

MSME products must improve in quality and offer fair prices

Union-level MSME Product Exhibition and Competition aim to produce value-added products at home as import-substitute goods and penetrate foreign markets.



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing views the MSME products displayed at the booths yesterday.

A CEREMONY to open the Union-level MSME Product Exhibition and Competition took place at Tabaung Ground near the Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning, attended by Chairman of the State

Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing. Chairman of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Development Work Committee SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe

Win, Union Ministers U Win Shein, U Min Naung. U Hla Moe, Dr Charlie Than, Dr Myo Thein Kyaw and Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Than Tun Oo cut the ceremonial ribbon to open the expo. The Senior General pressed the but-

ton to inaugurate the expo. At the opening ceremony, the Senior General and attendees enjoyed the dance performances of traditional cultural troupes with the song in honour of the **SEE PAGE 3**

OPINION

Protect and maintain educational institutions for new generations

PAGE 8

NATIONAL

PAGE 2



Forgotten Myanmar jackets and silks set for a modern revival

BUSINESS

PAGE 7



Myanmar's rice exports exceed US\$1B in first 10 months of 2024-25FY

NATIONAL

National Prosperity: Building a Peaceful and Stable Future for All

NATIONAL prosperity involves creating a peaceful and stable country where citizens can live, learn, and work with confidence under the rule of law.

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



National Objectives for 78th Anniversary of Union Day 2025

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

Mottos for 78th Union Day 2025

- 1. When all ethnic national brethren stand in unity, hand in hand, the Union will firmly stand.
- 2. Drifting in one boat, on the same voyage we float; Bound together in communion, the heart of the Union.
- 3. United in heart and soul, Marching towards the Union's goal.
- 4. Let's build peace to achieve prosperity.
- 5. Strong in unity, Ethnic national brethren ensure the nation's strength.

Gold Market Rate as of 10 February 2025

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

COVID-19 report,
10 February 2025

NEW TESTS

2,788

NEW CASE

NIL

CASUALTIES

NIL

Myanmar National Centre for Diseases Control
Department of Public Health

Forgotten Myanmar jackets and silks set for a modern revival

INTEREST in rediscovering traditional Myanmar overlapped-flap jackets and 'Cheik Htamein' (woven silk sarongs for women) in obscurity has been growing, according to Black Magic Fashion & Design Castle.

These traditional dresses have almost disappeared because they are not worn by many people, so they are remaking them based on old photographs, it said.

"It's a commoner's dress we are rediscovering. The royal dress is still worn by brides and grooms, so it hasn't disappeared. As for the jacket with overlapping front flaps and 'Cheik Htamein', the common-



Photos showcase traditional Myanmar costumes, once lost in obscurity, and the revival of these timeless attires.

ers don't wear them much, so they are lost in obscurity. That's why we're rediscovering them from old photos. It will be expen-

sive to get a tailored make for a single dress. So, we will distribute them at a cheap price after making them. People like them,

and there's a lot of interest," said Ma Theingi Win (Mal Mal Phayar) of that shop in Mohnyin, Kachin State.



The remaking of these traditional dresses was aimed at young people to remember and wear them again at traditional events.

"The goal is that if we can make a person wear these costumes at the beginning, youth around him/her will be acquainted with and remember them. If they know this is our costume, then it's okay. If they start wearing it, we can be greatly happy. They may opt to wear Myanmar costumes during traditional festivals, and the rest of the time, they can wear as they like. Traditional costumes are the best for traditional events, she said. — Thit Taw/ZN

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)

MSME products must improve in quality ...



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presses the electric button to unveil the Union-level MSME Product Exhibition and Competition in Nay Pyi Taw.

FROM PAGE 1
opening of the expo in commemoration of the 78th Anniversary of Union Day.
The Senior General and his entourage interestingly visited the ministerial booths, and MSME booths of regions and states and asked about matters related to products, discussed work process of relevant products, use of raw materials, manufacturing of products, market shares at home and abroad, requirements of workplaces, and potentials to extend distribution of products domestically and internationally and fulfilled the needs.
In the afternoon, the Senior

General viewed round MSME products at the booths of Mandalay Region, Ministry of Information, Business Matching Hall, Myanmar Banks Association, Digital Corner, Myanmar Economic Holding Public Company Limited, Myanmar Economic Corporation, Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Myanmar Traditional Medicine Producers and Medical Entrepreneurs Association and Myanmar Oil Millers Association and asked about production, supply of raw materials, grasping foreign market shares, more distribution of products at home and abroad, and gave guidance.

They rode buggies to view round products displayed by small-scale industries and manufacturing cooperative societies.
Also present at the ceremony were Daw Than Than Nwe, wife of the Vice-Senior General, Council Joint Secretary General Ye Win Oo, council members and their wives, Union ministers and their wives, Union-level dignitaries and their wives, chief ministers of regions and states and their wives, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, deputy ministers and officials.
The expo will last for five days from 10 to 14 February, at Tabaung Ground, south of Up-

patasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw. 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 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 foreign markets, 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 expo features product sales at 96 booths of ministries, regions and states, traditional food stalls of ethnic people, business matching process, technological booths, foreign machinery and products, small-scale industries and manufacturing cooperative societies.
Plans are underway to present digital trophies, certificates of appreciation and cash awards for products to winners in 31 genres in the product competition. Cash award winners can take cash from e-banking through the digital payment system. — 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

Nay Pyi Taw hosts Union-level MSME Exhibitions & Competitions

THE Union-level MSME product exhibitions and competitions marking the 78th Anniversary Union Day were held in Tabaung Ground near Up-patasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, and crowded with students, ministries' staff, families and people.

The ethnic groups in their respective ethnic traditional booths welcomed the visitors warmly and explained their cultural and, regional knowledge, unique sites of different regions and states, socioeconomic development measures, local food and MSME products.

Moreover, the event showcased the MSME products and traditional food of different regions and states including Nay Pyi Taw, and the booths displayed the regional food, MSME products, One Region One Product and other MSME export products in detail.

All the galleries also played songs depicting the traditional cultural dance and customs and raising patriotism and nationalism aiming at having unity between the people living across the country.

Similarly, the booths sold the products, food, souvenirs and traditional costumes at cheap prices for the visitors, and the technological booths, machinery and equipment,



Visitors flock to the Union-level MSME Exhibitions and Competitions in Nay Pyi Taw.
PHTOS: KO GYI HTEIN, JAING LAW

small-scale industry and manufacturing cooperatives booths were also crowded.

Moreover, the skilful staff showed off modern innovation, the ability of quality machin-

ery, buying and installation of international standard types of machinery at the event.

lice force supervised the traffic, and healthcare services were provided for the visitors to the event.

Union-level MSME product exhibitions and competitions aim to continuously enhance the products and services of MSME businesses, to use new value-added products at home and penetrate foreign markets, and enhance collaborative efforts among MSME businesses in regions and states to supply the needs of regions each other in the production chain and seek weak and strong points of processes, encourage relevant one region-one product businesses to have success, further create linkages between MSME businesses and internal and external investors, award Union level MSME model product prizes and enable MSME businesses to operate in the long run.

The exhibitions and competitions will take place from 10 to 14 February. It will accommodate some 80 booths of ministries, regions and states, traditional ethnic foods, business-to-business linkages, technological booths, foreign machinery and product booths, small-scale industries and manufacturing cooperative booths, and admission is free. — Aung Ye Thwin, Aye Aye Thant, Jaing Law/KTZH

MoHT Deputy Minister opens PyinOoLwin Rural Cycling Tour 2025

THE opening ceremony of the PyinOoLwin Rural Cycling Tour 2025, a tourism development and promotion initiative organised jointly by the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and the Mandalay Region Government, took place at the district sports ground in PyinOoLwin, Mandalay Region yesterday.

