

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



A drone aerial view of Lampi Island, home to the Salon people, in the Myeik Archipelago.

According to the park official, tourists from Russia, Italy, the UK and other European countries flock to Wah Ale Resort in Lampi Marine National Park this year.

It is US\$800 per tourist and US\$1,500 for two tourists to Wah Ale Resort, and nature-based tourism without affecting the natural environment, biodiversity, botanical and biological things is under implementation.

“Being a nature resort, travellers enjoy nature differently from the one in urban. They can breathe in fresh sea air, sunbathe on the beach, and enjoy the beauty of coral reefs and underwater by snorkelling and paddling canoe-kayak. Some

Tourists flock to Wah Ale Resort in Lampi Marine Park

The Lampi Marine National Park boasts unique biodiversity and ecosystems including evergreen forests, mangroves, seagrasses and kelps, and coral reefs.

watch birds walking around the forest. The main reason the travellers visit this site is that it is a fine nature-based destination,” said U Kyi Oo, head of the park.

The Lampi Marine National Park boasts about 40 mammal

species, 288 bird species, 42 fish species, 42 crab and prawn species, 136 small plant species, 151 amphibian species, 196 forest species, 63 mangrove species, and nine species of seagrasses. There are 61 species of horn-

bills in the world, 11 of which are found in Myanmar, and nine of these 11 reside in the Myeik Archipelago.

The Lampi Marine National Park boasts unique biodiversity and ecosystems including

evergreen forests, mangroves, seagrasses and kelps, and coral reefs. It is situated in the Myeik Archipelago, Taninthayi Region, and is also home to endangered amphibians. — Thitsa (MNA)/KTZH

NATIONAL PAGE 6



Applications open for Myanmar women to work in S Korea’s service sector

Gem Sri Lanka 2025 invites Myanmar businesspeople

ACCORDING to the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization, Gem Sri Lanka 2025, which will take place on 8-10 January 2025 at Cinnamon, Bentota town in Sri Lanka, welcomes the participation of Myanmar businesspeople, showcasing exquisite gems.

Interested individuals from the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and affiliated organizations can enquire about details through the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization via 067 408622 and email event.td.myantrade@gmail.com. — NN/KK

NATIONAL

Government Promotes Political Dialogue to Counter Terrorism and Foster National Peace

A civilized society cannot fully accept resolving armed conflicts through terror attacks without political dialogue. Therefore, insurgents must be recognized as a common enemy, and the government will continue to work towards peace and stability, not only in Shan State (North) but across the entire nation.

(Excerpt from the speech on security conditions of the State delivered by Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on 6 August 2024)

Five National Objectives for 77th Anniversary of Independence Day 2025

1. To address armed conflicts and differing perspectives lawfully, ensuring non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty
2. To safeguard the State with unity and strength of all citizens, guided by the spirit of the Union
3. To conduct a free, fair, and credible general election to establish a genuine, disciplined democratic system
4. To promote balanced development across all sectors of the Union through the collective strength of the entire people
5. To collectively advance politics, the economy, defence, national identity, and spirit with perseverance, diligence, and dedication, guided by the motto: “Keep Moving Forward to Achieve Our Goal”

Well Marked Low-Pressure Area Condition

25 December 2024 19:00 MST Today

ACCORDING to the observations at (17:30) hrs MST today, the Well Marked Low-Pressure Area over Southwest Bay of Bengal (off South Andhra Pradesh-North Tamil Nadu Coasts, India) still persists. It is likely to move northwestwards and weaken gradually into a Low-Pressure Area during the next 24 hours. — DMH

Earthquake News (Issued at 00:45 hour MST)

A slight earthquake of magnitude (4.3) Richter Scale with its epicentre inside Myanmar (about (12) miles southwest of Sinbaungwe), latitude 19.56 °N, longitude 95.08 °E, depth (67) kilometres, about (70) miles west-southwest of Nay Pyi Taw seismological observatory was recorded at (00) hr (27) mins (25) secs MST on 24 December 2024. — DMH



2024 Population and Household Census



- Myanmar’s 2024 Population and Household Census was conducted nationwide starting on 1 October 2024.
- Preliminary results are scheduled for publication on 31 December 2024.
- Census data will be available on the Department of Population’s website at www.dop.gov.mm.

Chaungtha Beach bustling with visitors during Christmas



Visitors enjoy Christmas holiday at Chaungtha Beach in Patheingyi District, Ayeyawady Region. **PHOTO: KYAW KYAW (IPRD)**

CHAUNGTHA Beach, located in Chaungtha Town of Patheingyi District, saw an influx of visitors from various regions on 25 December for the Christmas holiday.

According to a street vendor U Ko Ko Naing, “Visitor numbers vary daily, but holidays like Christmas bring significant crowds. Hotels and

guesthouses receive bookings, and with the New Year approaching, the beach is becoming increasingly lively”.

Chaungtha Beach usually attracts visitors on regular weekends and public holidays. However, it is more crowded on the days of special significance and during long holidays.

To ensure a pleasant and

safe experience for all, township authorities, under the supervision of Township Administrator U Thiha Aung are actively managing security, cleanliness, and traffic flow. Vendors are required to adhere to regulations to maintain order and hygiene along the beach. — Kyaw Kyaw (IPRD)/KZL

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

Gold Market Rate as of 25 December 2024

THE price of one tical (16.329325 grammes) of gold with a density of 19.25 grammes per cubic centimetre and above is K5,260,000, as established by the Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee.

NATIONAL

THE fellow citizens need cohesion, unity and discipline. They are necessary to exert efforts not to lose sight of the main goal and not to deviate from the path, regardless of any kind of incitement by the unscrupulous elements.

[An excerpt from the radio speech delivered by Bogyoke Aung San on 1 January 1947.]



Inlay Lake. PHOTO BY MYO MIN HTIKE (IPRD)

SAC Secretary attends Christmas Thanksgiving Ceremony

STATE Administration Council Secretary General Aung Lin Dwe attended the Christmas Thanksgiving Ceremony held yesterday morning at St Michael's Catholic Church in Yan Aung 1 Ward, Pyinmana Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

Together with the SAC Secretary and his wife, SAC Members U Wunna Maung Lwin, Daw Dwe Bu, Porel Aung Thein, Dr Hmuh Thang, Dr Ba Shwe, Khun San Lwin and their wives, U Saw Htun Aung Myint, head of the Central Advisory Body of the State Administration Council, and members, Union ministers, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and their wives, the Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman, the Nay Pyi Taw Command commander and



State Administration Council Secretary General Aung Lin Dwe speaks on the Thanksgiving Day occasion in Pyinmana Township, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday.

their wives, priests, nuns, Catholic youth groups, Christians, and invitees from within the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area were also present at the event.

The Christmas celebration was opened by Bishop Soe Lin Aung with a prayer, followed by Christian youth singing hymns and a welcome speech

by Bishop U Kyaw Nyein. General Aung Lin Dwe delivered a Christmas greeting, and Bishop U Aung Zaw delivered a special speech of greetings.

The SAC Secretary and his wife sang the hymn "Silent Night, Holy Night" together with those attending the ceremony. The priests and nuns presented the Secretary of the State Administration Council with a Christmas commemorative gift and a letter of appreciation, and the gift of fruit was returned as a Christmas commemorative gift.

SAC Secretary General Aung Lin Dwe, his wife, and members warmly greeted the Christian faithful who attended the Christmas celebration. Afterwards, the SAC Secretary, council members, and Union ministers presented Christmas gifts and foodstuffs to the priests, and nuns. They also enjoyed a communion lunch to commemorate the birth of Christ (Christmas). — MNA/TS

Agri Dept holds coord meeting to enhance rice industry

THE Yangon Region Agriculture Department recently held a work coordination meeting to establish an export zone of the Myanmar Rice Federation and enhance the rice and paddy industry. Directors of the Paddy Crop Division of Agriculture Department, officials concerned of the Agriculture Departments from Yangon, Bago

and Ayeyawady regions, Plant and Agricultural Biotechnology Department, MRF President U Ye Min Aung, consultants and exporter companies discussed matters regarding cooperation between the Agriculture Department and MRF, distribution of paddy seeds under summer paddy project for the growth of State's economy, distribution of pedigree seeds,

establishing export zones, private sector's involvement in irrigation project to expand summer paddy cultivation, hybrid paddy cultivation in suitable areas to ramp up production and export-marketable rice and rice seed preservation by joining hands with plant biotechnology department for export marketable rice varieties. — NN/KK

Bank Holidays and Working days

ALL Banks will be closed on 31 December 2024 (Tuesday), 12 March 2025 (Wednesday) and 14 March 2025 (Friday), 3 November 2025 (Monday) and 26 December 2025 (Friday), being public holidays. All Banks will be opened on 11 January 2025 (Saturday), 22 March 2025 (Saturday) and 29 March 2025 (Saturday), 8 November 2025 (Saturday) and 3 January 2026 (Saturday), working days under the Negotiable Instruments Act.

