

The **Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR**



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects the port services at the jetty of Asia World Port Terminal (AWPT) in Yangon yesterday.

Salient points from the speech delivered by the Senior General in inspecting functions of Asia World Port Terminal (AWPT)

- 1. As Myanmar is facing economic sanctions, businesspersons have to raise the production of market-able products for export purposes, especially agricultural products.
- 2. Only when crops meet the per acre yield target will export volume increase.
- 3. It is necessary to improve the production of value-added maize products, contributing to the development of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises.

Investors encouraged to focus on agro-based industries

Myanma Port Authority needs to consider the berthing of vessels depending on their sizes at relevant ports.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing underlined that as the government does not restrict the export of agriculture and livestock products of Myanmar, officials at different levels have to emphasize a smooth and swift export process of these products.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, accompanied by Council Joint Secretary General Ye Win Oo, council members, the chief minister of Yangon Region, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Command-

er-in-Chief and the commander of Yangon Command, said so on the inspection tour of functions of Asia World Port Terminal-(AWPT) and trade process in Ahlon Township of Yangon Region yesterday morning.

SEE PAGE 3



Be Proud with "DAGON"

Sales Department- Ph-01 651177, 09 694965080
STARMART Nine Mile Showroom- (9)mile, Pyay Road, Yangon. Ph-09 263147385
KHA YAE PIN MART - Mingalardone, Pyay Road, Yangon. Ph- 09 671443555
STARMART MANDALAY Wholesale -Corner of 26th st and 66th st , Mandalay.Ph-09 661702244
STARMART Nay Pyi Taw -Yangon- Mandalay Highway Road, Ywar Gauk Ward, Pyinmanar.Ph- 09 685119077



NATIONAL

Unlocking Knowledge: The Essential Role of Libraries and Reading Habits

- A library is an institution dedicated to disseminating knowledge.
- It is essential to cultivate a reading habit.
- Individuals should read books to acquire knowledge.
- They must take notes from their readings to deepen their understanding.
- Reading is a powerful tool for accumulating knowledge.

(Excerpt from the speech given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the ceremony to donate cash and books to libraries across the nation for their development on 10 April 2024)

Objectives of 80th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day 2025

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

Nominate Now for Prestigious ASEAN Prize 2025

THE ASEAN Secretariat is calling for nominations for the ASEAN Prize 2025, a prestigious regional award which aims to acknowledge the inspiring and outstanding achievements of an individual or organization in fostering the ASEAN identity, promoting the ASEAN spirit and championing the ASEAN way.

Nominees should have exceptional merit in contributing to the following designated focus areas:

- Collaboration between ASEAN Member States;
- Collaboration between ASEAN and the world;
- People-to-people engagement among ASEAN Member States;
- Economic integration and promotion of standards between ASEAN Member States; or
- Excellent contribution to ASEAN Community Building

The Judging Committee Meeting for the ASEAN Prize, chaired by ASEAN Secretary-General, will convene an intensive assessment to select this year's recipient. The panel of judges for the ASEAN Prize 2025 comprises former and current ASEAN Secretaries-General.

Submissions for the ASEAN Prize 2025 are open from now until 16th May 2025. The nominee must be an ASEAN citizen or an ASEAN-based organization. The nomination form for the ASEAN Prize 2025 can be downloaded from the ASEAN Secretariat website <https://asean.org/nomination-form/>. The nominee must submit the duly filled-in form **no later than 11 April 2025** to the ASEAN Affairs Department, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Office 9, Nay Pyi Taw, or amns.mofa@gmail.com.



The commemorative photo of the 2025 Thai Speech and Quiz Contest in Yangon.

Royal Thai Embassy in Yangon hosts 2025 Thai Speech and Quiz Contest

THE Royal Thai Embassy in Yangon, in collaboration with the Yangon University of Foreign Languages (YUFL) and the Mandalay University of Foreign Languages (MUFL), organized the Thai Speech and Quiz Competition 2025 at the embassy on 19 February 2025.

The event, which the embassy has organized for two consecutive years, aims to showcase the Thai language skills of Myanmar students from both universities, develop their knowledge about Thailand, and exchange experiences with others.

A total of 30 Myanmar students participated in this year's competition, which was divided into two categories: (1) a Speech Contest with six participants and (2) a Quiz with 24 participants. In addition, faculty professors, lecturers, and students from both universities attended the event and integrated seamlessly with online participants. A total of 80 attendees participated in the event.

The Thai speech contest took place in the morning with six participants taking turns to deliver a five-minute speech in Thai on various topics, including (1) Wonders of Thai Tourism, (2) Myanmar-Thailand: Together for Environmental Protection, (3) What Learning Thai Gives Me, (4) Thailand in My Thoughts, (5) Thai Soft Power in My View, and (6) The Charm of Thai Food.

In the afternoon, the Thai language quiz was held with eight teams and consisted of three rounds; comprising Round 1 including eight teams answering 15 multiple-choice questions about Thailand, the Thai language, and general knowledge, Round 2 featuring the four remaining teams guessing Thai vocabulary from pictures within three minutes to identify words from various categories such as people, animals, objects, places, cultural traditions, and Thai food, and Final Round with the final two teams guessing hidden pictures that represents Thai

tourist destinations, famous Thai personalities, and Thai food behind 25 panels.

Moreover, the embassy also provided financial support to YUFL and MUFL to promote the teaching of the Thai language to Myanmar University students, contributing THB 30,000 to each university. The representatives from both universities received financial support from the Ambassador.

The Royal Thai Embassy is committed to organizing this event annually to promote the teaching of Thai as a foreign language in Myanmar. The embassy hopes that Myanmar youth will be able to learn and use the Thai language confidently and effectively while also fostering mutual understanding between the people of the two countries, which will serve as a foundation for long-lasting bilateral relations. The video clips of the event can also be watched on the YouTube channel of the Royal Thai Embassy, Yangon. — GNLM

NATIONAL

Residents Urged to Prioritize Public Safety Amid Armed Terrorist Threats

ARMED terrorists have been launching attacks by using residential homes and administrative buildings in towns and villages as cover, where they have forcibly settled. They aim to shield themselves from Tatmadaw counterattacks while also persuading temporarily displaced persons to return to their native areas and recruiting new members. That enables terrorists to use civilians as human shields. Tatmadaw is committed to safeguarding the sovereignty of the State and will respond to these threats based on intelligence and prevailing conditions. Therefore, residents in areas where terrorists have taken control must prioritize their safety and protect themselves from being exploited by these groups.

(Excerpt from guidance given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to Shan State cabinet members and state-level departmental officials on 3 September 2024)

FROM PAGE 1

The Senior General and party arrived at the three-storey building at the jetty of Asia World Port Terminal (AWPT). Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General stressed the need to seek the best way to raise export products by overcoming difficulties and obstacles.

He said that the Myanmar Port Authority needs to consider berthing vessels depending on their sizes at relevant ports. He underlined that it is necessary to consider possible driving restrictions of vessels upon completion of the Myanmar-Korea Friendship Bridge (Dala).

He noted that as the government does not restrict the export of agriculture and livestock products in Myanmar, officials at different levels have to emphasize a smooth and swift export process of these products.

The Senior General noted that as Myanmar is facing economic sanctions, businesspersons have to raise the production of marketable products for export purposes, especially agricultural products.

He underscored that efforts must be made to increase the export of agricultural products and foodstuffs in addition to value-added quality rubber and coffee with the expansion of sown acreage of crops.

The Senior General highlighted that only when crops

Investors encouraged to focus on agro-based industries



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing looks into the functions of the port services at the jetty of Asia World Port Terminal (AWPT) yesterday.

meet the per-acre yield target will export volume increase. Efforts must be made to promote oil crop production to reduce the import of cooking oil from abroad.