The ceremony was attended by Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Phyo Zaw Soe, Minister for Security and Border Affairs of the Mandalay Region Government, Colonel Nay Lin Soe, Mandalay City De-

velopment Committee Chairman, Mayor U Kyaw Hsan, officials from district- and regional-level departments, members of hotel and tourism associations, cyclists, and cycling enthusiasts.

The deputy minister officially launched the event by firing a gun to signal the start and later welcomed the cyclists who reached Pwekauk Waterfall Resort, presenting them with commemorative gifts and certificates of honour.

He then toured the amenities available at the Pwekauk

Waterfall Resort for visitors to enjoy.

Additionally, the deputy minister inspected the Information Centre established by the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism on 68th Street, as well as the operations and accommodations at Mandalay Swan Hotel and Tun Hla Hotel.

The deputy minister also visited the Mandalay branch office of the Department of Hotels and Tourism, where he met with staff, listened to their concerns, and addressed their needs. — ASH/MKKS



The PyinOoLwin Rural Cycling Tour 2025 in action yesterday, attended by Deputy Minister U Phyo Zaw Soe.

NATIONAL

Myanmar tourists to Bodh Gaya expected to surge during Thingyan

THE number of Myanmar tourists visiting Bodh Gaya may increase during Thingyan, according to some travellers and travel companies.

Since the opening season, domestic tourists have been visiting local and international pilgrimages, sightseeing tours, and beach trips. Outbound destinations of Myanmar people include Thailand and Bodh Gaya.

Pilgrimage operators said that families and friends are planning to visit Bodh Gaya during the upcoming summer holidays and Thingyan.

“We are planning a family pilgrimage to Bodh Gaya in March, as it is the summer school



holiday. Some of my friends have a plan to go there during Thingyan. I have seen many potential travellers to Bodh Gaya,” said an intended traveller.

In the pilgrimage tour, trips to Bodh Gaya, Varanasi (aka) Sarnath, Ganges river, Kaushambi, Sankissa, Agra (Taj Maha and Red Fort), New Delhi, vault of sacred relics, Akshardham Temple, Shravasti, Kapilavastu, Lumbini, Kushinagar, Vaishali, Patna, Rajghur and Nalanda are included.

Thailand may be one of Myanmar’s most visited outbound destinations in Thingyan, said U Naung Naung Han, vice president of the Myanmar Tourism Federation. — MT/ZN

This photo shows a group of Myanmar pilgrims in Bodh Gaya.

Indawgyi Lake witnesses 35 new fish species in Jan 2025



Photos show fish species inhabiting in Indawgyi Lake.

ACCORDING to the Research and Development Division of the Department of Fisheries, a total of 35 new fish species were recorded in Indawgyi Lake, Myanmar’s largest lake — a home to over 80 species of amphibians and reptiles and more than 90 species of fish — and its surrounding creek areas in January 2025.

“Since the establishment of the sanctuary, amphibian and reptile species have been systematically observed and recorded in Indawgyi Lake and its surrounding areas. New species are also being tracked and documented. The total number of fish species is now 100. We are conducting community-based fish conservation

activities with the help of local people to continue identifying new fish species and preventing the extinction of currently recorded fish species,” said an official from the department.

The department is also working to conserve endangered Myanmar freshwater fish species. It is conducting extensive research along rivers and lakes where these fish breed and migrate in groups, and plans will be developed to protect and conserve these areas.

Indawgyi Lake in Mohnyin Township, Kachin State, is the largest freshwater lake in Myanmar and Southeast Asia’s third largest. The lake spans 314.67 square miles, measuring 14 miles north to south and seven miles east to west, and is located 700 feet above sea level. — ASH/TH

Yamethin’s low-yield grapes gain nationwide popularity

ALTHOUGH the grapes from Yamethin in Mandalay Region are in low production, there are orders from all over the country, said Ko Nanda Aung, a grape wholesaler.

“The price is good compared to last year. Trading is not very brisk. Sales are not active due to poor road connections and prices. This year, the yield is low, not as much as last year. The low yield means a high price. Orders are placed from all areas with road connectivity. Yangon is the largest buyer,” he said.

Last year, the rain-fed grapes from Yamethin harvested during the rainy season were sold in Yangon, Mawlamyine and Mandalay, with Yangon making the most orders, however, its price was not as good as the summer



This image showcases grapes from Yamethin.

grapes.

Last December, the first grapes in the vineyards were sold at a good price, and the prices fell as the other farms also produced fruits. — Thit Taw/ZN

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

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gnlmnews@gmail.com,
newsroom@gnlm.com.mm
www.gnlm.com.mm

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NATIONAL



EV instalment plans boost customer attraction

ORGANIZERS said that the electric vehicles (EVs) fair held on 7-9 February at Myanmar Plaza, Yangon, attracts more customers by offering instalment payments.

At the event, Leapmotor Myanmar assembled EVs under a Semi-Knocked Down system as EV innovation introduced Leapmotor T03 EV that can be bought with a down payment of K17.8 million under a four-year

instalment plan, partnering with A Bank.

“The fair also offers a special price of around K86 million for an EV worth K88.8 million. They will get a registration plate for Yangon. Other vehicles imported by foreign trade partners under the Completely Built Unit system have registration plates of regions and states other than Yangon. Those CBU EVs are K3 million higher than those

SKD EVs,” said a representative from Leapmotor Myanmar.

The automobile market is quite sluggish at present. Traders cut the price of brand-new cars by K20 million to 50 million.

EV import was allowed in 2022. More than 50 brands of EVs imported by about 80 companies are seen in the domestic market. Out of them, Toyota, BYD and MG brands are the most popular ones. — ASH/KK

Survey launched to nominate Myanmar’s Thanaka culture for UNESCO Heritage

THE Department of Archaeology and National Museum has begun collecting public opinions through a survey regarding the potential inclusion of Myanmar’s traditional Thanaka culture in UNESCO’s Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

The survey seeks respondents’ details such as name, age, residence, education, and occupation, as well as their stance on the listing of Myanmar’s traditional Thanaka culture in UNESCO’s Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

The department is working

towards resubmitting the nomination by 31 March 2025 to secure UNESCO recognition.

Although Myanmar has numerous intangible cultural heritage elements, only Thingyan (the Water Festival) has been officially recognized by UNESCO so far. Thanaka, which has been used in Myanmar for over a thousand years as part of its cultural traditions, remains a significant national heritage. Given its longstanding cultural value and alignment with UNESCO’s five criteria for intangible cultural heritage recognition, efforts to submit the nomination began in January 2020. — ASH/KNN



Two young Myanmar women with radiant beauty at a traditional Thanaka shop.

Sasananwe Foundation to launch 2 summer cultural courses

THE Sasananwe Foundation will provide two cultural courses in the summer, the foundation said.

These summer basic and advanced courses will be taught by Sasananwe Sayadaw himself.

Application forms can be collected from 8 to 11 am every day from 10 to 22 February. The basic course will accept 75 students from KG to grade 4, while the advanced course will admit 75 students from grades 5 to 12.

The basic course will include Buddha’s life, Buddhist prayers, basic lessons on Buddhism and cultural poems, and the advanced course will cover Mangala Sutta, morality from Sigalovada Sutta, and Lokaniti (worldly ethics).