Central Bank of Myanmar

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)

New e-visa payments accepted at Thai Embassy on appointment date

AN electronic visa system will be taken into effect from 1 January 2025 and a visa fee (USD in cash) can be made at the Royal Thai Embassy in Yangon on the appointment date after application.

The embassy will accept applications for visa appointment dates at <https://www.thaiconsularyangon.com/visa> until 24 December 2024 and stop the acceptance of applications from 25 to 31 December 2024 to fix switching to the e-visa system.

For all visa types, e-visa applications will be accepted only at <https://www.thaievisa.go.th/> on January 2025 for Myanmar nationals and other nationals living in Myanmar. Stages of an e-visa application are provided at <https://thaievisa.go.th/video-user-manu->



Visa applicants at the Royal Thai Embassy in Yangon in 2023.

als. After application, the visa fee can be paid at the embassy's visa counter on an appointment date from 9 am to 11:30 am.

Further announcements on seeking an online reservation system for visa payment will be continued, it said. — MT/ZS

110 YBS drivers lose driving cards in 11 months out of 56,000+ cases

OUT of more than 56,000 cases taken action for violating traffic rules in the past 11 months, 110 drivers who ran red lights three or more times had their YBS drivers' cards revoked, said U Lyan Cin Mang, joint secretary of the Yangon Region Public Transport Committee (YRTC).

From 1 January to 30 November 2024, 486 cases were recorded by the Traffic Enforcement Team

and 5,318 violations were reported by the Yangon Bus Operator (YBO), according to YRTC statistics.

Among these offences, there were 419 cases of running a red light, and YBS drivers who ran a red light three or more times had their YBS driving cards revoked.

"If a driver drives with the side door open or overtakes, he will be fined K 10,000. If he ran a

red light three or more times, his YBS card was revoked. There are 110 cases of such cases. They will not be allowed to drive YBS buses in Yangon Region," he said.

A total of 2174 YBS drivers, including those running a red light, were given education and counselling. Currently, 3,600 to 3800 YBS buses are operating on 132 routes in Yangon, carrying 1.5 million commuters. — MT/ZN

Coffee association to offer coffee processing courses in PyinOoLwin in 2025

ORGANIZED by the Myanmar Coffee Association, coffee processing training courses will be conducted in PyinOoLwin in 2025, aiming to manufacture international standard high-quality coffee, share knowledge about the code of conduct on coffee processing, share knowledge about different coffee processing techniques and their products and get familiar with coffee processing.

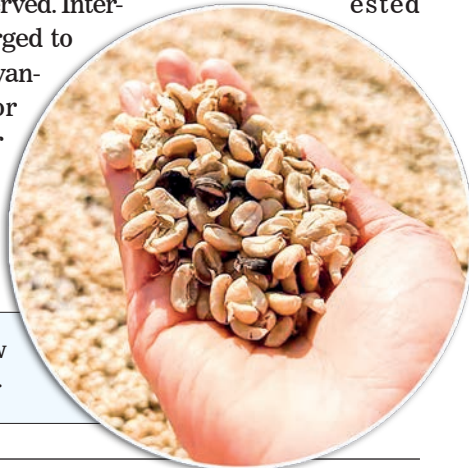
The CQI Intro PHP 2025 course which is scheduled to start on 4 January 2025 and will be led by CQI lecturers, will teach CQI Introduction to Post-Harvest Processing syllabus by the Coffee Quality Institute.

Those, who intend to start a coffee business, to start coffee production by either institution or own business, and those who are eager to learn the coffee processing systematically and coffee processing technique and basic knowledge of processing stages, should join the course. The duration is two days from 4 to 5 January, from 9 am to 5 pm at MCG coffee factory in PyinOoLwin. The fee is K700,000.

MCA coffee processing intermediate course batch 3 will be conducted from 6 to 8 January 2025, from 9 am to 5 pm at MCG coffee factory in PyinOoLwin and the fee is K700,000 (K600,000 for MCA members) and completion of the certificate will be offered when it finishes.

Those who join both courses will be offered discounted K1.2 million and the number of trainees is limited and it is first come, first served. Inter-

ested applicants are urged to contact mca@myanmarcoffee.org or phone or Viber 09 784888808 to register by 31 December 2024. — MT/ZS



A close-up veiw of coffee beans.

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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

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

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

MR to extend special trains for upcoming public holidays

MYANMA Railways (MR) will add the special up and down trains for Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay, Yangon-Mawlamyine and Yangon-Pyay routes in the upcoming public holidays to facilitate public transportation and civil servants, MR stated.

Beyond the regular schedule, MR will extend its services with special up-and down-trains for the Yangon-Mawlamyine-Yangon route on 27 and 28 December 2024 and 1 January 2025. The Yangon-Mawlamyine special train will depart at 7:45 am at Yangon Railway Station and the down train will leave for Yangon at 9:15 am from Mawlamyine station.

The up-train for the Yangon-Pyay route will run on 28



Passengers await to board an express train at the platform of the rail station.

December and the down-train on the Pyay-Yangon route will be operated on 1 January. The departure time at Yangon station is scheduled at 1 pm and the special train will depart at 10 pm from Pyay station. Both special trains and RBE trains will run on Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay-Nay Pyi Taw routes. RBE trains will depart at 1 pm from Nay Pyi Taw and

arrive at 7:45 pm at Mandalay station. Then, the RBE train will leave at 4:45 am from Mandalay to Nay Pyi Taw and the arrival time is estimated at 11:30 am.

The up-train running on the Thazi-Mandalay route will also depart from Thazi at 5 am and arrive at 2:30 pm. The down train is scheduled to depart from Mandalay at 2:30 pm and enter Thazi Station at 6 pm.

Furthermore, more coaches will be added to Yangon-Mandalay-Yangon trains. Tickets for those routes are available to buy three days in advance for the upper class and one day in advance for the ordinary class. Train ticket fees and train stops will remain unchanged. — NN/KK

Suspects arrested for selling antique objects found in Bagan drain

THE police arrested and investigated suspects who were involved in selling and allocating the jewellery received from excavating drains in the Bagan Ancient Cultural Heritage Zone, NyaungU of Mandalay Region, without reporting to the authorities on 20 September.

On that day, 13 workers led by U Nyo (aka) Ko Ko Nyo who got a permit for dredging water drains in Myinkaba village found one ancient clay pot containing 10 gold bracelets, two gold balls and some gold necklaces during their operation. However, they did not report to the authorities and Aung Phyto took 10 gold bracelets and two gold balls, and U Ko (aka) Ko Ko Nyo took gold necklaces and other jewellery.

According to the investigation, security force members detained Aung Phyto, Sein Tun and Aung Moe



This photo shows offenders who commit in selling the ancient gold ornaments in Bagan, NyaungU.

on 9 November, and Aung Phyto confessed that they sold about 13 ticals of gold at K54 million at the house of U Tin Maung Swe (still investigating) in Mandalay, and Ko Ko Nyo sold his gold items at K94million and shared with 12 workers including Sein Tun at K5,250,000 per person. The security forces seized five gold bracelets from Aung Moe, and three gold blocks and other gold pieces from Aung Phyto.

Files were cased against Aung Pyto, Sein Tun, Aung Moe and the remaining 11 offenders including U Nyo (aka) Ko Ko Nyo at Bagan Police Station under Section 17/19 of Protection and Preservation of Antique Objects Law. — MNA/KTZH

Illegal trade crackdown confiscates items worth K536M on 24 Dec

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

On 24 December, the combined teams impounded two unregistered motorbikes (worth approximately K21.5 million) at the Yadanabon bridge combined checkpoint and a Hino Profia truck and a Nissan diesel tractor head with a trailer (worth approximately K121 million) carrying consumer goods and foodstuffs (worth K16.18 million) without official documents on the detour round Kyaukse. The action was conducted under the Export-Import Law and Customs procedures.

Similarly, the combined on-duty teams nabbed two vehicles (worth approximately K50 million) carrying consumer goods and foodstuffs (valued at K12.08 million) without official documents at the Nyaungkhashay x-ray checkpoint, an unregistered Toyota Alphard (worth K7 million) in Thayawady Township, and 1.338 tonnes of illegal timber (worth K223,158) in Pyay district. The action was taken under the Forest Law, the Export-Import Law, and Customs procedures.