He underlined that it is necessary to improve the production of value-added maize products, contributing to the

development of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises. He emphasized that businesspersons have to prioritize investment in agro-based industries that directly contribute to the development of the State and improvement of the socioeconomic life of people. Union Minister for Trans-

port and Communications General Mya Tun Oo reported on capability to operate port functions, policies, ports of Myanmar, increasing number of jetties on a year basis, jetties and work operations at Yangon Port and Thilawa Port areas, enhancing export of agricultural produce through maritime

trade route, export and import operations on Yangon-Kawthoung-Ranong route, promotion of trade in transshipment, seeking the fund and spending, and work reviews and Union Minister for Commerce U Tun Ohn on trade operations in accord with the Five-Point Roadmap and three economic objectives of the State Administration Council, accomplishment of the guidance on export promotion given by the Senior General, trade process from 2011-2012 financial year to March of 2024-25 FY, monthly trading in 2024-25 financial year, actual export of goods from 2011-12 FY to 12 March of 2024-25 FY, comparison on export groups till 12 March of 2024-25 FY with the corresponding period of last year, the most exported items and trade partner countries, sending of rice and broken rice, pulses and beans, maize, sesame and cotton, importation till 12 March of 2024-25 FY, and most imported items in relevant FY. The Senior General inspected the functions of the port service at the jetty of Asia World Port Terminal (AWPT) and provided necessary guidance to officials. — MNA/TTA

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.
News and Periodicals Enterprise

NATIONAL

Yangon Investment Forum 2025 creates promising investment opportunities

THE Yangon Investment Forum 2025 took place yesterday at the Wyndham Grand Yangon Hotel in Yangon. It was organized by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (Yangon Region) under the supervision of the Myanmar Investment Commission, the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, and the Yangon Region government.

In his speech, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Dr Kan Zaw said the Yangon Region is a key economic driver of the country and is also one of the best destinations for investment. The MSMEs can connect with large investment projects and function as supporting industries to establish strong production value chains. He then pledged that the relevant ministries, region and



Attendees of the Yangon Investment Forum 2025 pose for the documentary group photo at the forum in Yangon yesterday.

state governments are ready to assist in launching the investment projects, and these projects will be facilitated under the law.

Then, Yangon Region Economic Minister U Myo Myint Aung highlighted the collaborative actions to strengthen the

MSMEs in addition to electricity and energy, agriculture, industrial, and serving industries.

Then, the officials signed

MoUs on investment and observed the 27 booths at the event.

During the talk show, the officials from governmental departments and private sectors discussed the topics of "Power Investment & EV Prospect in Yangon", "Agriculture, Industry and Services in Yangon," and "Bridging MSMEs & Investment in Yangon".

Moreover, the Business Networking & Matching event took place, and the local and foreign investors expanded their connections in the business sector.

The forum, themed "Sustainable Growth, Smart Investment: The Future of Yangon" was organized aiming to promote investments in Yangon Region while creating promising opportunities through networking among MSME entrepreneurs and investors. — MNA/KTZH

Ministry of Information Information and Public Relations Department Call for Submissions: ASEAN-ROK Film Leader Incubator; FLY Project 2025

1. The ASEAN Countries and Asian Film Commission Network (AFCNet) member countries will organize the ASEAN-ROK Film Leader Incubator, FLY Project 2025 in Busan, South Korea, from 4 to 19 September 2025. The programme will include short filmmaking, documentary filming and workshops, and two from Myanmar will be selected and sent to join the programme.
2. The applicants to FLY Project 2025 shall meet the following criteria;
 - (a) Eligible criteria for applicants
 - (1) The applicants must be citizens of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
 - (2) Must be born between 2001 and 2006.
 - (3) Must have directed or produced at least two short films, documentaries, or video films.
 - (4) Must be fluent in English speaking.
 - (5) Must not have any international travel restrictions
 - (6) Must not have participated in any programme organized by the Busan International Film Festival or the Asian Film Academy (BAFA).
 - (b) Required documents for application
 - (1) Fill out the required documents completely
 - (2) An introductory statement including interests of applicants, personal data, and plans
3. The application forms are available and can be submitted at No 28, Kokkine Venue Street, Motion Pictures Promotion Branch of Information and Public Relations Department in Bahan Township, Yangon Region.
4. The applicants must fill out the application forms and submit them together with six copies of the required data and two project video files to the Motion Pictures Promotion Branch of the Information and Public Relations Department in Bahan Township during office hours of 4 April 2025 (Friday), and the shortlisted candidates must join the personal interview.
5. For more details, individuals can contact International Affairs Unit of the Motion Pictures Promotion Branch (Yangon) of the Information and Public Relations Department, at 01 7537938.

Information and Public Relations Department

Myanmar diplomats to join second special training in India

AS per the MoU between the Strategic Studies and Training Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar and the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS) under the Ministry of External Affairs of India, 30 junior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs led by Deputy Director-General U Htun Aung Kyaw departed from Yangon International Airport to participate in the Second Special Training Course for Myanmar Diplomats from 17 to 27 March in New Delhi, India. The delegation was seen off by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the deputy chief of mission of the Embassy of India in Yangon.

The training will cover the subject of Global Geopolitical Landscape, Guiding Principles of India's Foreign Policy, India's Relations with Myanmar & Shared Heritage, Diplomatic Toolkits and Cultural Visits. — MNA

Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

www.gnlm.com.mm



CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION
(+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 255597511

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

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

Write for us

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

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

NATIONAL

Undocumented foreign nationals detained in Myawady Border

AUTHORITIES have detained further 161 foreign nationals: 158 Chinese and three Indonesians who illegally entered Myanmar via land borders, including those who passed through neighbouring countries such as Thailand.

These individuals were involved in online gambling, online fraud and other criminal activities in Myawady's Maethawtalay and KK Park areas. Officials are now verifying their records and preparing for their

repatriation as soon as possible.

Kayin State Security and Border Affairs Minister Colonel Min Thu Kyaw and other officials inspected the detention conditions and the verification process for the newly detained individuals yesterday morning. They also met relevant authorities to ensure accurate record-keeping and smooth repatriation procedures without delays.

From 30 January to 15 March 2025, authorities have



Myanmar Immigration and officials processing undocumented foreign entrants.

detained a total of 6,436 illegal foreign entrants. Of these, 3,588 have already been repatriated via Thailand following legal procedures, while 2,848 remain in custody, awaiting transfer to

their respective countries.

The government remains committed to combating online gambling, online fraud and cross-border crimes in Myanmar's border regions. In

collaboration with international organizations and local communities, efforts will continue to crack down on these illegal activities and hold offenders accountable. — MNA/KZL

2-day illegal trade crackdown seizes goods worth K1.974B

UNDER the supervision of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, efforts to combat the illicit trade are continued effectively by the law.

On 13 March, the combined teams impounded 18 vehicles (estimated value of K1.205 billion) carrying 35 kinds of industrial materials and 27 kinds of consumer goods worth K484 million without official documents near Hpa-an Industrial Zone of Hpa-an Township, a Toyota Hilux and a Mitsubishi Fuso truck (approximately K70 million) carrying two kinds of consumer goods and a kind of industrial materials worth

K16.886 million without official documents near Kyaikmaraw combined checkpoint, illegal timbers weighing 0.919 tonne valued at K124,984 in Myanaung district and three unregistered motorbikes valued at K1.9 million in Myaungmya and Laputta Townships. The action was taken under the Forest Law, the Export-Import Law, and Customs procedures.

Similarly, on 14 March, the combined on-duty teams seized a Foton truck (estimated value of K35 million), heading to Muse from Mandalay, carrying 804 kilogrammes of set of rough bracelets believed

to be jade valued at K25.728 million without official documents at the Kywetetson checkpoint and two vehicles (estimated value of K110 million), heading to Yangon from Myawady and to Yangon from Mawlamyine, carrying five kinds of consumer goods and two kinds of foodstuffs valued at K24.892 million at the Mayanchaung permanent checkpoint. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported 51 arrests on 13 and 14 March, seizing illegal goods worth approximately K1.974 billion. — MNA/MKKS

Drugs worth K1B+ seized in Pyigyidagun



Offenders seen alongside confiscated drugs and vehicle.

A total of 30.8 kilogrammes of heroin and 154,000 stimulant tablets worth more than K1 billion were seized in Pyigyidagun Township, Mandalay Region, as reported by the Myanmar Police Force.

Acting on a tip-off, a combined team, including members of the Anti-Drug Police Force, conducted a search of a six-wheel Nissan Condor driven by Han Win Aung, accompanied by Naing Min Htet and Soe Moe Aung, at 5:30 am on 9 March in Pyigyidagun Township. Police seized 30.8 kilogrammes of heroin and 154,000

stimulant tablets, which were hidden in 3,080 plastic soap dishes.

According to the investigation, the police arrested the traffickers who had transported the seized drugs from Shan State (North) to Mandalay: Tin Win in Pyigyidagun Township and Ma Thiri Dohn and Ma Wah Wah Soe in Minbu Township, Magway Region.

