

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win tours the booths of ministries, regions and states after the coordination meeting to hold Union-level MSME exhibitions and competitions.

# MSMEs must use solar energy for industry operations

The government is implementing projects to generate more than 1,000 hybrid megawatts from natural gas and solar energy in regions and states.

**V**ICE-SENIOR General Soe Win clarified that MSME businesses can generate electricity on a manageable scale to operate their businesses and can sell surplus electricity to the national grid.  
A meeting to coordinate holding the

Union-level MSME exhibitions and competitions took place at Taboung Ground of Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon, with an address by Chairman of Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Development  
**SEE PAGE 3**

Salient points from the speech delivered by the Vice-Senior General at the meeting for the MSME expo

1. MSME work committee has eased regulations for disbursement of loans as much as possible.
2. MSME businesses people to manufacture products for domestic use as well as to export and they need to understand market requirements, documentary assistance and technical aid.
3. MSME businesses can generate electricity on a manageable scale to operate their businesses and can sell surplus electricity to the national grid.
4. MSME businesspersons have to operate manageable-scale electricity generation from solar energy in vacant areas of industrial zones in regions and states to overcome challenges of electricity shortages at industrial zones.

**OPINION**

Sustain harmonious interfaith across Myanmar

PAGE 8

**NATIONAL**

PAGE 4

State Economic Promotion Fund Management Committee discusses loan allocation

**NATIONAL**

PAGE 11

Stable soft-shell crab supply ensures ongoing exports

# NATIONAL

## Students under training to have correct thinking and outlooks

DUE to taking time to carry out the development of human resources, students must be under training to have education qualifications, learn modern techniques and technology and possess correct thinking and outlooks.

*(Excerpt from the speech given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the National Planning Commission Meeting 1/2024 on 21 March 2024)*



### National Objectives for 78<sup>th</sup> 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 78<sup>th</sup> 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 5 February 2025

THE price of one tical (16.329325 grammes) of gold with density of 19.25 grammes per cubic centimetre and above is K5,470,000 as established by the Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee.



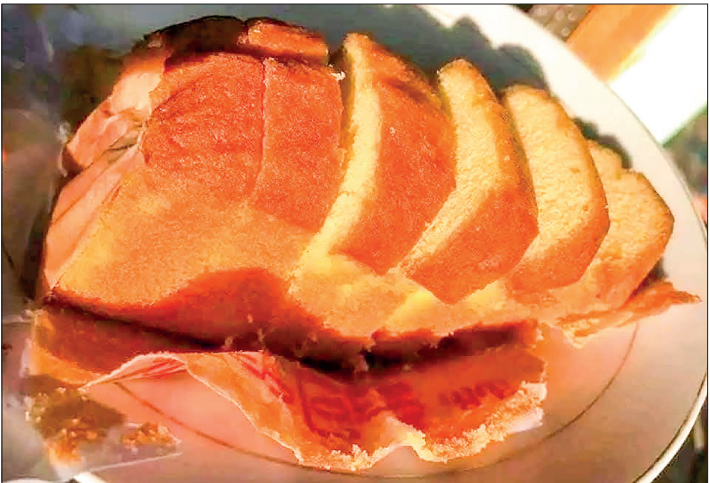
## Shwebo's popular cake showcased at MSME Expo

AT the MSME Expo in commemoration of the 78th Union Day, Shwebo Win Cake which is a famous food product of Sagaing Region's Shwebo Township will be featured.

Shwebo Win Cake has been famous for about 60 years in Shwebo and the majority of orders have been placed from Yangon.

"Shwebo Win Cake is the best-seller among local products. It has nationwide orders and Yangon is the biggest customer. Its flavour is pretty good so it is popular. It is one of the famous foods made in Shwebo," said an official from Swelay Shwebo local products trading in Shwebo Township. The union-level MSME expo

will take place from 10 to 14 February in Nay Pyi Taw and at Sagaing Region's local foods booth, Kho Taung Mont Ti (rice noodle salad), YeU sausage, ingredients for tea leaf salad, dried mutton meat, crispy tofu chips, Katha fermented fish, Shwebo Win Cake and aloe vera jam will be displayed. – Thit Taw/ZS



Shwebo Win Cake.

# 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)*

## MSMEs must use solar energy for industry operations

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Committee Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win.

Speaking on the occasion, the Vice-Senior General urged businesspersons to exchange experiences, coordinate work procedures and seek information although relevant ministries post MSME-related technologies and aid on their web portals.

