery.” — AFP

Trump gifts Modi ‘Journey Together’
photobook, personalizes it with “Mr
Prime Minister, you are great”

The book features photos from significant events like the “Howdy Modi” and “Namaste Trump” rallies.



Trump gifted Modi a signed copy of his book titled “Our Journey Together”. The book features photos from significant events. PHOTO: ANI

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump presented “great friend for a long time” Prime Minister Narendra Modi with a personalized book capturing their camaraderie over the years, during the meeting of the two leaders at the White House in Washington DC on 13 February.

The book “Our Journey Together” features photos from the historic “Howdy Modi” and “Namaste Trump” events. On

the cover page of the book the President of the United States wrote “Mr Prime Minister, You are great!” along with his signature.

Trump has always spoken about his friendship with PM Modi. Addressing a joint press conference, the US President introduced PM Modi as “a terrific man, a great leader”, adding that the largest democracy and the oldest democracy “India and US share great unity”.

PM Modi, on his part, thanked “my friend” President Trump said that both leaders together resolve that they “will together march towards progress and prosperity of our nations.”

Further, he said that when US the world’s oldest democracy and India the largest democracy come together, “We make 1+1 = 11 not 2, and this is the power of 11 that is going to work for the welfare of humanity.” — ANI



Vietnam has so far had a cumulative total of 559 green-certified buildings. PHOTO: ILLUSTRATIVE PHOTO COURTESY OF THE COMPANY VIETTEL

Vietnam’s green buildings
double in 2024

AS many as 163 buildings in Vietnam were certified as green in 2024, doubling the number of the previous year, local media cited the Vietnam Green Building Market Overview 2024 as saying on Friday.

The southern hub of Ho Chi Minh City topped localities nationwide with a total floor area of 3.4 million square metres certified green. It was followed by the capital Hanoi, Binh Duong, Bac Ninh provinces, and Hai Phong city.

According to experts, despite starting later than other countries in the region,

Vietnam has made considerable progress, with a sharp increase in green projects over the past few years.

Vietnam has so far had a cumulative total of 559 green-certified buildings with a combined floor area of 13.6 million square metres.

The figure far exceeds the original targets of 80 green buildings by 2025 and 160 by 2030, according to the report issued by the EDGE certification system and the International Finance Corporation, a member of the World Bank. — Xinhua