Legal proceedings have been initiated against the offenders, and an ongoing investigation is underway to apprehend others involved in the case. — MNA/MKKS



Photos show confiscated illegal items across the country.

NATIONAL

Weekly Roundup

9 March

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits JSC Progress Factory of Roscosmos

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said that Myanmar and Russia unite for peaceful advancements in space technology on his visit to JSC Progress Factory of State Space Corporation "Roscosmos" in Samara City and met with the deputy head of the Samara Regional Government in the Russian Federation. **SAC Chair PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing marks International Women's Day**

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, on his official State visit to Belarus, yesterday morning left Minsk International Airport for Samara of the Russian Federation by special flight and spoke words of honour to his delegation member women aboard the special flight to mark International Women's Day.

10 March

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing warmly welcomed back

On arrival back at the Nay Pyi Taw Tatmadaw Airport from the State visits to the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus, the high-level Myanmar goodwill delegation led by the Senior General was welcomed back by SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Council Secretary General Aung Lin Dwe, council members, Union ministers, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, officials from the Embassy of the Russian Federation to Myanmar and the Military Attaché Office.

11 March

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing gives exclusive interviews to media

At the invitation of Russian Federation President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin and Belarusian President Alexander Gregoryevich Lukashenko, Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing paid official State visits to the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus from 3 to 9 March. On the way back to Myanmar, the Senior General replied to questions raised by the media at the exclusive interview aboard the special aeroplane.

12 March

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Chinese Special Envoy

State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Mr Deng Xijun, Special Envoy for Asian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China, at the SAC Chairman's Office in Nay Pyi Taw.

13 March

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects agriculture and livestock farming tasks

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspected the progress of agriculture and livestock farming tasks in Zeyathiri and Tatkon townships, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area and stressed the need for ensuring regional and national food security.

15 March

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects universities in Yangon Region

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspected the Information Technology University and the Western Yangon Technological University in Yangon Region. — GNLM/TTA

MSF aids stranded seafarers struggling to return home

THE Myanmar Seafarers Federation (MSF) said it will assist Myanmar maritime workers who are unable to return to their home country for various reasons while serving on international ships.

If any seafarers are serving aboard ships who are not allowed to return to their home countries and are detained for various reasons, or if they are receiving medical treatment due to work-related injuries, their families can contact the MSF with information about the country and port where

they are being detained for assistance.

"Currently, there are no seafarers detained for various reasons, but we are assisting Myanmar seamen facing difficulties in returning due to injuries. If they are detained, they must provide us with information about the reason and location, whether local representatives have responded to the detention, and, if so, how they have responded. We will assist under the law and regulations," said MSF Vice-President U Hote Saum.

In addition, the families of Myanmar seafarers who are facing difficulties returning to their home country, Myanmar, must send the seafarer's name, CDC number, passport number, information about the ship they are on, the name and office address of the local representative in Myanmar, and the name and office address of the shipowner abroad to the MSF.

There are just over 100,000 registered international seafarers in Myanmar, with only about 50,000 currently working on ships. — ASH/TH



This photo showcases some Myanmar sailors serving international ships.

Actress marks birthday with charity: Feeds 1,000, supports monastery, and hosts novitiate for orphans

ACTRESS Khaing Hnin Wai's birthday donation ceremony was held on 14 March at the Kyaikmaraw KanOo Monastery in South Okkalapa Township, Yangon Region, according to the actress.

During the birthday donation ceremony, actress Khaing Hnin Wai donated alms to the Sayadaws and Sangha of the Phayagyi Monastery in Kyaikmaraw Township, Mon State, and provided food for 1,000 people in 104 Ward, Dagon Myothit (South) Township.

Similarly, she also celebrated a novitiation ceremony for the children, including 12 boys and 11 girls, at the Khaing Hnin Wai Babies' Home on 13 March, the full moon day of Taboung.

"I work so hard to do things for my kids because I love them just as much as I love my children. I want them to believe that they are capable of achieving things just like other kids. I want them to live contentedly and to the fullest. I have empathy for children. These children were adopted when they were still nursing babies, not at the age they had grown up. I have the same affection and bond for them. For the past three years, I have been making an effort to save money, both from charity funds and my artist honorarium fees," said actress Khaing Hnin Wai. — ASH/MKKS

Taboung Festival Trade Fair thrives at Myaynigon's Dagon Centre



This image reveals booths at the Taboung Festival trade fair and music concert.

ORGANIZED by Dagon Centre, a shopping mall located at the Myaynigon intersection in Yangon Region's Sangyoung Township, a Taboung Festival trade fair has been in progress.

Starting on 13 March, the event will be ongoing until 16 March, and a music concert is also featured. At the event, food products, clothing, and consumer products are mainly displayed, and a pizza challenge is scheduled for 15 March. — Htun Htun/ZS

NATIONAL

Construction sector thrives as cement prices decline

WITH cement prices starting to fall in the market, construction entrepreneurs are operating better; according to information from market sources.

Cement prices have been falling for about a week, said construction material sellers.

“As cement prices have fallen, it became easier to trade. People can afford more and sales increase. Previously, a bag of cement was K30,000 and now, it is K19,000. The price has been falling for about a week,” said an official from the Ko Moe Construction Material Trading in Dagon Myothit (East) Township.

Cement prices rose after a shortage, but since the last week of February, prices have started to fall with the regular entry of imported cement into

the market, and the prices varied a little depending on the area.

“Cement is important in the construction industry. Now that the price

has started to fall, it is more convenient. It would benefit entrepreneurs much,” said Ko Myint Naing, a constructor in Thakayta Township. — Thit Taw/ZN



This photo depicts cement bags seen at the market.



Black grams, which India primarily purchases, are commonly found only in Myanmar.

India extends one-year free import policy for urad

INDIA extended the free import policy of black grams (urad) up to March 2026, Directorate General of Foreign Trade, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of the Government of India announced on 10 March.

This policy is to meet the growing demand in India, traders stressed. India is the main buyer of Myanmar’s black grams and pigeon peas. Consequently, the black gram and pigeon pea prices are closely tied to India’s demand.

Myanmar conveyed over 1.5 million tonnes of various pulses to foreign countries between April and December of the current financial year (2024-2025), the Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize, and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association stated.

Myanmar mainly exports black grams, green grams, and pigeon peas to India. Of them, black grams and pigeon peas are primarily shipped to India, while green grams are exported to China and Europe.

India has growing demand and consumption requirements for black grams and pigeon peas. According to a Memorandum of Understanding between Myanmar and India signed on 18 June 2021, India will import 250,000 tonnes of black grams and 100,000 tonnes of pigeon peas (tur) from Myanmar for five consecutive years from the 2021-2022 financial year to 2025-2026 FY. This G-to-G pact will not affect the pulses’ annual quota set by India. Myanmar’s exporters are also entitled to deliver the pulses to India under that yearly quota.

The Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize, and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association stated that black grams, which India primarily purchases, are commonly found only in Myanmar; whereas pigeon peas, green grams, and chickpeas are grown in African countries and Australia. — NN/KK

Sacred Tooth Relic Pagoda trustees board bids for businesses in precinct

THE Sacred Tooth Relic Pagoda trustees board calls for an open tender to operate businesses in the Pagoda’s precinct located in Mayangon Township, Yangon Region, from 1 April to 30 September 2025.

The businesses include a vehicle

terminal, photography business, flower shops, shoe locker businesses, public toilet businesses, aquafeed supplying and selling, selling live fish and birds for charity, feedstuffs selling for birds, and a vehicle terminal at Mingala Lake.

Tender documents must be submit-

ted to a board of Pagoda Trustees by 20 March 2025. A set of tender documents is sold at K50,000, and it is available at the office of the board starting from 17 March. Individuals can enquire about details via the contact numbers of the board 01 8664498 and 01 8650484. — NN/KK

CBM sells US\$57.7M, THB317M, 400,000 yuan within two weeks

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold \$57.7 million, 317 million baht, and 400,000 yuan within two weeks.

CBM sold \$33.5 million and over 156 million baht on 11 March after it announced on 10 March to inject them into the fuel oil sector.

CBM pumped \$197,032.72 on 10 March, \$335,000 and 1.98 million baht on 7 March, and over \$130,000 on 6 March into the financial market. CBM announced on 5 March that it would sell 50 million baht to importers soon. Later, it sold over eight million baht on that day.