Training schedules are two days a week for three months on Saturdays and Sundays from 1 March to 25 May, while it is 7:30 am to 9:00 am for the basic course and 4:00 to 5:30 pm for the advanced course. The venue is at Jetawun Monastery Dhamma Hall, Sasananwe Foundation, near Mount Taung Waing ascending road, Taung Waing, Mawlamyine. Registration fee is free and food will be donated. Interested persons can contact the numbers at 09 5320103 and 09 69969960. — MT/ZN

Japan Education Fair 2025 set for Yangon



This image showcases a leaflet for the Japan Education Fair in Yangon 2025.

FOR students who are interested in Japanese scholarship, the Japan Education Fair in Yangon 2025 will be organized on 15 and 16 February, announced by the Myanmar-Japan Centre.

The event will feature presentations by teachers from Japanese educational institutions such as universities, vocational colleges and language schools in Japan, as well as a panel discussion by the Japanese Embassy to Myanmar, the Myanmar Association of Japan Alumni (MAJA) and Okayama University Japan Educational Information Centre (OJEIC).

Japanese to Myanmar interpreters will be also provided at the event and admission is free. It also includes a question and answer session, which is why all interested persons are invited to join.

The event will take place on 15 and 16 February from 1 am to 3 pm at M Tower, 18th floor, No 527, Pyay Road in Kamayut Township, Yangon. Free registrations are invited at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScex-XpZEG-S9m-7GeXZjNZ1ycEPSk4ZmXxTZ_YGZw9L-faEtRw/. — MT/ZS

Myanmar's rice exports exceed US\$1B in first 10 months of 2024-25FY

MYANMAR bagged over US\$1 billion from 2.24 million tonnes of rice and broken rice exports in April and January of the current financial year 2024-2025, according to the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

The export volumes are 111,862 tonnes worth \$55 million in April 2024, 71,279.5 tonnes worth \$36 million in May, 162,325.75 tonnes worth \$84 million in June, 165,444 tonnes worth \$81 million in July, 207,369 tonnes worth \$97 million in August, over 219,560 tonnes worth \$104 million in September, 424,784.27 tonnes of rice worth \$189 million in October, over 334,530 tonnes worth \$156 million in November, 337,490 tonnes worth \$145 million in De-

cember and 209,599 tonnes worth \$101 million in January 2025 respectively.

The majority of exports went from maritime trade, while border trade saw only a small volume of exports.

The federation aims to achieve 2.5 million tonnes of rice exports in the 2024-2025 financial year (April-March).

The Ministry of Commerce has been cooperating with departments and institutions concerned to achieve monthly export targets and beyond depending on the supply volume of rice, broken rice, pulses, corn, rubber and fisheries from the respective companies.

Ministry of Commerce is



Export rice bags are organized at the warehouse.

working together with the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Myanmar Rice Federation, Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association, Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association, Myanmar Industries Association, Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Association, Myanmar Fisheries Products Proces-

sors and Exporters Association to meet monthly export targets and facilitate exports.

The federation is projected to achieve 2.5 million tonnes of rice export in the FY 2023-2024, generating earnings of \$1 billion. However, rice exports fell short of the target with 1.6 million tonnes worth \$845 million.

The Central Bank of Myanmar's monetary policy to control

export earnings impeded rice exports, hurting exporters financially. The El Nino weather condition also hampered rice export, the president of the Myanmar Rice Federation affirmed.

Myanmar exported 2,261,203 tonnes of rice and broken rice to foreign trade partners in the past 2022-2023 FY (April-March), with an estimated value of \$853.472 million. — NN/KK

YGN palm oil wholesale rate keeps dropping

ACCORDING to the Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution, the wholesale reference rate of palm oil set for the Yangon market made a four-week decline to K7,075 per viss this week from 10 to 16 February 2025.

The prices decreased from K7,165 per viss last week ending 3-9 February, K7,245 per viss for the previous week ending 2 February and K7,255 recorded for the previous week ending 26 January.

The Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has been closely observing the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia, adding transport costs, tariffs and banking services to decide the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil weekly.

Despite the reference price, the market price is way too high. The committee notified that any person who is involved in price gouging and



A vendor is arranging edible oil for sale at the market.

oil storage to attempt market manipulation will face legal action under the Essential Goods and Services Law.

The department is working together with the Myanmar Oil Dealers' Association and the cooking oil importing companies to offer affordable rates of imported palm oil for consumers.

The complaints for overcharging can be lodged over hotline 1535 of the call centre of

the Consumers Affairs Department or sent to the Facebook page of the department and the region and state departments concerned.

The domestic palm oil consumption is estimated at one million tonnes per year. The local palm oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. About 700,000 tonnes of palm oil are yearly imported through Malaysia and Indonesia to meet domestic demands. — NN/KK

Fisheries Dept, LBVD import recommendations now on MACCS

THE Customs Department stated that import recommendations from the Department of Fisheries and Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department can be sought from the Myanmar Automated Cargo Clearance system starting from 15 February, according to MACCS centre's announcement 2/2025 on 6 February.

The Customs Department

joined hands with the Department of Fisheries and Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department (LBVD) to shift to MACCS from a manual process to facilitate trade while granting import recommendations.

Individuals can contact the helpdesk section of the Customs Department via 01 379429 if they encounter any difficulties. — NN/KK



Female workers diligently process the export fishery products.

OPINION

Protect and maintain educational institutions for new generations

THE government has been actively implementing policies to advance the country’s development, focusing on key sectors, especially education. Education is vital for national progress, and to ensure sustainable growth, Myanmar is prioritizing the development of its education system.

Countries with high numbers of educated citizens tend to be the most developed and prosperous. Educated citizens contribute to both quality and quantity, and Myanmar aims to foster a nation of capable individuals. For this reason, the promotion of education and healthcare is at the forefront of the government’s agenda. A strong education system accessible to all is being established to boost the nation’s knowledge and skills, encourage advancements in arts and sciences, and nurture skilled professionals to support economic growth.

Education plays a critical role in improving the quality of life for individuals and societies. A well-educated population is linked to higher income levels, more job opportunities, and greater social equality. It can reduce poverty and class disparities while helping individuals achieve their personal and professional goals. Educated citizens are also more likely to contribute to the nation’s prosperity, driving economic and social growth.

role in improving the quality of life for individuals and societies. A well-educated population is linked to higher income levels, more job opportunities, and greater social equality. It can reduce poverty and class disparities while helping individuals achieve their personal and professional goals. Educated citizens are also more likely to contribute to the nation’s prosperity, driving economic and social growth.

Countries with higher literacy rates are often wealthier and more prosperous. In contrast, nations with low access to education and high illiteracy levels tend to remain impoverished. According to UNESCO, the global dropout rate significantly contributes to poverty. In 2015, 264 million children, adolescents, and young people dropped out of school, with millions leaving education at various stages.

Therefore, it is essential for all Myanmar citizens to protect and maintain educational institutions. By investing in education, the nation will produce educated citizens who can contribute to the nation’s growth and prosperity.

Efforts are also being made to empower the youth to play a pivotal role in national development. Creating well-rounded, capable individuals is essential for progress, and universities have been established in every region and state to ensure that students across Myanmar have access to higher education. This inclusive approach to education aims to provide opportunities for young people to realize their potential and contribute to the nation’s future.

In line with global standards, the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2601 (2021) emphasizes the importance of protecting schools, teachers, and children, especially in conflict zones. The resolution calls for the safeguarding of education and ensuring that schools remain secure spaces for learning, even during armed conflicts. Myanmar is aligning with these international guidelines to guarantee uninterrupted access to education, even in challenging times.