Additionally, the combined on-duty teams captured industrial materials and consumer goods (worth K262.91 million) without official documents from six containers at the Asia World Port Terminal container checkpoint, and industrial materials (worth K45.24 million) without official documents from a container at the Myanmar Industrial Port. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported 16 arrests on 24 December, seizing goods worth approximately K536.15 million. — MNA/MKKS

Counter-argument to false information

False reports claim airstrikes in Natogyi

FALSE reports from malicious news media claimed that security forces conducted consecutive airstrikes on Myinetha and Dauntboe villages in Natogyi Township, Mandalay Region, on 23 and 24 December, killing one civilian. However, these claims were found to be false.

According to a senior security official, no airstrikes were carried out by security forces in the mentioned villages. Instead, security forces performed necessary operations to ensure that local people live in peace. The official further stated that terrorists targeted villages that refused to support them, using drones to drop bombs and firing heavy weapons.

Malicious news media outlets fabricate such false stories to conceal the actions of terrorists and to mislead the public about the efforts of security forces. — MNA/KZL

NATIONAL

150,000 mangrove trees planted in Pyapon, Bogale

ACCORDING to UN-Habitat, the organization has planted 150,000 mangrove trees in Pyapon and Bogale townships in the Ayeyawady Region, with the participation of local communities.

By the end of the 2024 rainy season, 75 acres of mangrove trees, comprising over 80,000 trees, were planted in Pyapon Township, while 50 acres, with more than 60,000 trees, were planted in Bogale Township. The planting was supported by the European Union in Myanmar and carried out by

UN-Habitat, with community involvement, according to U Win Naing, the local coordinator.

“We want to preserve the area, so we planted the trees in a community forest. The locals are the primary ones responsible for conservation. We provide them with training. In the past, before these forests were depleted, the locals were the only ones who benefited from them. Now, we are doing this so they can take responsibility and enjoy the benefits. These activities are not enough, so we will continue to expand and plant

more,” said U Win Naing.

Mangrove forests help develop fish resources, support livelihoods, and mitigate natural disasters. Despite challenges posed by local people, such as expanding farms, cutting firewood, and burning charcoal, authorities are continuously providing locals with training and technology, and are working together with the community to solve problems related to long-term conservation and mixed forest management. — ASH/TH



This image shows locals planting mangrove plants.



Foreign female workers to work in South Korea.

Applications open for Myanmar women to work in S Korea’s service sector

MYANMAR women seeking employment in South Korea can now apply through the Public Overseas Employment Agency (POEA), according to a recent announcement.

The POEA has stated that applications are open for service sector positions in South Korea as part of the first batch of manufacturing and service jobs under Group 1. Job application forms for Group 1 will be available from 2 to 7 January

2025, with submissions accepted between 8 and 13 January.

The service sector category was introduced in the 16th EPS-Topik exam conducted earlier this year, enabling Myanmar women to work in South Korea. Those who pass the exam will be eligible for selection to work in South Korea’s service sector. Overseas employment agencies estimate that approximately 3,400 applicants passed the exam this year. — ASH/TMT



A crew led by Tin Maung San Min Win to feature at Myanmar Countdown 2025.

Myanmar Countdown 2025 to feature traditional drama, live music in Nay Pyi Taw

THE “Myanmar Countdown 2025” event at the Wunna Theikdi Sports Complex in Nay Pyi Taw will include a traditional Myanmar dramatic performance titled “Dramatic Dance and a Beautiful Night”, organized by dramatic star Tin Maung San Min Win. This was confirmed by Tin Maung San Min Win himself.

The festival will take place from 29 to 31 December at the Wunna Theikdi Sports Complex Training Grounds (1/2) in Nay Pyi Taw and will be free of charge for all at-

tendees.

“We’ve designed the Myanmar Countdown 2025 festival to welcome the New Year with inclusivity, ensuring both adults and young people can participate. We’ve also included a traditional dramatic performance in the programme. The dramatic show will take place exclusively on 30 December. If you’d like to experience the beauty of traditional dramatic dance while celebrating the New Year, don’t miss the evening of 30 December at the Myanmar Countdown 2025 festival,”

said Tin Maung San Min Win.

The performance will showcase well-known Thabin stars, including Tin Maung San Min Win, Boon, Phu Chit, San Nay Aung, Thiha Hlaing, Moe Htet Aung, Thet Paing Min, along with leading actresses Nan Khin Mwe, San Shwe Sin, Chan Chan Moe, Aye Thandar Bo, Myat Noe Khin, Yoon Thanzin, Ar Shi, and Lin Let Aung.

In addition, over 30 renowned singers will deliver live music performances during the Myanmar Countdown 2025 festival. — ASH/TKO

CBM sells 320,000 yuan and 900,000 baht on 24 Dec

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold over 320,000 yuan and 900,000 baht on 24 December.

CBM announced on 19 December that it would sell 10 million yuan to importers on foreign exchange trading platforms. It sold 1.36 million yuan and 2.48 million baht on that day.

CBM injected \$30 million and 2.14 million baht on 18 December; \$150,000 and over 810,000 baht on 17 December and \$28 million, one million baht and over 710,000 yuan on 16 December; 340,000 yuan and 400,000 baht on 13 December; \$28.51 million and 600,000 baht on 12 December and 500,000 yuan again on 11 December into the financial market.

CBM announced on 10 December that it would sell \$35 million and 40 million baht through foreign exchange trading platforms. Then, it sold about 900,000 yuan on 10 December; \$15 million, over one million yuan and 200 million baht on 6 December; over 1.55 million yuan on 5 December after sales of 1.48 million

yuan on 4 December and 1.43 million yuan on 3 December.

Furthermore, on 2 December, CBM injected \$38 million, 1.48 million yuan and 107.46 million baht online through forex trading platforms.

CBM pumped over \$59 million, over 280 million baht and 8.78 million yuan in November and over \$91 million, over 610 million baht and 9.8 million yuan in October into the financial market.

CBM aims to curb the instability in the foreign exchange market and the currency devaluation. According to CBM's notification on 15 March, it has been joining hands with law enforcement agencies to combat and prosecute those who attempt to manipulate the currency market under the existing laws. CBM allowed authorized dealers (private banks) to operate online foreign exchange trading freely as per the market rate depending on supply and demand, starting from 5 December 2023. — NN/KK



File photo shows the facade of the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) Yangon Branch.

New Suzuki Ertiga Hybrid may impact Myanmar auto market



This photo showcases some Ertiga Hybrid cars manufactured by Suzuki.

SUZUKI'S newly introduced Ertiga Hybrid may affect the car market depending on the price

it will be officially released in Myanmar, said U Kyaw Swa Tun Myint, general secretary of the Myanmar Automobile Manufacturers and Distributors Association (MAMDA).

Suzuki Myanmar has announced that the pre-tax and pre-license-fee price of the car is set at K 105 million, and details can be inquired at official showrooms.

"The Suzuki Ertiga was launched from the factory today (24 December). The price is affordable and reasonable, so I would like to thank and welcome Suzuki Myanmar. How it will affect the car market can only be determined after we know their sale price. It may have an impact on the car market," he said.

If the Ertiga Hybrid model is sold at showrooms for more than K100 million, the high-trend domestic market may change to a lower one, but there won't be any sharp rise or fall in car prices, he said.

In the current car market, transactions are normal, and cars, which are priced above their reasonable price, are being sold at a reduced price. — MT/ZN

Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization and UAB signs ROD

MYANMAR Trade Promotion Organization (MyanTrade) under the Ministry of Commerce and UAB signed a Record of Discussion (ROD) on 10 December 2024 at Amara Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

Director-General Dr Htein Lin of the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization, Daw Thandar Htike, UAB Senior Vice-President, and officials concerned attended the signing ceremony.

The director-general gave an opening remark that exhibition and market information, export promotion videos are uploaded on MITC website of MyanTrade's Myanmar International Trade Centre to disseminate information to traders. Additionally, Myantrade also provides services to seek recommendation of business visa, exhibitor or visitor registration and organizer licence through its website.

The UAB senior vice-president also addressed cooperation in payment with government departments and Myantrade. Following the ROD between MyanTrade and UAB, online payment service is available in the 2024-2025 financial year through a website (mitc.myantrade.gov.mm). — NN/KK

Fuel information now available on MPTA FM app

GUIDED by the Central Committee on Ensuring Smooth Flow of Trade and Goods, a software application named MPTA FM has been developed to offer access to the types of fuels, and prices at the nearest petrol stations, including the amount of fuel for the people using their mobile phones.

The MPTA FM application features location, opening and closing hours, types of fuel and prices of fuel stations across the nation, and it was developed by the Supervisory Committee on Import, Storage

and Distribution of Fuel Oil and Myanmar Petroleum Trade Association. The MPTA FM application can be downloaded on the Android version at Google Play Store starting 1 January 2025. Plans are underway for the IOS version. — MNA/KTZH



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



Examine the minds of knowledgeable individuals with sincerity

IN life, knowledge and wealth are not directly correlated. However, possessing thoughtful and virtuous knowledge, as well as being a good citizen, is directly proportional. It is only when individuals apply the knowledge gained from their degrees that they are truly recognized as knowledgeable.