CBM announced the sale of \$23 million and 150 million baht on 3 March for fuel oil importers. It injected that amount of foreign currencies in the fuel oil sector on 4 March. A total of \$550,000, 400,000 yuan, and 638,550 baht were sold on 3 March.

CBM pumped over \$88 million, 7.5 million yuan, and 161 million baht in February and over \$124 million, over 13.8 million baht, and over 4.8 million yuan in January. 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



The facade of the Central Bank of Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw.

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

OPINION

Exercise sovereign territorial control while maintaining friendship

RECENTLY, a Member of Parliament from Northeast India and a Manipur State Legislative Assembly member illegally entered Myanmar, making statements and actions that violated the country’s sovereignty. This has caused strong discontent among the people of Myanmar. The government is taking the matter seriously and is working on appropriate measures in response.

India and Myanmar, along with China, were among the initial signatories of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, first signed in June 1954 at an international conference in Bandung, Indonesia. Myanmar has not harboured any entities hostile to India, and likewise, India has not given refuge to groups opposing Myanmar. Myanmar has not sheltered any anti-India entities, and India has similarly refrained from supporting groups opposing Myanmar. Both governments have also engaged in significant security cooperation.

Despite these tensions, Myanmar and India have successfully collaborated on multiple joint projects. Myanmar actively supports India’s Act East Policy, and diplomatic ties between the two nations remain strong. People from both countries continue to engage warmly and harmoniously. Myanmar and India have always been good friend nations, and up to the present time, both countries continue to maintain friendly relations and collaborate closely.

Valley region has already been surveyed and formally recognized. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on joint border cooperation was signed on 8 May 2014. Disregarding these established agreements and making provocative claims serve only to manipulate national interests.

Despite these tensions, Myanmar and India have successfully collaborated on multiple joint projects. Myanmar actively supports India’s Act East Policy, and diplomatic ties between the two nations remain strong. People from both countries continue to engage warmly and harmoniously. Myanmar and India have always been good friend nations, and up to the present time, both countries continue to maintain friendly relations and collaborate closely.

Certain Indian politicians should avoid exploiting political issues for personal or electoral gains at the cost of bilateral relations. Their actions threaten the long-standing friendship and cooperation between the two nations. It is imperative to respect Myanmar’s sovereignty and territorial integrity, in line with the principles of peaceful coexistence. By adhering to mutual agreements and fostering diplomatic understanding, both nations can continue to strengthen their historic relationship.

	Book Title	-	The Art of Letting Go by Damon Zahariades
	Translator	-	Htet Htet Tin Zar
	Publishing House	-	Zarti Myay
	Publication Date	-	February 2025 (2 nd Edition)
	Price	-	K14,500

The Art of Letting Go by Damon Zahariades

THIS week, we would like to share a book that provides innovative thinking from different perspectives like “Some of us think holding on makes us strong but sometimes it is letting go”.

The name of the book is “The Art of Letting Go” by Damon Zahariades, and it was translated into Myanmar by Htet Htet Tin Zar.

The book blurb on the back says, “Most people are saddled with negative thoughts and emotions. Some of these stem from painful memories due to deeply felt personal losses. Others arise from agonizing disappointments resulting from false expectations and shattered dreams. The people carry these negative thoughts and emotions with them. As long as they do so, there might be impacts on attitude, health and relationships. They (negative thoughts and emotions) hamper people from doing their best work. They prevent the people from making the best use of their time and attentional resources.”

Moreover, the author stressed that once people decouple themselves from the frustrations, regrets, and painful memories that burden them, they experience emotional freedom. It manifests in their behaviours, decisions, and level of self-awareness. It shows in their relationships with loved ones, friends, neighbours, and coworkers. It reveals itself in the quality of their work and the satisfaction they feel from having completed the work.

Once the people let go of their bleak, defeatist headspace, it can no longer hold them back. Letting it go releases them to focus on the important things that truly matter to them.”

But how exactly do the people let things go?

The “letting go” is presented as an overly simplistic, worthless catchphrase that advocates living happily in the absence of stress. That’s unhelpful. It’s akin to telling a stressed-out person to “stop worrying,” the author made such a clear explanation.

In this book, it offers a step-by-step process designated to train to let things go, and the chance to learn to adopt a mindset of non-attachment. The idea

of non-attachment is often understood to mean abandoning material possessions. That’s not the focus of the book. Instead, the readers will have to pursue non-attachment as it relates to the grievances, bitterness, and other psychological burdens that live rent-free in their minds.

The author shares numerous strategies and techniques that have worked for him over the years. Each one will be accompanied by a simple exercise that the readers can use to reinforce it.

In the introduction, the author says the exercises won’t take long to perform. All of them are simple and most can be completed in 20 minutes or less. Most importantly, performing them allows the readers to apply the techniques rather than merely reading about them. They’ll help readers to enjoy maximum value from The Art of Letting Go.

The book also states the Notable Quotables about Letting Go ...

Some of us think holding on makes us strong, but sometimes it is letting go. – Hermann Hesse

Life moves on and so should we. – Spencer Johnson

■

	Book Title	-	The Happiness Project
	Author	-	Mon Halsey
	Publishing House	-	Pann Satt Lann
	Publication Date	-	December 2024 (1 st Edition)
	Price	-	K7,000

The Happiness Project

THIS week’s pick is the Happiness Project written by one of Myanmar’s bestselling authors, Mon Halsey, portraying a loving sense of wholeheartedness, mindfulness, intelligence, acknowledgement and gratefulness, the act of embrace and trustworthiness.

This book points out how to enhance Emotional Intelligence by recognizing self-understanding and how to develop the ability to love and be loved.

The author would like to pass on the message that true contentment and joy stem from our inner state of mind and spreading joy and happiness to our loved ones and surroundings. True happiness comes from within one’s self. It is easy to say yet hard to find happiness. Nonetheless, cultivating self-awareness gains valuable insight into oneself improves emotional intelligence and leads to genuine overall happiness.

Moreover, the author sheds light on how the true nature of the inner mind is an intriguing and miraculous working power, encompassing powerful insights, intelligence and love capacity. However, most people hold negative views of being influenced by stress, adversities and sadness in daily life that can have an impact on physical well-being and emotional state.

The writer emphasized the pivotal role of self-understanding in achieving enduring happiness in “The Role of Insight in Self-Understanding” chapter. Knowing yourself can shape thoughts, reactions, attitudes and effective decisions, leading to a key to happiness, personal growth and success.

Moreover, affection is the cornerstone of building strong emotional bonds and lasting happiness in life. Reciprocity, mutual love and respect can contribute to well-being in life with profound cases. Tenderness can calm stress and bring happiness, the author addressed.

“Happiness originated from within oneself, inner contentment and self-awareness rather than external factors. Consequently, one needs to nurture the well-being of the self and practice mindful living by avoiding external validation and happiness that comes from what others perceive. One needs

to rediscover inner gifts lying within oneself. One also needs to live with compassion and understanding towards one’s suffering and difficulties. Fleeting pleasure is ephemeral and happiness is ethereal. The pursuit of happiness is a lifelong journey. Focusing on the inner self and connecting mind, body and soul can contribute to a meaningful and fulfilling life and true happiness, the author noted.

Furthermore, the authors want readers to practice inner transformation and explore a sense of happiness. Sometimes, we are lost in thoughts with endless worrying while forgetting to laugh at a comedy. The author reminds readers of living in the present moment and practising mindfulness in the preface rather than dwelling on the past with anxiety and suffering.

The book includes the lead headline The Power of Emotional Intelligence and the following subheads; 1. Embracing self-awareness, 2. Widen the Definition of Happiness, 3. Junk Happiness, 4. Time to make a decision, 5. Happiness rooted in the inner mind, 6. making up the regret, 7. What to do right now?, 8. Hopes and 9. The Power of Control.

■

Plus, and Minus

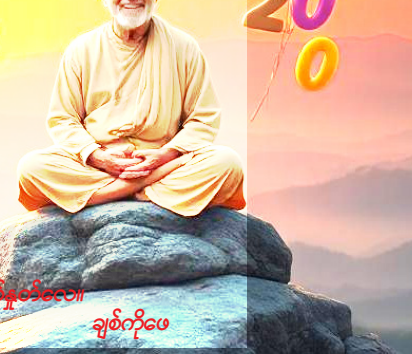
By Chit Ko Pe

As age is merely a digit, its addition always exists. With a warm smile and heart, embrace and practise Dhamma. Addressing and overcoming the ill, let its subtraction remain still.