Education plays a critical role in improving the quality of life for individuals and societies. A well-educated population is linked to higher income levels, more job opportunities, and greater social equality. It can reduce poverty and class disparities while helping individuals achieve their personal and professional goals. Educated citizens are also more likely to contribute to the nation’s prosperity, driving economic and social growth.



The international trade chain includes organizations, processes, technologies, and resources involved in transferring goods or services from sellers to consumers. **ILLUSTRATION: CONCEPT ART**

“From Illegal Trade to the Benefits of Legal Trade”

By Alinn Yaung (Ba Than)

THE procedure for Authorized Economic Operators was announced by the Ministry of Planning and Finance through Notification 21/2018 on 30 March 2018.

As stated in the Procedure for Authorized Economic Operators, an Authorized Economic Operator is a company or organization officially recognized by the Customs Department that meets the criteria outlined in this Procedure and operates within the international trade chain. The international trade chain refers to the system that includes the organizations, processes, technologies, and resources involved in transferring goods or services from the seller to the consumer.

The criteria for recognition as an Authorized Economic Operator require that a person

wishing to operate as an Authorized Economic Operator must comply with the company registration requirements and the business licence regulations specified by the Ministry of Planning and Finance, Directorate of Investment and Company Administration. The period between the date of registration under the Myanmar Companies Act and the date of application for registration as an Authorized Economic Operator must be at least 3 years. The applicant must also continuously comply with the Sea Customs Act, rules, regulations, orders, instructions, and procedures. The company must publish official financial statements and reports annually from the date of its establishment. The accounting records and business-related financial

information must be maintained for seven years. There must be a good record-keeping system and an effective internal control system which is acceptable to the Customs Department in maintaining financial matters, business records, systems, processes, and any issues related to the Customs service agent.

All taxes and duties imposed by the Customs Department, as well as any other taxes payable to the State, must be paid on time. The applicant must be financially sound. Before applying as an Authorized Economic Operator and before the issuance of the recognition certificate, the applicant must have no record of Customs-related offences or penalties within the past three years, must not be blacklisted, must accurately declare import and export

transactions, and must have no record of economic misconduct or fraud. If prior notice is given for inspection when required, it must be possible to undergo inspection at any location.

The benefits available to an Authorized Economic Operator include the right to process Customs declarations with priority status, the right to pre-file import and export declarations before the arrival of goods, the right to obtain customs clearance without inspecting the documents or goods (except in cases involving potential risks for preventing illegal imports or exports), the right to receive priority inspection when required, the right to obtain customs services related to goods at the importer or exporter’s premises or other locations permitted by the Customs De-

partment, the right to operate under the Deferred Duty Payment System within one month, as outlined in Section 41 of the Sea Customs Act, the right to receive the Customs Department’s recognition certificate and display the recognized logo as per requirements, and the right to enquire about Customs procedures with the Customs Department and the Authorized Economic Operators Division.

Therefore, I urge all economic operators throughout Myanmar to cease engaging in illegal trade and apply for a certificate of recognition as an Authorized Economic Operator, which offers the benefits of legal trade. This will allow them to follow the right path of legal trade and operate as “Authorized Economic Operators”.

A Beacon of English Journalism in Myanmar

By Min Zan

IN a nation where media diversity is often constrained by political, economic, and social challenges, The Global New Light of Myanmar stands as a unique and vital voice. As the only English-language daily newspaper in Myanmar, it serves as a critical bridge between the country and the global community. For decades, it has been a trusted source of news, offering insights into Myanmar’s politics, economy, culture, and society. One who is greatly interested in journalism can explore the history, content, influence, and prospects of this prominent publication, shedding light on its role in shaping Myanmar’s media landscape and informing its readers.

History and Background

The Global New Light of Myanmar has a rich history that reflects the country’s tumultuous journey through political and social change. Founded on 12 Jan-

uary 1964, the newspaper was initially established as a state-run publication, aimed at providing news in English to both local and international audiences. Over the years, it has evolved significantly, adapting to the shifting dynamics of Myanmar’s media environment. The transition to a civilian government in 2011 marked a turning point for the newspaper, as it began to embrace greater editorial freedom and expand its coverage.

Key milestones in its history include the introduction of digital platforms, which allowed the newspaper to reach a global audience, and the expansion of its editorial team to include more diverse voices. Today, The Global New Light of Myanmar is recognized as a leading source of English-language news in the country, playing a crucial role in informing both local and international readers.

Content and Sections

One of the defining features of The Global New Light of Myanmar is its comprehensive and diverse content. The newspaper is divided into several sections, each catering to different reader interests:

1. National News: This section covers the latest developments in Myanmar’s politics, economy, and society. From parliamentary debates to social issues, it provides readers with a detailed understanding of the country’s internal affairs.

2. Business: With Myanmar’s economy undergoing rapid transformation, the business section offers valuable insights into trade, investment, and industry trends. It is a must-read for entrepreneurs, investors, and policymakers.

3. Local News: This section highlights stories from regions across Myanmar, giving voice to grassroots issues and underrepresented communities. It provides a

platform for local journalists to share their perspectives.

4. Opinion: The opinion section features thought-provoking editorials and guest columns from experts, academics, and thought leaders. It encourages critical thinking and fosters dialogue on important issues.

5. World News: Recognizing the importance of global events, the newspaper dedicates a section to international news, connecting Myanmar to the wider world.

6. Sports: From local tournaments to international competitions, the sports section keeps readers updated on the latest scores, highlights, and analyses.

7. Features: This section delves into Myanmar’s rich culture, history, and lifestyle, offering readers a deeper understanding of the country’s heritage and identity.

The newspaper’s commitment to balanced reporting and its ability to cover a wide range of topics have made it a trusted source of information for its readers.

Audience and Reach

The Global New Light of My-

readers around the world.

The newspaper’s audience is diverse, ranging from government officials and business leaders to students and academics. Its accessibility in both print and online formats ensures that it remains a key source of in-

impartiality has always been a challenge for media organizations in Myanmar, given the country’s history of censorship and political interference. The Global New Light of Myanmar has strived to uphold journalistic integrity, even in the face of

“The newspaper’s audience is diverse, ranging from government officials and business leaders to students and academics. Its accessibility in both print and online formats ensures that it remains a key source of information for a broad audience. Additionally, its focus on English-language content makes it an invaluable resource for foreigners seeking to understand Myanmar’s complex realities.”

anmar primarily targets English-speaking readers, including local professionals, expatriates, and international observers interested in Myanmar. Its print edition is widely circulated in major cities such as Yangon and Mandalay, while its digital platform has expanded its reach to

formation for a broad audience. Additionally, its focus on English-language content makes it an invaluable resource for foreigners seeking to understand Myanmar’s complex realities.

Editorial Policies and Objectivity

Maintaining objectivity and

external pressures.

The newspaper’s editorial policies emphasize factual reporting, balanced coverage, and respect for diverse viewpoints. However, it has not been immune to criticism. Some observers have accused it of being overly cautious in its reporting, particu-

larly on sensitive issues such as human rights and ethnic conflicts. Despite these challenges, the newspaper continues to play a crucial role in providing credible news and fostering informed public discourse.

Notable Contributors and Journalists

Over the years, The Global New Light of Myanmar has been home to many talented journalists and contributors who have shaped its editorial voice. Profiles of key figures, such as (U) Khin Maung Myint, Advocate Win Kyi (Sainkaing), Dr Ohnmar Lin (Archives), etc., highlight their contributions to investigative reporting, feature writing, and opinion pieces.

The newspaper has also received accolades for its journalism, further solidifying its standing in the industry. Awards and recognitions from both local and international organizations underscore its commitment to excellence and its impact on Myanmar’s media landscape.