Although individuals have a diploma or a degree, they can get a job. However, it is difficult to guarantee that this alone will ensure success and advancement in their career. Some people

Everyone should reflect on how much of a pure life they've been able to build through their mental strength. Consider how much they've been able to extract and practice from knowledge – such as ethics, discernment, honesty, reflection, compassion, cultural heritage, and traditional customs. This is the essence of knowledge.

knowing. It also involves guiding and correcting the fate, health, wealth, and morality of a person. Therefore, knowledge is even greater than a horse and has immense power and strength. Its significance cannot be fully explained. Only through personal effort and practice can one discern who possesses good or bad intentions, as the mind will be able to recognize and understand it.

Everyone should reflect on how much of a pure life they've been able to build through their mental strength. Consider how much they've been able to extract and practice from knowledge – such as ethics, discernment, honesty, reflection, compassion, cultural heritage, and traditional customs. This is the essence of knowledge.

They need to analyze how much of the knowledge they've acquired, such as moral principles, the avoidance of negative behaviours, reflection, honesty, critical thinking, envisioning, mutual respect, cultural heritage, traditional customs, and religious doctrines, they have been able to practice and apply.

note that knowledge by how much information a person can accumulate or retain in their brain. In this regard, their minds and souls must be honest. Everything they do must be sincere without wicked over others. Only when their hearts are noble will they be really recognized as knowledgeable.

Those who are knowledgeable should not be wicked and cheated against others. True education as well as knowledge, the kind that should be invested in appropriately, is the one that nurtures and develops the mind of individuals. It is not just about how much knowledge a person acquires, but rather how much their mind develops and progresses. In other words, it is about how well a person can think critically and intelligently. Anything that fosters and promotes this quality of thinking is called “education.”

The realm of knowledge is broader and deeper than the ocean. Information means knowing things. It is the kind of knowledge through hearing, seeing, and studying. Knowledge is not just about

MYANMAR idioms are beautiful expressions embedded in everyday language, rich in cultural meaning and offering insightful perspectives on life, relationships, and human behaviour.



ငယ်ဖြူ / ngal hpyau/

- **Pure-from-childhood novice/monk**
- “Pure-from-childhood novice or monk” describes someone who remains innocent, untainted, and inexperienced since childhood, uncorrupted by external influences, and retains a sense of purity and simplicity.
- အသက် ၇ နှစ်မှ ၂၀ နှစ်အတွင်း သာသနာ့အတွင်းကို ဝင်လာသော သင်္ကန်းဝတ်သူကို ငယ်ဖြူ လို့ ခေါ်ပါတယ်.....
- ငယ်စဉ်ကလေးဘဝကတည်းက လောကီဘဝကို စွန့်လွှတ်ပြီး အဝါရောင်သင်္ကန်းကို ဝတ်ဆင်ကာ ဗုဒ္ဓဘာသာ သာသနာတော်သို့ ဝင်ရောက်ခဲ့သော ရဟန်းတစ်ပါးကို “ငယ်ဖြူ” ဟု လူသိများသည်။ ဤအသုံးအနှုန်းသည် (ကိုရင်) ရှင်သာမဏေမှ ရဟန်းသို့ တစိုက်မတ်မတ် သွေဖည်သွားခြင်းမရှိဘဲ သန့်ရှင်းစင်ကြယ်သော လမ်းကြောင်းလျှောက်သူအား ရည်ညွှန်းသည်။ “အဖြူ” ဟူသည် သန့်ရှင်းစင်ကြယ်ခြင်းကို ကိုယ်စားပြုသောကြောင့် လောကီ အာရုံ ကာမဂုဏ်များနှင့်အပျော်အပါးများတွင် တစ်ခါမျှ မပါဝင်ခဲ့ဘဲ ငယ်စဉ်ကတည်းက ဖြူစင်သန့်ရှင်းမှုကို ထိန်းသိမ်းခဲ့သော ရဟန်းတစ်ပါးဟု ဆိုလိုသည်။

Unwavering Commitment to Buddhism

A “pure-from-childhood novice or monk” refers to an individual who renounces worldly life early in childhood and dedicates themselves fully to the Buddhist monastic order, donning the yellow robes. This term signifies a monk who has remained celibate, untouched by worldly pleasures, and committed to spiritual purity since their youth. In Myanmar, such individuals are admired for their consistent devotion to Buddhist practices from the time they enter monastic life as young boys.

The term “pure” symbolizes both physical and spiritual purity, indicating that the monk has preserved chastity and innocence throughout their life. The life of a “pure-from-childhood monk” is characterized by uninterrupted dedication, discipline, and a focused path toward enlightenment.

This purity is viewed not just in a literal sense but as a deep commitment to maintaining innocence and striving toward spiritual development. Their unwavering path is seen as a model of devotion and consistency in Buddhist practice.

USAGES:

Pure as the driven snow

Definition: Completely innocent, virtuous, or untainted by corruption.

Example: She's always been pure as the driven snow, never getting involved in any scandalous rumours.

As clean as a whistle

Definition: Completely clean, morally upright, or without fault.

Example: After his long period of self-reflection, he's as clean as a whistle, with no skeletons in his closet.

Innocent as a lamb

Definition: Extremely innocent and naive, often used to de-

Connecting on the Universal Dance of Words

BY AUGUSTIN

ငယ်မူပြန်တယ် ခေါ်ကြတာ မျိုးတွေလည်းရှိပါတယ်။ ဒါပေမယ့် အယ်လ်စိုင်းမားလို့ခေါ်ရတဲ့ အဆင့်အထိ မေ့လျော့သွားရင်တော့ ရောဂါဖြစ်နေတာလို့ သတိမှတ်ရပါတော့တယ်.....

- လူတို့သည် သက်ကြီးရွယ်အိုများအား ဝတ်စားဆင်ယင်ပုံ၊ ပြောဆိုပုံနှင့် ပြုမူပုံတို့ကို ထင်ဟပ်စေသည့် ရင့်ကျက်မှုနှင့် ဉာဏ်ပညာကို ပြသရန် မျှော်လင့်ကြသည်။ အသက်ကြီးသူတစ်ဦးသည် ငယ်ရွယ်သူကဲ့သို့ ဝတ်စားဆင်ယင်ခြင်း၊ စကားပြောဆိုခြင်း သို့မဟုတ် ပြုမူသောအခါတွင် သူငယ်ပြန်တယ်၊ငယ်မူပြန်တယ် ဟူ၍ အခြားသူများ၏ လှောင်ပြောင်ခြင်းကို ခံရလေ့ရှိသည်။

Ridicule of Youthful Aging

In many societies, including Myanmar, older individuals who adopt behaviours typically associated with youth, such as dressing or acting like a younger person, are often ridiculed.

Society generally expects ageing individuals to embrace maturity, wisdom, and dignity, which is reflected in their appearance and behaviour. When older people deviate from these norms, they are often criticized for trying to “revive youthful styles” or reclaim lost youth.

This behaviour is seen as inappropriate, a denial of the natural ageing process, and is often viewed as undignified. The negative connotation surrounding such actions reflects a cultural belief that ageing should bring a shift toward seriousness and authority.

In Myanmar, this tendency is framed disapprovingly, highlighting society's expectation that older individuals must embody age-appropriate behaviours that reflect experience and wisdom. Attempts to act youthful are, therefore, often seen as embarrassing or absurd.

USAGES:

Act your age

Definition: To behave in a manner appropriate to your age, especially when someone is acting immature or too youthful for their age.

Example: ‘John, you’re 45 years old now – it’s time to stop playing video games all day and act your age.’

Overstay your welcome

Definition: To remain in a situation or place longer than is socially acceptable, often because one is no longer wanted or needed.

Example: “Tommy, I think you’ve overstayed your welcome at the party – people are starting to look uncomfortable.”

Clinging to the past

Definition: To hold on to outdated ideas, memories, or behaviours, often in an attempt to relive or recreate past experiences.

Example: “You’re clinging to the past by constantly talking about your high school days. It’s time to move forward.”

Trying to turn back the clock

Definition: To attempt to reverse or undo the effects of time, often referring to ageing or past mistakes.

Example: “She’s constantly getting cosmetic procedures, trying to turn back the clock, but she’s still not happy with her appearance.”

Acting like a kid again

Definition: To behave in an immature, youthful manner, often when such behaviour is unexpected for one’s age.

Example: “He’s in his 50s now, but he’s always acting like a kid again when he hangs out with his friends.”

Living in a fantasy world

Definition: To refuse to accept reality, often by pretending or imagining things that are unrealistic or no longer possible.

Example: “She’s living in a fantasy world if she thinks she can return to her prime years and act like a teenager.”