အပေါင်းအနှုတ်

အသက်ဆိုတာ သင်္ချာကတန်း ပြဋ္ဌာန်းသမ္ပုတ် ပေါင်းချုပ်ညွှန်းစေ သင်္ကေတသာ ဧရာဒိလည်း ချီစွအပြုံး နှလုံးပျံ့နှံ့ ကျင့်ပြုဓမ္မ ဘဝအရော နှမ်းသောအမူ ဖြစ်ပေါ်လာတာ။

ချစ်ကိုယ်





Yellowish Fragrant Thanaka

By Mya Thae (Research)

Myanmar people like fragrant Thanaka heartily. Damsels beautify Thanaka on their faces lovely. Thanaka makes the skin smooth and in beauty. It has been used since the Pyu era in history. Foreigners also like Myanmar Thanaka deeply. Moreover, Thanaka is a symbol of beauty. Besides, it is a reflection of national identity. So, it is certain that Myanmar Thanaka will achieve UNESCO’s Intangible Cultural Heritage List.

(Ref: The GNLM)

Ghosts at the Edge of the Farm

By Maung Swan Yi , Translated by Myint Zan

without legs, without hands at the edge of the forest there are ghosts	your grandfather planted them when he was young these toddy palms lined up neatly beside the farm give beloved son the jaggery (you like)
with long hairs unkempt beards when air blows it made sounds like woo- woo wah: son is afraid, oh mother	
dear son, don’t be afraid these are not ghosts	

Composed on 20 February 1961
Translated on 19 February 2025

Translator’s note: Poet Maung Swan Yi (born 17 February 1937) composed this poem soon after his 34th birthday in 1961. The translation is made almost on the 64th anniversary to the day after ‘Saya Swan’ (literally ‘Mr ability/good performer’) composed the poem. It also commemorates the 88th birthday of Saya Swan Yi on 17 February 2025.

ယာခင်းစပ်က တစ္ဆေများ

မြေလက်မပါ ခဲခဲရင်လို့
တောစပ်က တစ္ဆေတွေ၊
ဆံရှည်ရှည် မှတ်ဆိတ်ဗွားနဲ့
လေတိုးရင် ဝှူးဝှူးဝါးတဲ့
သားကြောက်တယ် ဝေ၊
ကြောက်ပါနဲ့ သားမောင်တွေ
တစ္ဆေတွေ မှ ဟုတ်ဘဲ။
မောင်တိုးအေ ငယ်ကမွေးလို့
သားသားကို ထန်းလျက်ပေးတဲ့
ယာသားမှာ စိရိတန်း
ထန်းပင်တွေပဲ။ ။
မောင်စွမ်းရည်
၂၀ ရက် ဖေဖော်ဝါရီလ ၁၉၆၁ ခုနှစ်။

NATIONAL

Entertainment



Maung Myo Min (Yindwin Phyt)

DIRECTOR Maung Myo Min (Yindwin Phyt) is one of the top directors who created thriller films, including ‘Thuye Lay Kaung Nae Kyanaw’. He completed the filming of ‘Thudaw Tasay’ for Indra Film Production. The scriptwriter and organizer of the film is Aung Gyi, and the cast includes Kyaw Ye Aung, Chantha Kyi Soe, Tun Tun, Khin Hlaing, Thuta Aung, Myo Sandi Kyaw, Aye Thida, and many artistes, Chow Paranormal Ghost Hunter among others. It is the 15th thriller film created by Maung Myo Min (Yindwin Phyt).



Hlwan Paing

SINGER and actor Hlwan Paing will entertain in Nay Pyi Taw during this Thingyan period, according to the Thingyan water festival page. The 2025 water festival will be at the Water Fountain Park Gate 1 on 14, 15, and 16 April. The event will include other international headliners, local artistes, and DJs.

Chue Lay

THE funeral service of rising star ‘Htoo’ took place at Yayway cemetery on 12 March. Fans and artistes felt saddened by his sudden death, and Academy Chue Lay is one of the people who have sorrowful feelings for him. She posted a photo with Htoo on her Facebook, saying: “Phoe Lone! What a mournful moment, my little brother. May you rest in peace, brother”.



Khaing Hnin Wai

THE novitiation ceremony of donor Khaing Hnin Wai and well-wishers dedicated to Aggamaha Saddhammajotikadhaja Dr Bhaddanta Varinda was held at KanU Monastery in No 5 compound of Kyaikmaraw Monastery in South Okkalapa in Yangon. Khaing Hnin Wai made novitiate for the boys and ear-piercing event for girls from her orphanage. She also danced happily with the rhythmic beat of the traditional Myanmar orchestra, marking the successful holding of her donations.

Myint Myat

THE new film ‘Myaysa’ in which actor Myint Myat starred, who won two Academy Awards for his natural acting skills, will be screened at the end of March. It is the 2nd film of Shwe Nadi Shwe Yi Film Production that won three Academy Awards with the ‘Hnaung’ film for 2024. The story is created by Lwan Wai Aung, the script by director Nay Paing and the cast consists of Academy Myint Myat, Sithu Win, Bhone Min Nay La, Academy Aye Myat Thu, Than Thar Nyi, and Sin Ma.



Min Soe Myanmar

MIN SO MYANMAR is the son of the late composer Naing Myanmar. On 12 March, Min Soe Myanmar announced on social networks that the legal procedures regarding the inheritance of intellectual property rights of his late father, U Naing Oo Myint (Naing Myanmar), were completed. He also thanked his father’s friends, cartoonist U Win Aung and U Ye Naing Win, and volunteer Ma Myat Su, on behalf of his family for their help in these processes. — Htun Htun/KTZH



Sharing through donations

AMONG the winners, Daw Myint Myint Kyaw (supporting actress cluster) donated K100,000 out of her K300,000 prize, and U Hlaing Myint Oo (video central) also donated K100,000 using all his K100,000 prize, as a gesture of gratitude towards the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization. The Trust Double Nine Company initiated K20 million to launch a drawing lot event for poor people from the film industry.

“Ko Hlwan Myint Kyaw+ Ma Ni Ni Aung (Trust Double Nine) family initiated K20million to donate the poor people from film industry at the event marking the 79th anniversary of Myanmar Motion Picture Organization. We made tickets to draw lots in different amount

like K20,000, K30,000 and K300,000 using that K20 million,” said U Aye Kyu Lay, vice-chair of Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization.

The drawing lots event was organized for the artistes from the film industry at the 79th anniversary of the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization on 8 March 2025, and the tickets started from K20,000 minimum and K300,000 maximum including K100,000, K50,000, and K30,000 prizes. — Htun Htun/KTZH



Dialogue only viable option to solve Iranian nuclear issue

China, Russia, and Iran issued a joint statement emphasizing the importance of political and diplomatic engagement.

IN a world fraught with geopolitical tensions, the Iranian nuclear issue is a critical test of the international community's commitment to peace, diplomacy and multilateralism.

Whether diplomacy prevails or "maximum pressure" tactics take center stage will shape the region's stability and set a precedent for global non-proliferation efforts.

The joint statement issued by China, Russia and Iran on Friday after a trilateral meeting in Beijing reaffirms a shared conviction: political and diplomatic engagement and dialogue are not merely preferable but the only viable and practical

option to address this complex challenge.

At the heart of the discussions was a shared commitment to rejecting unilateral sanctions and coercive measures. Diplomacy must remain the primary tool for resolving disputes and crises, and not be used only as a last resort after aggressive policies have failed.

In an increasingly complex and fragile international environment, relying on sanctions and military posturing is not only counterproductive but also dangerously short-sighted, promoting instability rather than fostering meaningful engagement.



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, meets Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Ryabkov Sergey Alexeevich and Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi in Beijing, capital of China, 14 March 2025. **PHOTO: LIU BIN/XINHUA**

A sustainable resolution requires a holistic approach, one that balances nuclear non-proliferation with the legitimate right to peaceful nuclear energy. While Iran must continue to uphold its commitment not to develop nuclear weapons, all parties must also fully respect its right to civilian nuclear programmes, as recognized under international law. — Xinhua

New PM Carney says Canada will never be part of US

CANADA'S new Prime Minister Mark Carney on Friday launched his term in office with a whole-hearted rejection of US President Donald Trump's repeated threats to annex his northern neighbour.