SEE PAGE 12

NATIONAL

Govt plans to import coal to beef up cement productivity

THE government will allow import of coal as an industrial raw material in order to enhance productivity of cement plants at home. As import of coal will be allowed starting from this month, businesspersons from cement plants which need coal can apply for import licence.

Currently, construction projects are being accelerated across the nation in the dry season, and import of industrial raw coal will be allowed to operate domestic cement plants at full capacity so as to meet local demand while the government allows import of cement through border trade process.

A total of 19 cement plants comprising 16 private-owned and three State-run plants throughout the country require operating production at full capacity. The entire country needs more than 10 million tonnes of cement yearly. As domestic cement plants produce less than eight million tonnes of cement per year. So, the country needs more than 500,000 bags of cement per day.

— ASH/TTA

The photo shows a domestic cement plant.



Black gram prices for farmers fall compared to last year

THIS year, the price of black gram purchased directly from farmers has decreased compared to last year.

Black gram harvest will take place in the coming months, so its prices may fall further.

“The price has dropped a lot, mainly because of the road conditions. In the coming months, everyone will harvest the beans, so the price is likely to fall further. There is no upward trend, only downside, and this is because the price purchased from farmers is falling,” said a bean farmer in Hinthada Township.

In previous years, black gram prices were good, but

This photo shows farm workers harvesting black grams.

now the farmer-selling price has been moderate, and sales are strong, according to the pulse farmers.

“The market for black gram was good last year and the year before. The price we sold was not bad, we can say it was moderately good. The sales were great. Due to heavy rains, late paddy harvest and rat danger, the yield was only sixty or seventy baskets per acre in places where it used to produce a hundred,” he said.

— Thit Taw/ZN



Magway’s tamarind flakes gain popularity

TAMARIND flake, produced in Magway Region and enjoyed by all ages, has been selling well.

Tamarind flake is one of Magway’s major local products and the most marketable item.

“Local product, tamarind flake is the most marketable. We have made different kinds of tamarind-related food products such as tamarind flake, tamarind toffee and medicinal tamarind paste. Of them, tamarind flake is our major product and it is sweet and a little sour that can help ease dizziness and improve digestion. People of all ages enjoy it and can be used as a treat when your guests visit your home,” said Ma Ei Ei Kyaw from the Shwenyamyay local food products distribution in Magway Township.

The tamarind flake has orders from different regions and states across the country including Yangon, Mandalay, Monywa, Tachilek and Myawady, and Yangon is the major destination.

“Tamarind flake is manufactured in Magway from generation to generation. Its trade is super good. We have orders from different cities and among them, Yangon Region is the major destination,” she added.

In addition to tamarind flake, other fruit flavours such as strawberry flake, orange flake, lemon flake, pineapple flake and colourful medicinal tamarind toffee are also made in Magway.

— Thit Taw/ZS



This photo depicts tamarind flakes produced in Magway.

Weather

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Monday 10 February 2025)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 11 FEBRUARY 2025: Light rain are likely to be isolated in Taninthayi Region and Kachin, Mon States. Degree of certainty is 60%. Weather will be generally fair in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Magway, Lower Sagaing, and Ayeyawady Regions and Chin, and Rakhine States and partly cloudy 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 Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 11 FEBRUARY 2025: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 11 FEBRUARY 2025: A few cloud.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 11 FEBRUARY 2025: Generally fair weather. — DMH

NATIONAL

21 Chinese nationals arrested in Shan State for online gambling and scamming



Arrestees are seen on 9 February for online gambling and scams.

IT is found that most of the foreigners illegally entering Myanmar via some neighbouring countries are the ones to work for their own self-interest in the country.

The government actively cooperates with regional and state officials and security force members to expose and take action against crimes including online gambling and scams.

The security forces arrested 21 Chinese men who operated online gambling and scams in the Mongha region of Mongyai Township in Shan State (North) on 9 February. Appropriate action will be taken under existing laws.

In that region, from 5 to 9 February, the security forces arrested five guards of online gambling and scam operators, 48 Chinese men and two women, 18 Vietnamese females, five Myanmar men and 29 women, totalling 102 offenders, together with 260 assorted mobile phones, 25 laptops, 21 desktops, 28 keyboards, two Wi-Fi devices, seven sets of Starlink internet communication devices, seven arms and ammunition, 72 computers, five gaming machines, three vehicles and other devices used in online scam and gambling processes.

Systematic prosecution will be made against the offenders, and foreigners will be transferred to their



Map of the arrest location: Online gamblers and scammers captured in Mongha region, Mongyai Township.

respective countries on bilateral relations of the countries and humanitarian grounds.

Myanmar's government cooperates with international communities including neighbouring countries to strictly handle exposing and taking action against those who committed online gambling and scams in addition to other criminal cases. — MNA/KTZH

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.

Answer "1111" to fight against corruption

Answer "1111" to improve services

Anti-Corruption Commission

Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanma 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

2 traffickers sentenced to 10 years for smuggling Myanmar woman to China

AUNGMYAYTHAZAN District Court has sentenced two human traffickers to ten years' imprisonment each for trafficking a Myanmar woman to China.

Nan Htwe and Myint Myint San, both from Taegon village in Patheingyi Township, Mandalay Region, deceived a young woman from their

village into marrying a Chinese man by promising her a bridewealth of 40,000 yuan. Patheingyi Myoma Police Station filed a case under Section 35 of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law. On 7 January, Aungmyaythazan District Court gave both offenders a ten-year prison sentence. — MNA/MKKS

Counter-argument to false information
Subversive media defames security force

THE malicious media intentionally fabricated misinformation, claiming that security forces set houses ablaze in Anankwin Village, Kyar-in-Seikkyi Township in Kayin State from 29 January to 5 February.

According to a local security official, such news was invalid. Terrorists raided villages to recruit new members and ask for extortion money. They also launched attacks using rockets and drones on the villages. Security forces conducted routine security measures whereas terrorists burnt down homes and robbed properties of the people in Kyar-in-Seikkyi Township.

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



This screenshot perpetuates misinformation.

ARTICLE
LIFESTYLE/ WORLD

A Beacon of English Journalism...

FROM PAGE 9

Digital Presence

In an era dominated by digital media, The Global New Light of Myanmar has embraced technology to expand its reach. Its online platform and e-paper offer readers convenient access to news, while its active social media presence fosters engagement with a younger, tech-savvy audience.

The newspaper's digital transformation has been instrumental in keeping it relevant in a rapidly changing media landscape. By leveraging social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter, it has been able to connect with readers in real time, providing updates on breaking news and fostering interactive discussions.

Impact and Influence

As the sole English daily in Myanmar, The Global New Light of Myanmar wields significant influence in shaping public opinion and informing both local and international audiences. Its coverage of critical events, such

as political transitions, social movements, and economic reforms, has provided valuable insights into Myanmar's complex realities.

The newspaper has also played a pivotal role in promoting media literacy and freedom of expression in the country. By providing a platform for diverse voices and perspectives, it has contributed to the development of a more inclusive and democratic society.

Challenges and Future Prospects

Like many media organizations, The Global New Light of Myanmar faces numerous challenges. Political pressures, financial constraints, and competition from digital platforms are just a few of the obstacles it must navigate. Additionally, the rise of social media has changed the way people consume news, posing both opportunities and threats for traditional media outlets.

Despite these challenges, the newspaper's commitment to quality journalism and adapt-

ability positions it well for the future. Plans for further digital expansion, increased reader engagement, and innovative content strategies suggest a promising path ahead. By continuing to evolve and embrace new technologies, The Global New Light of Myanmar can remain a cornerstone of Myanmar's media landscape.