The Myanmar idiom “feeding them honey for the evacuation of their bowels” refers to the act of deceiving or manipulating someone by presenting something unpleasant in a way that appears pleasant or beneficial.

The phrase draws on the idea of using a purgative like aloe or senna, which have an unpleasant taste and smell but mixing them with more agreeable ingredients (like honey) to make the experience more tolerable. In the same way, a person may be led to do something unpleasant or uncomfortable, but under the pretence of kindness or smooth words.

USAGES:

Sugarcoat the pill

Definition: To make something unpleasant or difficult to accept seem more pleasant or easier to handle by presenting it in a more favourable way.

Example: “The manager tried to sugarcoat the news of the layoffs by highlighting the company’s plans to expand.”

Sweeten the deal

Definition: To make an offer or proposal more attractive, often by adding something extra to it.

Example: “If you agree to work the extra weekend shift, I’ll sweeten the deal with a bonus.”

Butter someone up

Definition: To flatter someone excessively, often to gain favour or influence their opinion.

Example: “He spent the entire meeting buttering up his boss in hopes of securing the promotion.”

Curry favour with

Definition: To seek to gain someone’s approval or favour by using flattery or doing something to please them.

Example: “She tried to curry favour with the teacher by always volunteering to help after class.”

Grease the wheels

Definition: To facilitate or ease a process or interaction, often by using charm, flattery, or persuasion.

Example: “The CEO greased the wheels of the negotiation by offering the client a special discount.”

Take the edge off

Definition: To make something unpleasant or difficult more tolerable, often through kindness or gentle persuasion.

Example: “He tried to take the edge off the bad news by telling her how well she had performed at work.”



ငယ်မူပြန် / ngaimu-pran/

- **To revive youthful styles**
- အသက်အရွယ်အိုမင်းလို့ မေ့လျော့တတ်တာက သဘာဝတရပါ။ သူငယ်ပြန်တယ်။

scribe someone who is unaware of worldly vices. **Example:** He entered the competitive world of business as innocent as a lamb, unaware of the ruthless tactics some would use.

A saint in the making

Definition: Someone who is on a virtuous path, or is already considered very virtuous, with a moral character akin to that of a saint.

Example: Although young, Jane is a saint in the making, always helping others and staying out of trouble.

Like a blank slate

Definition: Someone who has no previous experience or preconceived notions, often implying purity or neutrality.

Example: When she moved to a new town, she felt like a blank slate, ready to start fresh without any of her past weighing her down.

Clean as a new pin

Definition: Perfectly clean and spotless, free from any dirt or moral impurity.

Example: The house was clean as a new pin after the maid finished tidying up.



ပျားရည်နှင့် ဝမ်းချ / pyanai nhang wam hkya/

- **Feeding them honey for the evacuation of their bowels**
- ပွေးကိုင်းဖြင့် ဝမ်းမနုတ်ဘဲ ပျားရည်ချိုမျှဖြင့် ဝမ်းသက်စေသကဲ့သို့ ချိုသာစွာ ပြောဆိုနှစ်သိမ့်၍ မနှစ်မြို့ဖွယ်အရာကို လက်ခံအောင် နားချသည်။
- ဒီစကားဟာ ဂျင်း လို့တော့ မပြောချင်ပါဘူး။ ဒါပေမယ့် သူ့ကို ပျားရည်နဲ့ ဝမ်းချဖို့များ ကြိုးစားနေလေသလားလို့တော့ ပြောချင်ပါတယ်....
- ငယ်ငယ်ကတော့ မိဘတွေက နာနုတ်သီးမှည့်ကို ပျားရည်နှင့် ဆမ်း၍ ကျွေးကြ၏။ သန့်ကောင်တွေကျအောင်ဟု ဆိုကာ ကျွေး၏။ “ပျားရည်နှင့် ဝမ်းချသည်” ဟု ဆိုရမည်လား.....
- ပွေးကိုင်း (Senna) သည် ရံဖန်ရံခါဖြစ်တတ်သော ဝမ်းချုပ်ခြင်းနှင့် ဝမ်းမာကျစ်ခြင်းကို ကုသရန်သုံးသည့် ဝမ်းနုတ်ဆေး တစ်မျိုးဖြစ်သည်။ အူလမ်းကြောင်းကိုရှင်းရန်အတွက်လည်း သုံးနိုင်သည်။

Sweet Talk Deception

The Myanmar idiom “ပျားရည်နှင့်ဝမ်းချ” refers to the act of placating or coaxing someone with sweet-talk, much like how medicine is coated with honey to mask the bitterness of purgatives or laxatives used to treat constipation.

It is common to use aloe (Aloe vera) (ရှားစောင်းလက်ဝတ်ပင်) or senna (ပွေးကိုင်း), mixed with other ingredients, as a purgative. The smell and taste of these preparations are often unpleasant, but if the purgative is combined with more agreeable ingredients to mask the offensive smell and taste, the experience may be more tolerable. In this way, the act of deceiving or exploiting someone under the guise of kind or soothing words is referred to as “feeding them honey for the evacuation of their bowels.”

SCI/TECH
WORLD

NASA probe makes closest ever pass by the Sun

Tuesday's fly-by occurred at 6:53 am (1153 GMT); confirmation awaits Friday as contact lost near the Sun.

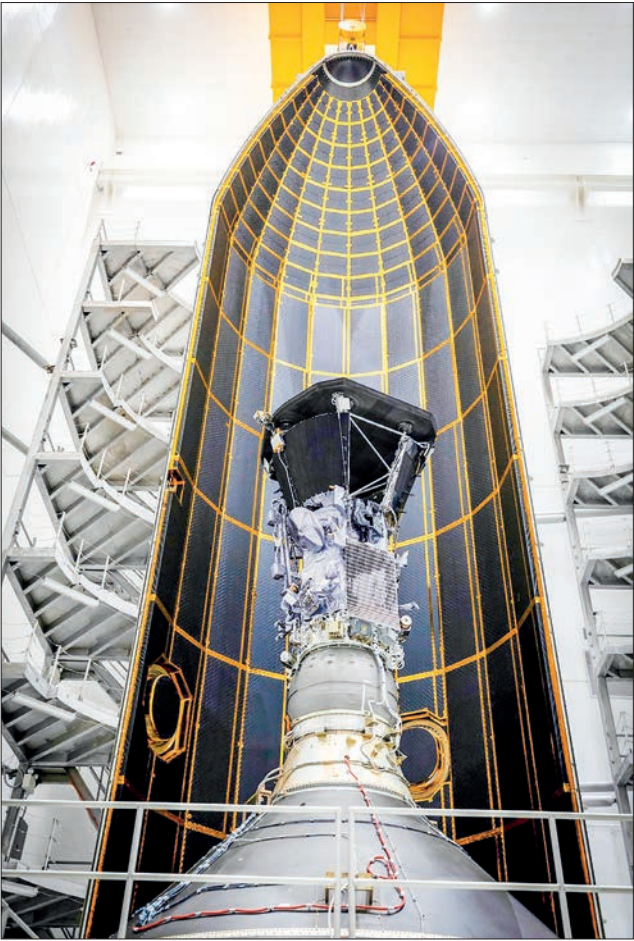
NASA'S pioneering Parker Solar Probe made history Tuesday, flying closer to the Sun than any other spacecraft with its heat shield exposed to scorching temperatures of more than 1,700 degrees Fahrenheit (930 degrees Celsius).

Launched in August 2018, the spaceship is on a seven-year mission to deepen scientific understanding of our star and help forecast space-weather events that can affect life on Earth.

Tuesday's historic fly-by should have occurred at pre-

cisely 6:53 am (1153 GMT), although mission scientists will have to wait until Friday for confirmation as they lose contact with the craft for several days due to its proximity to the Sun.

If the distance between Earth and the Sun is the equivalent to the length of an American football field, the spacecraft should have been about four yards (meters) from the end zone at the moment of closest approach – known as perihelion. — AFP



NASA's Parker Solar Probe inside one half of its 62.7-foot-tall fairing. **PHOTO: NASA/JOHNS HOPKINS APL/ED WHITMAN/FILE**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Telegram founder says messaging app profitable for first time

THE founder and chief executive of the Telegram encrypted messaging app Pavel Durov said on Monday that the platform had recorded a net profit for the first time in 2024, with annual revenue exceeding \$1 billion.

"As I predicted, 2024 turned out to be a very good year for Telegram. For the first time in its three-year history of monetization, Telegram became profitable," Durov announced on his Telegram channel.

The messaging app, which says it has over 950 million users worldwide, had previously operated without fees but began offering paid subscriptions and showing adverts in 2021.