Shortly after he was sworn in as Canada's 24th prime minister, replacing Justin Trudeau who has been in office since 2015, Carney said confronting Trump's tariffs would be a top priority.

Canada "will never, ever, in any way, shape or form, be part of the United States," he added, while voicing hope his

government could one-day work together with Washington to advance both countries' interests.

Officials said they were looking to set up a call between Trump and Carney in the coming days.

Ottawa has been rattled by collapsing cross-border relations since Trump returned to power in January, launching a trade war and demanding that Canada surrender its independence to become the 51st US state.

Ottawa has retaliated against Trump's tariffs, while Canadian public opinion has been outraged as the US president insists the border separating the countries should be erased. Carney has characterized the Trump administration as the greatest challenge Canada has faced in a generation, and US tariffs on Canadian goods unjustified. — AFP



A combination photo showing Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney and President Donald Trump. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

NEWS IN BRIEF

US Senate averts government shutdown, passes funding bill with Democrats' support

THE United States Senate passed a bill on Friday (local time) to fund the government through 30 September, narrowly avoiding a shutdown just hours before the deadline, CNN reported.

The bill received bipartisan support, with 10 Democrats, including Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, crossing party lines in a key procedural vote.

The bill now heads to the desk of President Donald Trump, who is expected to sign it into law. Schumer defended his decision, arguing that Democrats had only 'bad options' when it came to shutting down Trump's government or accepting the Republican bill that would cut spending to programmes like veterans' healthcare or Washington, DC, firefighters and police, CNN reported. — ANI

Serbia's capital braces for massive anti-graft rally

TENS of thousands of protesters were set to converge in Serbia's capital Belgrade Saturday, the latest in a series of anti-corruption demonstrations to upend the Balkan country in recent months.

The stage was set for what could be the largest single protest since the anti-graft movement which first coalesced after 15 people were killed when a railway station roof collapsed in the city of Novi Sad in November.

But with supporters of President Aleksandar Vucic's embattled government also mobilizing in the capital as well, there is growing concern about the risk of clashes. — AFP

ECONOMY
WORLD

Vietnam, US firms sign \$4 bln in deals as
Trump tariff worries mount



A power plant of the PetroVietnam Power Corporation (PV Power). PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/PV POWER

PetroVietnam Power Corporation has recently signed agreements for new projects valued at approximately \$4.15 billion.

VIETNAMESE and US companies have signed more than \$4 billion in deals, a petrochemical giant said Friday, as anxiety mounts in Hanoi over potential tariffs under US President Donald Trump’s administration. The Southeast Asian nation has the third-biggest trade surplus with the US after China and Mexico — both targeted by Trump since he took office. A statement posted by PetroVietnam Power Corporation (PVPower) on its website said the new projects — in areas such as

aviation, oil and gas exploration and petrochemical imports — were worth around \$4.15 billion. The “highly meaningful” deals were aimed at establishing “balanced and harmonious” trade and would create hundreds of thousands of jobs for workers in both countries, PVPower said. They were signed in the US on Thursday during a visit by Vietnam’s trade and industry minister Nguyen Hong Dien to meet US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer in Washington. — Xinhua

BRIEF: ECON

China’s homegrown beef cattle breed to make global debut

CHINA’S “Huaxi cattle” breed will make its first international appearance under a beef cattle breeding cooperation project with Laos, the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences said Friday. The project, signed in Vientiane earlier this week, will see China export 100,000 doses of frozen semen and 10 breeding bulls of the Huaxi cattle to Laos, with the goal of enhancing the efficiency of beef cattle breeding and cultivating high-quality breeds in the Southeast Asian nation, said the academy. “This marks an important step for China’s beef cattle breeding industry into the global market, laying a solid foundation for its international development,” it said. The Huaxi cattle breed is the result of over four decades of research efforts and offers rapid growth, high-quality meat and strong adaptability, with performance metrics matching international advanced levels. A mature bull weighs up to approximately 900 kilogrammes. — Xinhua

Gold tops \$3,000 for first time on
Trump tariff war, stocks rebound

SAFE-HAVEN gold surpassed \$3,000 for the first time Friday, boosted by uncertainty over US President Donald Trump’s tariffs, while stock markets gained on hopes US lawmakers will avert a government shutdown. Gold rose above \$3,000 for the first time Friday as President Donald Trump’s trade wars boosted demand for safe-haven assets, while stock markets bounced on signs US lawmakers would avert a government shutdown. Major US indices opened higher and remained in positive territory through the day, shrugging off a downcast reading on US consumer sentiment. European stock markets were also given a lift after Germany moved closer to approving a massive infrastructure and defence spending programme.

In Washington, hours before a deadline to push a Republican spending bill through, Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer dropped a threat to block it. — AFP



Gold prices hit \$3,000 an ounce for the first time. PHOTO: AFP/FILE



Rising food prices are causing consumer anger in Sweden. PHOTO: UNSPLASH

Sweden to hold talks on countering
soaring food costs

SWEDEN’S government said Thursday it will hold talks with food producers and distributors as a consumer movement over soaring costs in the Nordic country gains traction. Annual food price inflation in Sweden hit its highest rate in two years in February at 3.9 per

cent, according to the country’s official statistics agency. Meanwhile, the independent watchdog site Matpriskollen (The Food Price Checker) found in January that prices in Swedish grocery stores had risen by 19.1 per cent over two years. “In view of the rapid price

developments in the first months of the year and the rising prices in recent years, the Minister of Finance and Rural Affairs Minister will invite selected actors from the food supply chain for talks,” the government said in a statement. — AFP

Shanghai’s first wholly foreign-owned hospital granted licence

The Shanghai Municipal Health Commission issued the licence as part of China’s expanded healthcare opening-up policy.

DELTAHEALTH Hospital-Shanghai has been granted an operating licence in Shanghai, making it the city’s first wholly foreign-owned hospital and China’s first foreign-owned cardiovascular specialty hospital.

The licence for wholly foreign-owned medical institutions was issued by the Shanghai Municipal Health Commission on Friday, as the latest development following China’s

expanded opening-up policy in the healthcare sector.

The hospital, established as a joint venture in 2016, specializes in cardiovascular care and was included in Shanghai’s medical insurance system in 2018.

In May 2024, Swire Pacific Limited completed a transaction to become the largest shareholder of DeltaHealth.

In September 2024, China issued notice of



This file photo taken in September 2024 shows a view inside DeltaHealth Hospital-Shanghai in Shanghai, east China. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

the pilot programme for expanding opening up in the healthcare sector, with Beijing, Shanghai and Tianjin designated among the nine provinces and municipalities to launch wholly foreign-funded hospital trials. Experts believe this will help bring advanced medical technologies and services from overseas, meeting the growing demand for high-quality healthcare in China. — Xinhua

18 mln SIM cards registered in Afghanistan

A total of 18 million SIM cards have been registered in Afghanistan since August 2021, said a spokesman for the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology of the Afghan interim government on Saturday. “The Ministry of Communication and Information Technology has initiated the process of registering SIM cards in collaboration with communications companies, with a total of 18 million SIM cards registered to date,” Enayatullah Alokozay, spokesman for the ministry, told Xinhua. There are currently 26 million active SIM cards operating across Afghanistan, Alokozay said. — Xinhua

Maharashtra’s Amravati airport gets necessary clearance for flight operations

THE Amravati Airport in Maharashtra gets the aerodrome licence by from

the civil aviation regulator, officially designating it as a licensed Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) airport.



The Amravati Airport in Maharashtra gets the aerodrome licence from the civil aviation regulator, officially designating it as a licensed Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) airport. **PHOTO: ANI**

activity Scheme (RCS) airport. Getting this licence essentially means the airport is ready to undertake flight operations.

Sharing the news, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis asserted that this achievement marks a new era of enhanced air connectivity, economic growth, tourism and development opportunities for the region.

“Alliance Air flight Mumbai-Amravati-Mumbai sector will serve this sector thrice a week initially,” the chief minister wrote on X. — ANI

Spain’s automotive expertise attracts foreign automakers: Spanish expert

SPAIN’S extensive experience in automobile manufacturing and its integration into international markets make it an attractive destination for foreign automakers, a Spanish expert said on Friday.

Sergi Basco, associate professor of economics at Barcelona University, told Xinhua that Spain has a long history of car manufacturing and “is

well connected with other markets”.