The Global New Light of Myanmar is more than just a newspaper; it is a vital institution in Myanmar's media ecosystem. By providing reliable news in English, it bridges the gap between Myanmar and the world, fostering understanding and dialogue. Its comprehensive coverage, commitment to objectivity, and ability to adapt to changing circumstances have made it a trusted source of information for its readers.

A Reader's Perspective

As a daily reader of this newspaper, I would like to share my personal views here. Myanmar is not a country where the English language is widely developed or advanced. It is

a nation where the number of people who read English newspapers is extremely low. As an English-language publication, this newspaper should also serve as a platform that supports the improvement of English language skills among the country's younger generations.

The Global New Light of Myanmar is a State-owned newspaper, and Myanmar is not a country like others where numerous English newspapers are published. Therefore, it is essential for the newspaper to include a dedicated section – whether daily or weekly – that focuses on the development of English language skills for the new generation. This would not only encourage people to read the newspaper but also inspire a desire to learn and explore further. Such an initiative could lead to an increase in the circulation of the newspaper.

Currently, the format of the newspaper seems to focus primarily on ensuring regular publication. However, I believe it should aim to become a re-

liable and trustworthy source of news for the nation and its youth. This is the direction it should strive for, and I hope my perspective can contribute to this vision.

While the newspaper has made strides in maintaining regular publication, it has the potential to play a more transformative role in the lives of its readers and the development of the country. By incorporating sections that foster English language learning and critical thinking, The Global New Light of Myanmar can become a beacon of knowledge and inspiration for Myanmar's future generations.

In brief, as Myanmar continues to navigate its complex political and social landscape, the role of The Global New Light of Myanmar in informing and empowering its audience remains as crucial as ever. The future of the newspaper is not just about survival but about continuing to shine as a beacon of journalism in a dynamic and evolving nation.

Chinese box office hit “Ne Zha 2” premieres in LA

CHINESE box office hit “Ne Zha 2” made its overseas premiere Saturday night in Hollywood, Los Angeles, drawing hundreds of fans and filmmakers from both China and the United States.

Li Zhiqiang, China's deputy consul general in Los Angeles, highlighted the film's strong performance in China and its growing global appeal. He said at the premiere that pre-sales for “Ne Zha 2” were booming in North America and emphasized the potential for deeper collaboration between China and the United States in the film and television industry.

Hollywood producer Robert King praised the film's quality and scale after watching the premiere, saying that Chinese films have made significant strides in storytelling in recent years. He expressed hope for stronger cooperation between Hollywood and the

Chinese film industry in the future.

The animated epic fantasy film has captivated Chinese audiences with its exquisite animation production, grand visual imagination and rich cultural expression. After opening on 29 January, the first day of Chinese New Year, the film has smashed box office records, becoming the highest-grossing film of all time in China.

By 0220 GMT on Monday, the film had grossed over 8.15 billion yuan (about US\$1.15 billion) in the Chinese mainland, surpassing Star Wars: The Force Awakens as the highest-grossing film ever in a single market, according to ticketing platform Maoyan.

“Ne Zha 2” is the sequel to the 2019 animated blockbuster “Ne Zha”. Both films were inspired by the classic 16th-century novel “The Investiture of the Gods.” — Xinhua

Indonesia kicks off free health check programme nationwide



A medical worker offers an ophthalmological checkup to a woman during the Free Health Check (CKG) programme at Ciater Community Health Centre in South Tangerang, Banten Province, Indonesia, 10 February 2025. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

INDONESIA launched the Free Health Check (CKG) programme on Monday as a national initiative to improve public health quality and reduce preventable diseases.

“The programme serves

as a preventive measure against prevalent diseases in Indonesia. We expect this free health examination to cover all societal groups from infants to the elderly, helping people understand their health con-

ditions,” said Maria Endang Sumiwi, director general of primary and community health at the Ministry of Health, in an official statement.

The programme provides various types of health examinations, ranging from hormone deficiency screening and congenital heart disease early detection, to nutrition, ear, eye, and blood pressure examinations. For adults and the elderly, the focus of the examination will include the risk of stroke, heart disease, cancer, as well as mental and physical health.

As of Monday afternoon, some 17,000 people across the country have tried the programme, according to Minister of Health Budi Gunadi Sadikin.

He noted that the essence of this programme is not to treat the sick, but to keep residents healthy with early detection. — Xinhua

China accelerates reform of renewable power pricing to promote sustainable development

CHINA is accelerating the market-oriented reform of its renewable power pricing system in a bid to build a new power system and promote the sustainable development of renewable energy generation.

The National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) and the National Energy Administration (NEA) recently issued a joint notice on deepening the pricing reform for electricity generated from renewable energy.

The reform focuses on three key aspects: allowing market forces to determine renewable power pricing, establish-

ing a pricing and settlement mechanism that supports the long-term sustainability, and adopting differentiated policies for existing and new projects.

“This new pricing policy will significantly accelerate the construction of a modern power system and ensure the sustainable development of renewable energy,” said Zhang Dayong, deputy secretary-general of the China Association for the Promotion of Industrial Development.

Industry experts believe this reform is essential as China enters a new stage of renewable energy development.

China highly values the new energy sector, such as wind and solar power, rolling out an array of favourable policies spanning pricing, finance and industry. The supportive measures, including a fixed pricing mechanism, have led to exponential growth in renewable energy capacity.

At the end of 2024, the country’s total installed renewable power capacity reached 1.41 billion kilowatts, accounting for over 40 per cent of its total electricity capacity and surpassing coal-fired power installations.

Despite this rapid expansion, the existing fixed-pricing mechanism



An aerial drone photo taken on 6 January 2025 shows a partial view of the Shichengzi photovoltaic power station in Hami City, northwest China’s Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

for renewable power has struggled to reflect real market supply and demand dynamics.

Conditions are now ripe to shift to market-based pricing, analysts said, citing falling power generation costs and an evolving market and predicting that the reform will enhance industry efficiency and ensure sustainable high-quality growth. — Xinhua

Tokyo stocks end flat amid caution over US tariffs

TOKYO stocks ended nearly flat Monday amid concerns over the prospects of global trade after US President Donald Trump said he would announce tariffs on all iron and steel imports.

The 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average ended up 14.15 points, or 0.04 per cent, from Friday at 38,801.17. The broader Topix index finished 4.22 points, or 0.15 per cent, lower at 2,733.01.

On the top-tier Prime Market, gainers were led by pulp and paper, and mining issues, while wholesale trade, and textile and apparel issues led decliners.

The US dollar briefly rose to the lower 152 yen range on speculation that Trump’s plan to impose 25 per cent tariffs on all iron and steel imports will lead to higher inflation in the United States and slow down further interest rate cuts in the country, dealers said.

Stocks were initially lower as technology shares were sold following a sharp fall in their US counterparts, while sentiment was weighed down by Trump’s new tariff policies that include an additional 10 per cent levy on Chinese goods. — Kyodo



A man looks at an electronic board showing the numbers of the Nikkei Stock Average on the Tokyo Stock Exchange on a street in central Tokyo on 3 February 2025. **PHOTO: AFP**

Afghanistan harvests 159,000 tonnes of cotton, up 30%

AFGHANISTAN’S cotton harvest reached 159,000 tonnes in 2024, indicating a year-on-year growth of 30 per cent, an official from the National Statistics and Information Authority (NSIA) said Monday.

“A total of 159,000 metric tonnes of cotton have been collected in the coun-

try, with western Helmand province producing 80 tonnes and northern Balkh province 34 tonnes,” NSIA spokesperson Mohammad Halim Rafi posted on his X account.