Durov said the move had helped reach revenues exceeding \$1 billion, with subscribers to the app's premium service tripling to 12 million. — AFP

Extremely rare baby mammoth found in Siberia

RUSSIAN scientists on Monday showed off the remarkably well preserved remains of a baby mammoth found in the

permafrost-covered region of Yakutia. The 50,000-year-old female mammoth has been nicknamed "Yana" after the

river in whose basin it was discovered this summer.

Experts say "Yana" is the best preserved mammoth carcass in the world and is one of only seven whole remains ever found.

Studies will now be carried out to work out her exact age at death, estimated at "one year old or a bit more".

The carcass was shown at the Federal University of the North East in the regional capital of Yakutsk, the institution said in a statement.

"We were all surprised by the exceptional preservation of the mammoth," rector Anatoly Nikolayev said.

Researcher Maxim Cheprasov said it was a "unique discovery". The remains weigh 180 kilogrammes (397 pounds) and are 120 centimetres (four feet) tall and 200 centimetres long. — AFP



The 50,000-year-old female mammoth has been nicknamed "Yana" after the river in whose basin it was discovered this summer. **PHOTO: NORTH-EASTERN FEDERAL UNIVERSITY IN YAKUTSK / MICHIL YAKOVLEV/AFP**

El Salvador Congress votes to end ban on metal mining

EL Salvador's Congress on Monday approved a bill promoted by President Nayib Bukele to roll back a ban on the mining of gold and other metals, dismayed environmentalists.

The small Central American nation became the world's first country to outlaw metal mining in 2017, warning of the harmful effects of the chemicals used, like cyanide and mercury.

The move by Bukele's predecessor, former left-wing rebel Salvador Sanchez Ceren, reflected a growing rejection of mining by rural communities in the region. But last month, Bukele, who is popular at home for his crackdown on street gangs, signalled that he wanted to change course. — AFP

Saving the mysterious African manatee at Cameroon hotspot

AWARD-WINNING marine biologist Aristide Takoukam Kamla has dedicated his life to protecting African manatees, an endangered species native to the coasts of western Africa. He first encountered these elusive creatures over a decade

ago in Cameroon's Lake Ossa, a remote and tranquil body of water.

Unlike their more famous relatives in Florida, African manatees are shy and difficult to spot. Takoukam Kamla, then a university researcher, had to

learn the hard way — spending long hours on the water, guided by local fishermen, to understand their habits.

The African manatee, listed as "vulnerable" by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, faces

numerous threats, including poaching and habitat destruction. Takoukam Kamla's African Marine Mammal Conservation Organization works to protect these creatures, establishing five research labs in Cameroon.

Local efforts have reduced hunting, and manatee dishes have disappeared from village menus. However, ongoing threats persist, such as pollution from palm oil refineries and fishing nets that risk trapping manatees. — AFP

Thousands attend Christmas charity dinner in Buenos Aires

Poverty in Argentina surged to 52.9 per cent, with 18.1 per cent homeless and 66 per cent child poverty, affecting seven million children under 14.



Aerial view showing volunteers and homeless people taking part in a Christmas solidarity dinner called 'No Families Without Christmas' in front of the National Congress in Buenos Aires on 24 December 2024. PHOTO: TOMAS CUESTA / AFP

SOME 3,000 homeless people sat down for a festive Christmas charity dinner on Tuesday in the centre of Buenos Aires, at a time when more than half of Argentina's population is affected by poverty, one year into ultra-liberal Javier Milei's term in office.

"I came because I feel alone and it's sad," said Walter Villagra, a 54-year-old home-

less man who survives by collecting cans after he lost his job as an electrician four years ago.

Titled "No Family Without Christmas", the event in front of the National Congress was held for the eighth consecutive year, and Tuesday's turnout exceeded organizers' expectations.

"To say that it is a special year because there is more

and more poverty is sad, but it is true," Mariana Gonzalez, spokesperson for the Movement of Excluded Workers, one of the organizers behind the event, told AFP. "There are more and more people sleeping on the street and more people coming to the soup kitchens because they do not have a plate of food, it is a very difficult year." — AFP

Shrinking, ageing population makes S Korea 'super-aged society'

SOUTH Korea has become a "super-aged society", with 20 per cent of its population aged 65 or older, official data showed on Tuesday, a gloomy trend driven by an alarmingly low birth rate.

Asia's fourth-largest economy recorded just 0.7 births per woman late last year — one of the lowest birth rates in the world and far below the replacement rate of 2.1 needed to sustain the current population.

That means South Korea's population is ageing and shrinking rapidly.

Those aged 65 and older "account for 20 per cent of the



People walk on a street in Seoul, South Korea, 16 March 2022. PHOTO: JAMES LEE/XINHUA

51.2 million registered population, numbering 10 million", the interior ministry said in a news release on Tuesday, placing South Korea alongside Japan, Germany and France as a "super-aged society". — AFP

Reptile star of 'Crocodile Dundee' dies at 90

AN Australian saltwater crocodile who starred in the hit film "Crocodile Dundee" has died aged 90, the reptile's zoo confirmed Tuesday.

Burt, the five metre (16.4 feet) reptile died "peacefully", according to a statement from the Darwin aquarium, where he lived in Crocosaurus Cove.

"Burt's life story is one of strength, resilience, and a personality as bold as the Top End (Northern Territory) itself."

The "confirmed bachelor" was captured in a Northern Territory river in the 1980s, before he became "one of the most recognized crocodiles in the world", the aquarium's

statement said.

"Burt was truly one of a kind. He wasn't just a crocodile; he was a force of nature and a reminder of the power and majesty of these incredible creatures."

In "Crocodile Dundee", Burt was used in a scene where American reporter Sue Charlton, played by Linda Kozlowski, is attacked by a crocodile while refilling her water bottle, only to be rescued by Paul Hogan's Mick Dundee. The scene used footage of Burt "launching out of the water", Penny Priest, chief executive of Crocosaurus Cove, told national broadcaster ABC. — AFP



In Crocodile Dundee, Mick Dundee heroically saves Sue Charlton from a crocodile attack while she refills her water bottle. PHOTO: RIMFIRE FILMS / COLLECTION CHRISTOPHEL VIA AFP

Autism on sharp rise in US: CDC

AUTISM diagnoses are undeniably on the rise in the United States, about 1 in 36 children have one, according to data the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) collected from 11 states, compared with 1 in 150 children in 2000, and researchers have not yet arrived at a clear explanation.

"They attribute most of the surge to increased awareness of the disorder and changes in how it is classified by medical professionals," The New York Times reported on the development on Monday. "But scientists say there are other

factors, genetic and environmental, that could be playing a role too."

Autism spectrum disorder, as it is officially called, is inherently wide-ranging, marked by a blend of social and communication issues, repetitive behaviours and thinking patterns that vary in severity.

A mildly autistic child could simply struggle with social cues, while a child with a severe case could be nonverbal. There is no blood test or brain scan to determine who has autism, just a clinician's observations. — Xinhua

ECONOMY
WORLD

Economy Middle East Summit to convene in May 2025

ECONOMY Middle East and ADGM have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to announce their partnership for the second edition of the Economy Middle East Summit, set to take place on 15 May 2025.

Building on the success of the inaugural summit, this partnership aims to reinforce the UAE's position as a global economic and innovation hub.

The theme for the 2025 edition, "Bridging Sectors, Building Economic Growth", will guide the summit's agenda and focus on advancing cross-sector col-

laboration to address emerging challenges and unlock new opportunities for sustainable growth.

The MoU was signed by Joe Chidiac, CEO of JC Media Group and Publisher of Economy Middle East, and Mohammed Al Mheiri, Chief Communication Officer at ADGM.

The summit will bring together the region's leading decision-makers, including ministers, business leaders and entrepreneurs, as well as top executives of significant international organizations. — ANI



The 2025 summit theme, "Bridging Sectors, Building Economic Growth," emphasizes collaboration to tackle challenges and drive sustainable economic progress. PHOTO: ANI

Chinese private firms speed up innovation drive to buck economic headwinds

CiDi Inc, an autonomous driving unicorn, emphasizes innovation, holding 530 patents and contributing to 50 industry standards since 2017.



An intelligent connected vehicle tester works before a test at an enclosed test field in Tianjin, north China, 14 June 2024. PHOTO: SUN FANYUE/XINHUA

A smart coal mining project in northwest China set a global record for autonomous driving this year, with the world's largest mixed fleet of 56 driverless and over 800 manned trucks operating safely since June.

These driverless trucks at the Heishan mine, 70 kilometres south of Urumqi in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, can

easily match the skill of experienced human drivers and are even capable of identifying obstacles as small as 10 cm from up to 40 metres away.