Spain possesses the necessary conditions to be considered a prime location for a foreign automaker like China’s BYD, he said.

“Access to the sea, strong transport links, and the expertise of Spain’s automotive sector all contribute to making the country a viable option for Chinese car production,” he added,

He emphasized that Spain’s established know-how in the industry is a key competitive advantage.

Basco also highlighted the role of government support in attracting investment from automakers, noting that many companies take into account the level of government cooperation and incentives when deciding where to establish new factories. — Xinhua

Starlink’s satellite broadband poses limited threat to Indian telcos: Report

STARLINK’S satellite broadband services are unlikely to pose a major threat to Indian telecom giants Jio and Bharti Airtel, as their home broadband plans offer better pricing, higher speeds, and

unlimited data, according to JM Financial report. Instead, Starlink’s service is expected to complement telcos’ existing networks, helping to expand high-speed internet access to remote and rural areas.

Globally, satellite internet plans from Starlink and other satcom companies range between US\$10-US\$500 per month, with additional one-time hardware costs of US\$250-US\$380. — ANI

Advertise

with us / Hotline

09 255597511,
09 454237515

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V HONG JIA 21 VOY.NO. (2509E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V HONG JIA 21 VOY.NO. (2509E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **15-3-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

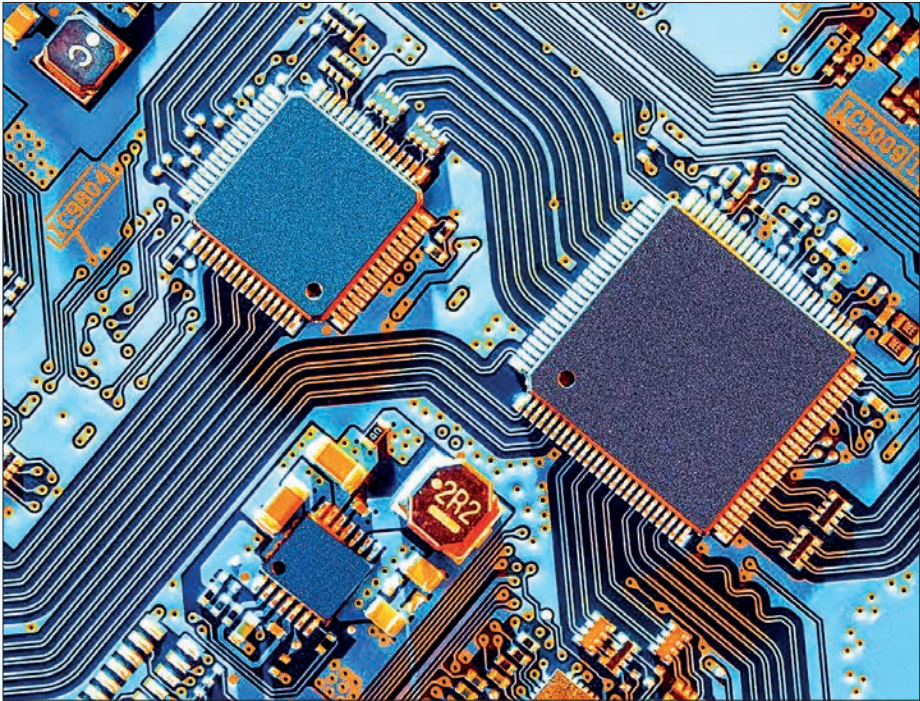
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S OCEAN SALUTE SHIPPING

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS DIGEST



India can replicate manufacturing success and become a semiconductor hub.
PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ LINKEDIN

15 March

India can replicate manufacturing success and become a semiconductor hub

Fiscal incentives from the government, low manufacturing costs, a talented design workforce, and rising demand are advantageous factors, helping the sector.

FAVOURABLE government policies, growing demand, low-cost production capabilities, and strategic linkages with the Western nations have led India to develop itself as a semiconductor hub, according to a recent report by Jefferies.

As per the report, fiscal incentives from the government, low manufacturing costs, a talented design workforce, and rising demand are advantageous factors, helping the

sector. “We believe India has strong potential to replicate its manufacturing success in autos to semis, led by policy support, rising demand, low cost and strategic goodwill with the West”, said the report

The report added that the countries aspirations to become a major player in the semiconductor manufacturing is gaining significant momentum, with over US\$18 billion in investments already underway – ANI

14 March

Vietnam targets full 5G coverage by 2025

VIETNAM aims to achieve nationwide 5G coverage spanning urban centres, industrial zones and key transport hubs by 2025, state-owned Vietnam News Agency reported Friday.

In the latest directive, Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh emphasized the need to accelerate 5G commercialization and expand high-speed broadband infrastructure as a new drive for economic development, according to

the report.

According to the latest data from Vietnamese network operators, the military-run telecom provider Viettel has reached 5.5 million 5G users and is on track to hit 10 million in 2025.

State-owned VNPT, operator of the Vinaphone network, has also activated 5G services across all 63 provinces and cities nationwide. – Xinhua

13 March

Meta tests ‘Community Notes’ to replace fact-checkers

SOCIAL media giant Meta on Thursday announced it would begin testing its new “Community Notes” feature across its platforms in the United States next week, as it shifts away from third-party fact-checking towards a crowd-sourced approach to content moderation.

Meta’s chief executive Mark Zuckerberg announced the new system – popularized by the Elon Musk-owned platform X – in January as he appeared to align himself

with the incoming Trump administration, including naming a Republican as the company’s head of public policy.

The change of system, which Meta will start testing on Tuesday, came after years of criticism from supporters of President Donald Trump, among others, that conservative voices were being censored or stifled under the guise of fighting misinformation, a claim professional fact-checkers vehemently reject. – AFP

12 March

China launches satellites from Hainan commercial spacecraft launch site

A GROUP of 18 low Earth orbit satellites was launched aboard the Long March-8 Y6 carrier rocket from the Hainan commercial spacecraft launch site in south China’s Hainan Province in the early hours of Wednesday.

The satellites, the fifth group of its kind, have entered the preset orbit successfully, according to the China Aerospace Science and Technology Cor-

poration (CASC). They will constitute China’s commercial internet constellation Spacesail.

This mission marks the inaugural launch from the site’s No 1 launch pad, which, following the inaugural launch from the No 2 pad on 30 November 2024, signifies the dual-pad readiness of China’s first commercial spaceport for future missions. – Xinhua

11 March

China’s top legislature concludes annual session

THE 14th National People’s Congress (NPC), China’s top legislature, concluded its third session Tuesday.

Chinese President Xi Jinping and other leaders including Li Qiang, Wang Huning, Cai Qi, Ding Xuexiang, Li Xi and Han Zheng attended the closing meeting of the session at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

Entrusted by the session’s presidium, Li Hongzhong, executive chair-

person of the presidium, presided over the meeting attended by 2,884 NPC deputies.

Lawmakers approved the government work report.

They adopted a decision to amend the Law on Deputies to the National People’s Congress and to the Local People’s Congresses at Various Levels. President Xi signed a presidential order to promulgate the decision. – Xinhua

10 March

Europe’s dependence on US arms rose in last 5 years

NATO countries in Europe more than doubled their arms imports in the past five years, more than 60 per cent of which were purchases of US weaponry, researchers on Monday.

The findings by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)

coincide with an announcement by European Union states that they intend to strengthen the continent’s defence capabilities in response to a US foreign policy shift under President Donald Trump. In the period 2020 to 2024, Ukraine became the world’s largest arms importer. – AFP

9 March

Japan PM tells LDP to unite to bring election success

PRIME Minister Shigeru Ishiba on Sunday called for his ruling Liberal Democratic Party to unify ahead of two crucial elections this summer, saying the scandal-weary party can regain public trust by being more “humble” and attuned to people’s needs.

At an annual party convention in Tokyo, the LDP said it will draw up a new vision for the country by around 15 November the 70th anniversary of the founding of the conservative party which has long held the goal of amending Japan’s war-renouncing Constitution. – Kyodo

SPORTS

4th MBC Professional Boxing
Tournament held

THE fourth MBC Professional Boxing tournament, organized by the Myanmar Boxing Commission (MBC), was held yesterday at the Theinphyu Gymnasium in Yangon.