Cotton cultivation over the past year covered 105,000 hectares of land in Afghanistan, said

Rafi, adding that Helmand, Balkh, Takhar, Kandahar, Jawzjan and Nangarhar are among the provinces that contributed most to cotton production in the country.

Currently, cotton is being cultivated by Afghan farmers in 15 out of the country’s 34 provinces,

he said.

Since the Afghan caretaker government banned poppy cultivation in April 2022, farmers have begun replacing the illicit crop with cotton, saffron, rice, wheat and other legal plants throughout the poverty-stricken country. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V METHI BHUM VOY.NO. (449N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V METHI BHUM VOY.NO. (449N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **11-2-2025** 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
Myanmar Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V AS SOPHIA VOY.NO. (503W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V AS SOPHIA VOY.NO. (503W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **11-2-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanmar Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S MAERSK A/S

ROLLING UPDATES WORLD

Paris summit grapples with real-world impact of AI

ARTIFICIAL intelligence (AI) risks reinforcing gender disparities rather than immediate widespread job destruction, the International Labour Organization chief said Monday as a summit of national leaders and tech bosses opened in Paris.

Co-hosted by French President Emmanuel Macron and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Paris summit aims to lay the groundwork for governing the nascent sector, as global powers race to play leading roles in the fast-developing technology.

At present, AI is mostly replacing humans in clerical jobs disproportionately held by women, International Labour Organization (ILO) head Gilbert Houngbo told an audience in the French capital's opulent Grand Palais.

"The category of jobs that will be automated and hence be lost could contribute to deepen the gender gap" in pay between men and women, he added.

Looking at the wider pic-



People take part in the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Action Summit, at the Grand Palais, in Paris, on 10 February 2025. **PHOTO: AFP**

ture, "we're not too much worried (about) a massive job loss" despite widespread fears Houngbo added.

While "there will be millions of jobs that will be lost", many more will be created thanks to

AI, he predicted based on current "quite positive" trends.

Nevertheless, "there is a risk of those new jobs being paid less and sometimes with much less protection" for employees, as has happened with much "gig

economy" work, Houngbo said.

Political leaders, including US Vice-President JD Vance and Chinese Vice-Premier Zhang Guoqing, are set to rub shoulders with the likes of OpenAI boss Sam Altman and Google

chief Sundar Pichai.

A largely suit-wearing crowd of men and women speaking languages from all over the world gathered under the glass-and-steel dome of the great hall, built for the 1900 Universal Exhibition and now decked out with screens and geodesic domes.

'Immense hopes, exaggerated fear'

Two years on from the emergence of OpenAI's ChatGPT chatbot, "artificial intelligence fuels both immense hopes and, at times, exaggerated fear", Macron's AI envoy Anne Bouverot told guests as she opened the summit.

She promised a "turning point" that would bring more countries on board with AI, as well as more "sustainable development" of the resource- and energy-hungry technology.

Macron had on Sunday trumpeted the economic benefits of artificial intelligence, saying 109 billion euros (\$113 billion) would be invested in French AI in the coming years. — AFP

News in brief

Horn of Africa to receive over US\$4 mln to tackle hunger

THE European Union has provided US\$4.13 million to support a joint project to protect vulnerable communities in the Greater Horn of Africa from the devastating impacts of climate extremes, conflict, and displacement, the World Food Programme (WFP) said Monday.

The project will support 450,000 vulnerable people in Ethiopia and Somalia for two years by reducing the impacts of forecasted shocks before they become crises through capacity strengthening of weather agencies to provide timely, accurate forecasts, enabling better community and government response, the UN agency said. "Increasingly frequent and intense climate extremes such as droughts and floods are compounding existing drivers of hunger such as conflict, displacement and economic instability," Rukia Yacoub, WFP's deputy regional director for Eastern Africa, said in a statement issued in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya. — Xinhua

2-week search ends for trapped driver inside sinkhole near Tokyo

FIREFIGHTERS said they ended Sunday their search inside a sinkhole near Tokyo for a man whose truck was swallowed by it nearly two weeks ago, with attention set to switch to an underground sewage pipe.

Rescuers were unable to find a trace of the 74-year-old driver remaining in the sinkhole, which appeared at an intersection in Yashio, Saitama Prefecture, on 28 January.

On Sunday morning, firefighters deployed heavy machinery using a ramp leading into the sinkhole and started work to remove mud and rubble, but they were forced to suspend work due to fears of a further collapse, they said. — Kyodo

Iran president says Trump aiming to bring country 'to its knees'

IRAN'S president accused his US counterpart Donald Trump on Monday of seeking to bring the Islamic republic "to its knees" as the country marked the 1979 revolution that toppled the shah.

The revolution removed a pro-US government in Iran, and the subsequent hostage-taking of American diplomats in Tehran ushered in decades of hostility between the United States and Iran.

This year's celebrations carry additional weight following Trump's return to the White House. During his first term, Trump he pursued a policy of "maximum pressure" against the Islamic republic.

In the morning, people gathered in public spaces across Iran, accompanied by pop songs and patriotic ballads, to celebrate the anniversary of the overthrow of shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.

In Tehran, they headed

to the symbolic Azadi tower, whose name means "freedom" in Persian, and which is in a square formerly named in honour of the shah.

"Trump says, 'we want to talk', and... (then) he signs in a memorandum all the conspiracies to bring our revolution to its knees," Pezeshkian told the crowd, referring to Trump's reinstatement of sanctions against Tehran earlier this month.

"We are not looking for war," he said, while adding that Iran "will never bow to foreigners".

Chanting anti-American and anti-Israeli slogans, crowds formed Monday in the streets of Shiraz and Bandar Abbas in the south, Rasht in the north, Kermanshah and Sanandaj in the west, and the holy city of Mashhad in the east, according to images broadcast on television. — AFP



Iranians attend a celebratory gathering in Tehran to mark the 46th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution on 10 February 2025. **PHOTO: AFP**

SPORTS

FIFA, MFF to jointly organize U-19 Futsal League

THE FIFA-MFF U-19 Futsal League will take place with the participation of 12 clubs, according to the Myanmar Football Federation.



A match of MFF U-19 Futsal League in 2024. PHOTO: MFF

The Myanmar Football Federation plans to hold the Youth Futsal League this year with two legs to turn out outstanding youth futsal players. The first leg will last from 24 March to 31 May and the second leg from 5 July to 20 September.

The matches will be held at the futsal court of the Thuwunna Youth Training Centre every Saturday. The U-19 Futsal League will be participated by eight clubs from the MFF Futsal League-1 and four clubs from the League 2.

MIU, VUC, Winner Soccer, Generations, MH Dream Team, Futsal Lover, M2K, YRG, Shwepyitha United, Pacific Sun Far, Maryar and Gold Dream will take part in the 1st FIFA-MFF U-19 Futsal League.

MFF plans to kick off the U-16 Futsal League in the coming March. — Ko Nyi Lay/TTA



Plymouth Argyle's Ryan Hardie celebrates after scoring during the FA Cup 4th Round match between Plymouth Argyle FC and Liverpool FC in Plymouth, Britain, on 9 February 2025. PHOTO: XINHUA

Plymouth stuns Liverpool in FA Cup

CHAMPIONSHIP struggler Plymouth produced the biggest shock of the FA Cup this season, knocking Premier League leader Liverpool out of the tournament with a 1-0 win.

Liverpool coach Arne Slot made a host of changes from the team that had beaten Tottenham 4-0 on Thursday to book a place in the Carabao Cup final, and also rested Mohamed Salah, leading to a disjointed performance.