The technology behind these cutting-edge vehicles is provided by CiDi Inc, a unicorn company specializing in commercial vehicle autonomous driving. Founded in 2017, it has

applied for over 530 technical patents and participated in the formulation of over 50 industry standards. "Innovation is deeply embedded in our entrepreneurial philosophy," said Ma Wei, CiDi's co-founder, noting that the company's commitment to technological advancement is fundamental to its growth. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Vietnam earns US\$44 bln from textiles, garments exports in 2024

THE Vietnam's textile and garment sector is expected to generate some US\$44 billion in export revenue this year, up more than 10 per cent year-on-year, local media quoted Cao Huu Hieu, director-general of the Vietnam Textile and Garment Group, as saying. He said textile and apparel companies had seized the opportunity and secured orders through the end of the first quarter and even into the second quarter of 2025. — Xinhua

Japan to compile record 115.5 trillion yen initial budget for FY 2025

THE government will compile a record 115.5 trillion yen (\$734 billion) initial budget for fiscal 2025 as defence and social security spending continue to rise while debt-servicing costs also weigh on Japan's public finances, sources close to the matter said Wednesday.

The draft general-account budget for the year starting in April will surpass the previous record of 114.38 trillion yen for fiscal 2023. Tax revenues for the new fiscal year are estimated at around 78.4 trillion yen, a record high for the sixth consecutive year, the sources said. — Kyodo

Thai exports rise 8.2% in Nov

THAILAND'S exports expanded for a fifth successive month in November, driven by growth in technology-related goods and demand for agricultural and food products, official data

showed on Wednesday.

Exports, a key driver of the Southeast Asian country's economic growth, rose 8.2 per cent last month from a year earlier to US\$25.6 billion, easing sharply

from a 14.6 per cent increase in October, according to the Ministry of Commerce. The upturn was attributed to a robust shipment of manufacturing goods, bolstered by proactive adjustments from various countries to navigate new trade dynamics and geopolitical challenges, the ministry said in a statement.

Exports of agricultural products expanded 4.1 per cent, despite a significant decline in rice shipments, while agro-industrial goods grew 7.7 per cent.

Industrial product shipments increased 9.5 per cent, marking its eighth straight month of expansion, owing to major increases in computer, air conditioning and rubber products. — Xinhua



Exports of agricultural products expanded 4.1 per cent, despite a significant decline in rice shipments Farmers harvesting rice in the village of Mae Rim in the northern Thai province of Chiang Mai. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

China vows continued efforts to stabilize housing market in 2025

The official noted housing market recovery, citing increases in new home transactions by floor area in October and November.

CHINA'S Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development has pledged to continue efforts to stabilize the real estate market and reverse its downturn in 2025.

China will focus on unlocking housing demand by fully implementing a mix of policies to support people's needs for buying their first

homes or improving their housing conditions, said a ministry official during a two-day national housing and urban-rural development work conference that ended Wednesday.

China's property market has shown positive momentum this year, bolstered by a series of pro-housing measures,

including reductions in mortgage rates, lower down payment requirements, relaxed purchase restrictions, and improvements to land use, fiscal and tax policies.

The official highlighted signs of recovery in the housing market, citing year-on-year and month-on-month increases in



An aerial drone photo taken on 9 November 2023 shows a newly-built residential complex in Feixi County of Hefei City, east China's Anhui Province. PHOTO: ZHOU MU/XINHUA

new home transactions in terms of floor area recorded in October and November.

To sustain this recovery, the ministry also plans to optimize the hous-

ing supply by strictly controlling the expansion of new commercial housing while improving the quality of homes, the official noted. In addition, greater efforts will be made to ex-

pand the supply of affordable housing, offering more support to new urban residents, young people and migrant workers to meet their housing needs. — Xinhua

Japan eyes 45 trillion yen infrastructure exports annually by 2030



In 2022, Japan's overseas infrastructure orders reached 31 trillion yen, marking a 60 per cent increase from 2014. The Tomei Expressway in Yokohama, Kanagawa Prefecture, is a major highway connecting Tokyo and Nagoya, facilitating transport across Japan. PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/KYODO/FILE

THE Japanese government has decided to increase the country's annual infrastructure exports to 45 trillion yen (about US\$286 billion) by 2030, aiming to enhance supply chains in the energy and food sectors.

The government on Tuesday released a new export strategy as it set to hit its 2025 target of 34 trillion yen.

Japan's overseas infrastructure orders stood at 31 trillion yen in 2022, up about 60 per cent from 2014.

The strategy will support Japanese companies in expanding infrastructure exports in key economic security areas such as energy and food, as the country remains overly dependent on imports for these critical resources. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MCL 4 VOY.NO. (11N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MCL 4 VOY. NO. (11N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **26-12-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **TMT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S MAWLAMYINE CENTURY LOGISTICS COMPANY LIMITED

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CAPE FELTON VOY.NO. (924N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CAPE FELTON VOY.NO. (924N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **26-12-2024** 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:
(ONE) OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V HE LE VOY.NO. (0UVB6S1NC)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V HE LE VOY.NO. (0UVB6S1NC)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **26-12-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S CMA-CGM SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V TORRES STRAIT VOY.NO. (449W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V TORRES STRAIT VOY.NO. (449W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **26-12-2024** 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
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S MAERSK A/S

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

Dubai to host first World Congress of Neurosurgery in Middle East

The congress, awarded to Dubai following a successful bid by the Emirates Society of Neurological Surgeons and Dubai Business Events, will take place from 1-4 December 2025.



WFNS awarding the event to Dubai highlights its rapid growth as a top host for international conferences and congresses. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

DUBAI is set to host the 19th World Congress of Neurosurgery in 2025, bringing one of the most prestigious congresses in the medical field to the Middle East for the first time. The awarding of the event to Dubai follows a successful bid led by the Emirates Society

of Neurological Surgeons, and supported by Dubai Business Events, the city’s official convention bureau and part of the Dubai Department of Economy and Tourism. Set to take place under the theme ‘Connecting the Neurosurgical World’, the congress is the flagship event of the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies (WFNS), and is typically held every two years. Dubai will welcome approximately 4,000 delegates for the event, set to take place during 1 to 4 December 2025, including key opinion leaders from the industry, innovators and change-makers. The decision by WFNS to award the event to Dubai highlights its rapid growth as a host for international association conferences and congresses, and builds on the city’s status as the highest ranked destination in the Middle East for the number of association events hosted, according to the International Congress and Convention Association (ICCA). — ANI

NEWS IN BRIEFS

India reiterates regional cooperation in Bay of Bengal Region

MINISTRY of External Affairs’ Secretary (East) Jaisdeep Mazumder represented India at the 24th BIMSTEC Senior Officials’ Meeting virtually and reiterated India’s commitment to regional cooperation in the Bay of Bengal Region, Official Spokesperson of the MEA, Randhir Jaiswal said on Tuesday. The officials discussed issues of cooperation, emphasizing active participation of member states for strengthening security in the region. During the 24th BIMSTEC Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) hosted by Thailand which was held virtually on Thursday, the senior officials reviewed the progress in BIMSTEC since their last meeting in March 2023, according to Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) press release. They deliberated on various priority areas of cooperation in the region including sustainable development, connectivity, security and people to people exchanges. — ANI

Passenger plane crashes in Aktau, Kazakhstan

AN Azerbaijan Airlines plane crashed in Aktau, western Kazakhstan, on Wednesday morning. Preliminary information indicates that 62 passengers and five crew members were on board the plane that crashed in Aktau, the Kazakh Ministry of Transport said on Wednesday. Earlier in the day, the Kazakh Emergency Situations Ministry said that an Azerbaijan Airlines plane flying from Baku to Grozny crashed at the Aktau airport in western Kazakhstan.

Preliminary reports indicate that there are survivors. The preliminary cause of the plane crash in Kazakhstan’s Aktau was a collision with a flock of birds, according to Azerbaijan Airlines. The APA news agency, in turn, reported that there were 67 passengers and five crew members on board the plane. 52 rescuers and 11 pieces of equipment from the Ministry for Emergency Situations of Kazakhstan arrived at the crash site. — SPUTNIK



The plane was carrying 62 passengers and five crew members, according to the Kazakh Ministry of Transport. PHOTO: SPUTNIK

Russian cargo ship sinks in Mediterranean after explosion in engine room

A Russian cargo ship, Ursa Major, sank in the Mediterranean Sea between Spain and Algeria after an explosion in its engine room on Monday, leaving two crew members missing, Euronews reported on Tuesday, citing Russian authorities. According to Euronews, the authorities had confirmed that 14 of the 16 crew members were rescued and are now in Spain, and the Russian foreign ministry has not provided further details on the cause of the explosion. Ursa Major, built in 2009, was en route to the Russian Far East Port of Vladivostok, carrying heavy equipment, when the incident occurred. — ANI

Pope calls for ‘arms to be silenced’ across world

POPE Francis called Wednesday for “arms to be silenced” around the world in his Christmas address, appealing for peace in the Middle East, Ukraine and Sudan as he denounced the “extremely grave” humanitarian situation in Gaza. He used his traditional “Urbi et Orbi” (“to the city and the world”) message to the world’s 1.4 billion Catholics to call for talks for a just peace

in Ukraine as the country was pummelled by 170 Russian missiles and drones on Christmas morning. “May the sound of arms be silenced in war-torn Ukraine,” the 88-year-old pontiff said, his voice strained and breathless. “May there be the boldness needed to open the door to negotiation and to gestures of dialogue and encounter, in order to achieve a just and lasting peace.” — AFP

SPORTS

Liverpool host Foxes, Arsenal prepare for life without Saka

AS Christmas approaches, Liverpool are leading the Premier League, with a commanding position at the top of the table. The team is on track to extend their lead, facing struggling Leicester at home on Boxing Day. Liverpool, four points clear of Chelsea, are enjoying a standout season, with Mohamed Salah in excellent form.