The event featured one six-round match and seven four-round bouts, making a total of eight matches. In the six-round bout, Van Lu Thaung faced Phyo Thu Aung in the 53.52-kilogramme category. Van Lu Thaung secured victory in the second round after landing a combination of punches that left Phyo Thu Aung unable to continue.

In the four-round fights, Bawza Nay Naing won by knockout against Aung Kyaw Thet in the third round of the 50.8-kilogramme category, while Zei Dant Aung defeated Aung Kaung Myat by points in the 55.34-kilogramme category.

In the 60-kilogramme category, Zaw Zaw Naing won by knockout in the first round against San Lwin Oo and in the 61.23-kilogramme



Celmul Cone and Remon Do in action during the fourth MBC Professional Boxing tournament.

category, Kaung Khant Oo secured a first-round knockout victory over Aung Myint Myat. Shine Min Tun defeated Kaung Khant Kyaw by knockout in the second round of the 62 kilogramme category and Thet Naing Aung won in the third round against Htet Aung Lin in the 63.50 kilogramme category.

In the 60-kilogramme bout between Celmul Cone and Remon Do, both fighters went the full four rounds, with Celmul

Cone winning by points.

On 7 March, the Myanmar Boxing Commission officially signed an agreement in Bangkok's SC Park Hotel, making Myanmar a recognized member of the World Boxing Council (WBC). Present at the signing event were the OPBF chairman and MBC commissioners. As a result, Myanmar's flag will soon be included among the 18 nations currently represented on WBC championship belts. — Arkar Linn/KZL



This image shows students training at the Myanmar Football Academy.

Myanmar Football Academies
to recruit young talents

THE Myanmar Football Federation has announced that new students will be selected for the Myanmar Football Academy (Mandalay) and the National Football Academy (Yangon) for the 2025-2026 academic year.

The recruitment is open to players born in 2013 (under 12 years old), 2012 (under 13 years old), and 2011 (under 14 years old).

The initial selection trials will be conducted at multiple locations including Mawlamyine Student Sports Ground from

28 to 30 March, Hanthawady United Ground in Bago from 1 to 3 April, Training Ground 1 in Thuwunna, Yangon, from 9 to 11 April, Paunglaung Ground in Nay Pyi Taw from 23 to 25 April, Myanmar Football Academy Training Ground in Mandalay from 28 to 30 April and Shan State Sports Ground in Taunggyi from 1 to 3 May.

The final selection will take place at Training Ground 1 in Thuwunna, Yangon, from 6 to 8 May, and at Myanmar Football Academy in Mandalay from 12 to 14 May. — ASH/KZL

Canada pockets 3
golds on Day 2 of ISU
World Short Track
Championships

CANADIAN skaters delivered a dominant performance at the ISU World Short Track Championships, securing three out of four gold medals on offer on Saturday. William Dandjinou of Canada, who clinched the ISU Crystal Globe this season, finished first in the men's 1,500 metres with a time of two minutes and 15.064 seconds, followed by Stijn Desmet of Belgium in second place, while China's Liu Shaoang took bronze.

"This is a great day overall for me and also for our team. I think we got the job done, and we are excited for what's to come," said the 23-year-old Dandjinou after the race. "We

really appreciated the moment with good energy. It is our fortune to be so good as a team, and it helps to build momentum throughout the season".

Liu celebrated his 27th birthday ahead of the World Championships on Thursday. After winning the bronze, he said, "I had clean and smooth skating today. I performed well overall and can accumulate experience from each competition." However, Team China noted that Liu's right leg was cut by an ice blade during the men's 5,000-metre relay semifinals later on Saturday, and his condition is under further evaluation. — Xinhua

Injured Neymar
ruled out of
Brazil World Cup
qualifiers

VETERAN forward Neymar will miss Brazil's World Cup qualifiers against Colombia and Argentina due to a thigh injury, the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) said on Friday.

The 33-year-old, who has not played for Brazil since October 2023 because of a knee injury, was replaced by teenage Real Madrid forward Endrick. "The return seemed so close, but unfortunately I won't be able to wear the most important shirt in the world for the moment," Neymar wrote on Instagram.

"We had long conversations and everyone knows of my desire to return, but we agreed that it's best not to take any risks and prepare as best as possible to completely eradicate the injury," he added. Brazil will meet Colombia in Brasilia on 20 March and Argentina in Buenos Aires five



Brazilian forward Neymar.
PHOTO: AFP/FILE

days later. The five-time world champions are currently fifth in the 10-team South American group with 18 points from 12 qualifiers, seven points behind leaders Argentina.

Neymar has shown glimpses of his best form since returning to his original club Santos from Al-Hilal in January. In seven matches, the forward has scored three goals — including a stunning direct strike from a corner — and provided three assists for the Brazilian top-flight side. — Xinhua



China-themed mini books are seen at London Book Fair in London, Britain, 11 March 2025. PHOTO: LI YING/XINHUA

London Book Fair highlights collaboration, technological shifts in publishing

The 2025 London Book Fair (LBF) concluded on Thursday, with publishing insiders emphasizing international collaborations and industry trends shaping the future.

During a recent three-day event, over 30,000 publishing professionals and 1,000 exhibitors gathered to showcase flagship titles, sign deals, and discuss key industry topics. Gareth Rapley, former director of the London Book Fair (LBF), emphasized that strong participation at this international event fosters better opportunities for the global publishing industry.

Notably, China had a significant presence, with over 50

Over 30,000 publishing professionals attended the event, along with 1,000 exhibitors.

publishers presenting more than 4,000 high-quality titles and engaging in activities like book launches and copyright signings.

Glyn Jones from Elsevier announced plans to translate and publish several Chinese titles on applied technology, highlighting China's leadership in technological advancements. Additionally, industry insiders discussed how emerging technologies, particularly AI, are reshaping publishing

by enhancing marketing strategies and audiobook production.

Martin Liu from LID Publishing noted that while AI aids efficiency, the "human touch" remains essential for capturing the nuances of literature. Richard Charkin, former president of the International Publishers Association, stressed that publishers must continue to connect writers and readers amidst evolving challenges. — Xinhua

Japanese fermented sushi getting future-oriented remix

Ultimately, the goal is to sustain and promote this unique cultural dish for future generations.

AN ancient type of sushi known as "funazushi", considered by many to be the original form of raw fish dish, is experiencing a revival aimed at appealing to younger generations and international food lovers visiting Japan. This traditional dish, a form of "narezushi", involves salt-cured fish and fermented rice, but is no longer commonly served. To ensure its survival, innovative combinations, such as funazushi with cheese, are being explored.

Funazushi has a rich history, dating back centuries, and is made using the nigorobuna species from Lake Biwa in Shiga Prefecture. It is known for its distinctive sour taste and pungent aroma.

However, its popularity has declined, with many locals finding it too expensive or unpleasant-smelling. Additionally, the nigorobuna population is threatened by invasive species and habitat loss.

To combat this decline, Mamoru Umemura, who runs a specialty store, has created a modern version called "cheese funazushi", using male fish and cheese instead of roe. This dish pairs well with wine and aims to attract foreign visitors. Similarly, Tomomi Nakagawa's shop offers funazushi and cheese sandwiches to introduce the dish to younger audiences. Experts emphasize the need for products that cater to changing tastes while preserving the culinary heritage of Lake Biwa. — Kyodo



Tomomi Nakagawa of Biwako Daughters is photographed in Yasu, Shiga Prefecture, western Japan, on 19 November 2024.

PHOTO: KYODO

Games industry still a hostile environment for many women



Although women accounted for around half of gamers worldwide in 2023, they made up only around one-quarter of studio staff according to the Women in Games collective. PHOTO: INA FASSBENDER / AFP/FILE

Five years after significant harassment scandals in the gaming industry, many women continue to report experiences of sexism, raising concerns about potential regression amid economic challenges.

FIVE years after a wave of harassment scandals shook the gaming industry, many women still report experiencing sexism in the workplace, raising concerns about potential backsliding due to economic hardships.

Elaine Gomez, a freelance developer, shared her experiences of harassment and disrespect, reflecting a broader issue within major companies like Ubisoft and Activision Blizzard, where allegations of miscon-

duct have surfaced.

Ubisoft is facing trials for harassment allegations against former executives, while Activision Blizzard has not publicly addressed its anti-harassment measures.

Despite some progress, such as an increase in female employees from 15 per cent in 2018 to 24 per cent in 2023 in France, women remain underrepresented in technical roles and management positions. — AFP