The game's only goal came 10 minutes into the second half when Liverpool midfielder Harvey Elliot handled a corner and Ryan Hardie kept his nerve to score the resultant penalty.

Hardie hit the post minutes later before Liverpool piled on the pressure in the closing minutes, with Plymouth goalkeeper Conor Hazard making several big blocks, including one to deny Darwin Nunez with virtually the last kick of the game.

"The lads are fantastic. It's a big moment. I think I will only realize that when I leave the stadium tonight, when I get back to my apartment for a quiet moment," commented Plymouth head coach Miron Muslic afterwards.

A quickfire first-half double from Joao Gomes and Matheus Cunha saw Wolverhampton Wanderers win 2-0 away to Championship side Blackburn Rovers.

Cunha showed why Wolves were so relieved to see him sign a new contract in January, as the Brazilian had a hand in Gomes' opener on 33 minutes, and then provided a neat finish of his own just 37 seconds later.

Tottenham Hotspur ended a miserable week with a 2-1 defeat to Aston Villa, ending their interest in the FA Cup just three days after Liverpool had humiliated them in the Carabao Cup semifinal. — Xinhua

China dominates with six golds on day 4 of Harbin 2025 Asian Winter Games

CHINA sealed six out of seven golds on offer at the Harbin 2025 Asian Winter Games on Monday, with Japan bagging the rest in the cross-country men's 10-kilometre free.

Speed skater Gao Tingyu, one of the six OCA flagbearers during the Harbin 2025 opening ceremony, pocketed his second gold at the Games in the men's 500-metre, following his triumph in the men's 100-metre race last Saturday. Wataru Morishige of Japan and South Korean Kim Jun-ho finished second and third, respectively.

Yang Binyu led a podium sweep for China in the speed skating women's 3,000-metre, with Han Mei and 18-year-old Tai Zhiyen securing silver and bronze.

The Chinese skaters then kept the strong momentum, clocking one minute and 19.22 seconds to win the men's team sprint. South Korea trailed 1.26 seconds to take the silver, while Japan settled for the bronze.

With four finals scheduled on Tuesday to conclude the speed skating event, China with seven golds now has already secured the sport's medal table title.

China added three golds in snow events in Yabuli. Chinese snowboarder Xiong Shirui's stable first two runs secured the gold medal in the women's big air final with a score of 164.00 points.



Yang Binyu (L) of China celebrates after the women's 3000m final match of the speed skating event at the 9th Asian Winter Games in Harbin, northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, 10 February 2025. PHOTO: XINHUA

Xiong's teammate Zhang Xiaonan added a silver, while Suzuka Ishimoto of Japan took the bronze.

China's Yang Wenlong dominantly won the men's big air with 193.25 points, his compatriot Jiang Xinjie claimed the silver and South Korean Kang Dong-hun finished third.

Led by Beijing Winter Olympics gold medalists Qi Guangpu and Xu Mengtao, China won the freestyle skiing mixed

team aerials gold at ease, with young talent Li Xinpeng scoring the highest among the three Chinese skiers in the final. Kazakhstan and Japan took the silver and bronze, respectively.

Also on Monday, Haruki Yamashita of Japan claimed victory in the cross-country men's 10-kilometre free, his teammate Takatsugu Uda and Olzhas Klimi of Kazakhstan took the silver and bronze, respectively. — Xinhua



WORLD



COP29 President Mukhtar Babayev speaks at a first closing plenary of the COP29 Climate Conference in Baku on 23 November 2024. PHOTO: AFP

Almost all nations miss UN deadline for new climate targets

NEARLY all nations missed a UN deadline Monday to submit new targets for slashing carbon emissions, including major economies under pressure to show leadership following the US retreat on climate change.

Just 10 of nearly 200 countries required under the Paris Agreement to deliver fresh climate plans by 10 February did so on time, according to a UN database tracking the submissions.

Under the climate accord, each country is supposed to provide a steeper headline figure for cutting heat-trapping emissions by 2035, and a detailed blueprint for how to achieve this.

Global emissions have been rising but need to almost halve by the end of the decade to limit global warming to safer levels agreed under the Paris deal.

UN climate chief Simon Stiell has called this latest round of national pledges “the most important policy

documents of this century”.

Yet just a handful of major polluters handed in upgraded targets on time, with China, India and the European Union the biggest names on a lengthy absentee list.

Most G20 economies were missing in action with the United States, Britain and Brazil — which is hosting this year’s UN climate summit — the only exceptions.

The US pledge is largely symbolic, made before President Donald Trump ordered Washington out of the Paris deal.

Accountability

There is no penalty for submitting late targets, formally titled nationally determined contributions (NDCs).

They are not legally binding but act as an accountability measure to ensure countries are taking climate change seriously and doing their fair share towards achieving the Paris goals.

The sluggish response will not ease fears of a possible backslide on climate action as leaders juggle Trump’s return and other competing priorities from budget and security crises to electoral pressure.

Ebony Holland from the International Institute for Environment and Development said the US retreat was “clearly a setback” but there were many reasons for the tepid turnout.

“It’s clear there are some broad geopolitical shifts underway that are proving to be a challenge when it comes to international cooperation, especially on big issues like climate change,” said Holland, a policy lead at the London-based think tank.

The EU, historically a leader on climate policy, has been delayed by elections and internal processes and is bracing for fresh polls in Germany and Poland. — AFP

Egypt to host emergency Arab summit on Palestinian issue 27 Feb

EGYPT announced on Sunday that Cairo will host an emergency Arab summit on 27 February to address the latest developments concerning the Palestinian issue and the Gaza Strip, the Egyptian Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

The summit was decided to be held after Egypt’s high-level consultations with Arab nations, including Palestine, which requested the summit, and coordination with Bahrain, the current chair of the Arab League (AL) summit and the AL secretariat, according to the statement.

The announcement followed controversial remarks by US President Donald Trump suggesting the relocation of Palestinians from Gaza to neighbouring countries, including Egypt and Jordan. The proposal has been widely rejected both regionally and internationally.

During a joint press conference in Washington with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Tuesday, Trump stated that the United States planned to assume control of Gaza and redevelop it after relocating its Palestinian residents.

Trump has previously floated similar proposals, which both Egypt and Jordan have explicitly rejected, reaffirming their opposition to any forced displacement of Palestinians. — Xinhua



Palestinians are seen on a street with destroyed buildings in Jabalia refugee camp in the northern Gaza Strip, on 29 January 2025. PHOTO: XINHUA

Israeli cabinet to discuss ceasefire’s next phase

ISRAEL’S cabinet will convene on Tuesday to discuss the next phase of the Gaza ceasefire, a spokesperson for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a statement on Monday.

The Israeli delegation for the talks in Qatar over the

Gaza ceasefire returned to Israel on Monday morning, according to the statement.

The delegation travelled to Doha on Sunday for indirect negotiations between Israel and Hamas concerning the second phase of the fragile

ceasefire, following Netanyahu’s visit to Washington last week. However, according to Netanyahu’s office, the delegation focused only on technical matters, not major issues that have yet to be agreed upon, including the administration

of Gaza after the war.

Under the ceasefire, which took effect on 19 January after 15 months of devastating war, 21 hostages — 16 Israelis and five Thais — were released from Gaza in exchange for hundreds of Palestinian detainees

freed from Israeli jails. More than 70 hostages are still in Gaza. Under the first phase of the agreement, which spans six weeks, a total of 33 hostages and about 2,000 detainees are expected to be released. — Xinhua