Leicester, under new manager Ruud van Nistelrooy, have been struggling, with poor defensive performances and only one point from their last three matches.

Meanwhile, Arsenal will be without star player Bukayo Saka due to a hamstring injury, a significant blow to their title aspirations.

Despite the setback, manager Mikel Arteta is confident in his squad's ability to adapt.

Arsenal, currently in third place, have shown strong form recently, and Arteta will likely look to Gabriel Martinelli or other players to step up.

Nottingham Forest are experiencing a resurgence, with the team chasing a return to the Champions League for the first time in over four decades. Forest's solid defense has been key to their rise to fourth in the Premier League. They face a tough challenge against Tottenham, who are reeling after a heavy loss to Liverpool. — AFP



Liverpool's Mohamed Salah has scored 15 Premier League goals this season. PHOTO: AFP

Junior Badminton Champ concludes with thrilling finals



Players compete in the men's double final for U-19 category in Lanmadaw Township, Yangon, yesterday. PHOTO: ARKAR LINN

THE ME&GEMS Junior Badminton Championship 2024, organized by the Department of Sports and Physical Education in collaboration with the Myanmar Badminton Federation, concluded with the finals and prize-giving ceremony at the National Badminton Indoor Stadium in Lanmadaw Township, Yangon, yesterday evening.

In the men's doubles final for the under-19 category, the

duo of Hpone Htet Zaw and Nyan Shine Lin secured victory over Lar Zwee Deka and Thurein Kyaw in a closely contested match, winning two sets to one.

The tournament featured finals across various age groups, including under-9, under-11, under-13, under-15, under-17, and under-19, with events for men's and women's singles, doubles, and mixed doubles categories.

Myanmar Badminton Federation Chair U Aung Paing, Lanmadaw Township Administrator U Kaung Myat Kyaw, and representatives from UAB, ME&GEMS, and SP GEMS awarded medals and cash prizes to the winners.

A total of 748 athletes from states, regions, and various clubs competed in 465 matches throughout the tournament. — Arkar Linn/KZL

Carlos Corberan takes over at struggling Valencia after leaving West Brom

LA Liga's joint bottom club, Valencia on Wednesday named Carlos Corberan as its new first team coach.

The 41-year-old who is from Valencia, leaves English Championship side, West Bromwich Albion to replace Ruben Baraja after the former coach was sacked on Monday after Valencia's 2-2 draw at home to Alaves left it with just 12 points from its first 17 matches of the campaign.

Valencia is believed to have paid Corberan's release clause of around three million euros.

"Albion has reached an agreement in principle for Carlos Corberan to depart the club to pursue a new opportunity with La Liga side Valencia. The 41-year-old is set to return to his homeland with our gratitude," confirmed West Brom in a statement, while the coach said the decision was "the hardest of my life".

"There will always be a place in my heart for this special club and I hope one day I can return to thank you all for your incredible support," he wrote.

In his time at West Brom, the coach led the club to ninth place in his first season in charge, taking it to fifth last season, while it currently sits in seventh place in the Championship table. — Xinhua

Djokovic eyes more Slam glory as Swiatek returns under doping cloud



Aryna Sabalenka and Novak Djokovic both begin their 2025 seasons at the Brisbane International. PHOTO: AFP

NOVAK Djokovic is confident in his ability to win more Grand Slam titles, starting with the Australian Open, where he aims for an unprecedented 11th title and record 25th major.

His preparations include competing in Brisbane this week. Top-

ranked Aryna Sabalenka, a two-time Melbourne Park champion, is also set to compete, adding to the tournament's star-studded field.

This marks the first season without the "Big Four" in men's tennis following the retirements of Rafael Nadal, Andy Murray, and

Roger Federer, with Djokovic, at 37, now looking to extend his dominance. Young stars like Jannik Sinner and Carlos Alcaraz have emerged as the new Grand Slam contenders, although they are skipping warm-up tournaments ahead of the Australian Open.

Djokovic, whose 2024 season was underwhelming, has hired Murray as his coach, signaling his continued drive for Grand Slam glory. He remains motivated by his pursuit of more major titles, including surpassing Margaret Court's 24 Slam record.

In the women's game, Sabalenka is in top form after a stellar 2024, winning multiple titles and defending her Australian Open crown. Meanwhile, Iga Swiatek returns from a doping suspension, facing challenges as she seeks to regain her dominant form. — AFP



RUSSIA is ready to continue gas supplies to Europe via several routes, not only via transit through Ukraine, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak said on Wednesday.

“As of today, the issue ... has not been resolved, although Europeans and European countries are interested in this. But this depends primarily on the agreement between the European Union and Kyiv on the possibility of such supplies. We, in turn, have always stated that we are ready to continue to supply gas not only along the existing line, there are a number of other routes,” Novak told the Rossiya 24 broadcaster.

The situation with gas reserves in Europe is tense despite supplies from Russia, and without them the situation will be even more difficult, the official added.

In the next 2-3 years Russia will become 90 per cent independent from the import of technologies and equipment for the oil and gas industry, Novak said.

“I think that in the next two-three years, if we take technologies and equipment for the oil and gas industry, we will reach an almost 90 per cent level of independence,” Novak said. Global oil demand will grow by 1.2 million barrels per day in 2024 and by 1-1.5 million in 2025, Alexander Novak said.

Russia will export 33 million tonnes of liquefied natural gas in 2024, Novak said. — SPUTNIK

Russia offers various routes to secure gas supplies to Europe

Russia remains open to supplying gas to Europe through multiple routes, emphasizing the need for agreements between the EU and Ukraine.



A view shows the Sayda compressor station connecting the Czech Gazela pipeline with German OPAL pipeline, in Germany. The Gazela pipeline is used to transit Russian liquefied natural gas (LNG) to the European Union. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

The tsunami detection buoys safeguarding lives in Thailand

In response to the 2004 tsunami disaster, engineers have deployed a detection buoy 1,000 kilometres off Thailand's coast as part of a global tsunami warning system.



This photo taken on 28 November 2024 shows SEAFDEC ship crew using a crane to lift tsunami buoy Thai 23461 onto the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre (SEAFDEC) ship in the Andaman Sea. **PHOTO: CHANAKARN LAOSARAKHAM / AFP**

NEARLY 1,000 kilometres off the Thai coast, devastated by a tsunami 20 years ago, engineers lowered a detection buoy into the ocean — an essential link in a modern warning system designed to prevent future disasters of similar magnitude.

On 26 December 2004, a magnitude 9.1 earthquake under the Indian Ocean triggered a tsunami with waves up to 30 metres (100 feet) high. Without an effective warning system, over 225,000 people lost their lives across 12 countries. In the aftermath, governments worldwide collaborated to establish a robust tsunami detection network, expanding on NOAA's existing Pacific system.

Today, the Deep-Ocean Assessment and Reporting of Tsunamis (DART) system includes 74 buoys globally, though only 50 are currently operational. These buoys, tethered to the seabed, monitor seismic activity and water level changes.

Despite the harsh ocean conditions requiring frequent replacements, the system remains critical, providing coverage and timely alerts. Thailand's DART buoys connect to 130 coastal alarm towers, capable of broadcasting warnings in multiple languages. Residents also receive SMS alerts, enabling evacuation within minutes. Advances have cut warning times from up to 50 minutes pre-2004 to as little as five minutes today, a crucial improvement in saving lives. — AFP

COOPERATION AMONG NATIONS

UN General Assembly adopts convention on cybercrime

THE United Nations General Assembly adopted on Tuesday a new convention to prevent and combat cybercrime, concluding a five-year negotiation process.

The UN Convention against Cybercrime aims to prevent and combat cybercrime more efficiently and effectively, including by strengthening international cooperation and by providing technical assistance and capacity-building support, particularly for developing countries.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres welcomed the adoption of the Convention - the first international criminal justice treaty to have been negotiated in over 20 years. — ANI