He noted that the Union-level MSME exhibitions and competitions aim to enable businesspersons from regions and states to compare their products with others in quality, flavour and packaging systems to develop their products, display their products in a single place and exchange their experiences.

He instructed MSME businesspeople to manufacture products for domestic use as well as to export and they need to understand market requirements, documentary assistance and technical aid.

The Vice-Senior General underscored that agency chairs have to inform businesspersons about work procedures for MSME of relevant ministries, information and technologies in advance.

At the exhibitions and competitions, he noted that civil business organizations and entrepreneurs can seek monetary aid from banks.

With regard to capital, he disclosed that the MSME work committee has eased regulations for disbursement of loans as much as possible.



State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win addresses the coordination meeting to hold the Union-level MSME exhibitions and competitions.

He stressed that officials from the working committee arrange the allocation of land plots needed for MSME businesses.

Regarding electrification, the Vice-Senior General explained that although the government generates more than 6,300 megawatts in the entire nation, some power plants have halted due to various reasons and terror attacks.

He disclosed that the Ministry of Electric Power manages alternate supply of electricity to MSME businesses as much as possible.

He recounted that six companies from the Thilawa Industrial Zone currently generate more than 4.9 megawatts of solar energy. Hence, other companies arrange to generate more than 8 megawatts of electricity from solar energy. MSME businesses can generate electricity on a manageable scale to operate their businesses and

can sell surplus electricity to the national grid.

He continued that the 20-megawatt solar power system within the office of the Commander-in-Chief has been in operation since its construction began about two years ago. It is expected to reach its break-even point within a year and a half.

The Vice-Senior General called on MSME businesspersons to operate manageable-scale electricity generation from solar energy in vacant areas of industrial zones in regions and states to overcome the challenges of electricity shortages at industrial zones.

He unveiled that the government is implementing projects of generating more than 1,000 hybrid megawatts from natural gas and solar energy in regions and states.

Moreover, he urged agency chairs from regions and states to explain plans for generating

electricity from solar energy to businesspersons from relevant regions.

The Vice-Senior General said that MSME businesses can contribute much to the prosperity of the country and food security as national visions through the MSME expositions.

Since its establishment, he noted that the MSME work committee has been achieving progress but it needs to increase the volume of new export items.

Union Minister Dr Charlie Than and Deputy Minister U Yin Maung Nyunt reported on the opening ceremony of the exhibitions and competitions, booths of ministries and regions and states, display of products and awards for competitions, formation of subcommittees and plans to hold the exhibitions and competitions.

Officials from relevant subcommittees and agency chairs from regions and states

discussed preparation for the exhibitions and competitions, display of products, domestic foods and competition plans.

Meeting participants also discussed arrangements for the successful holding of the exhibitions and competitions, and the Vice-Senior General coordinated all measures.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Than Tun Oo, deputy ministers, chairpersons of MSME agencies, and departmental heads.

After the meeting, the Vice-Senior General visited booths of ministries, regions and states, ethnic food stalls, finishing of building B2B procedures, technological booths, foreign machinery and products booths, and booths of small-scale industries and manufacturing cooperative societies. — MNA/TTA

# NATIONAL

## State Economic Promotion Fund Management Committee discusses loan allocation

THE State Economic Promotion Fund Management Committee held its first coordination meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, Committee Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein discussed solar projects to produce meat and eggs, financial support to improve the manufacturing sector, granted loans and repayment of the Ministry of Planning and Finance, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, 14 region and state governments, six self-administered zones and division between 1 September 2022 and 31 December 2024, suspension of capital and interest payment for certain natural disasters, reports on granted loans to replant flood-hit monsoon paddy fields in



The first coordination meeting of the State Economic Promotion Fund Management Committee in progress yesterday, chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Union Planning and Finance Minister U Win Shein.

Ayeyawady Region, systematic inventory for loans to offer as per the financial procedures, sys-

tematic supervision and data of regions and state management committees and work comple-

tions based on the findings of the Union Auditor-General's Office. Union Minister for Agricul-

ture, Livestock and Irrigation U Min Naung and attendees reported on summer paddy, monsoon paddy and edible oil crop projects in 2023-2024, ongoing plans to make contracts for monsoon paddy loans and monsoon peanut loans in 2024-2025, loans for the livestock breeding sector, plans to supply irrigation water, granted loans to oil millers and plans to increase the loan amount.

The secretary of the committee and other attendees coordinated the discussion regarding the extension of the loan period, digging wells and installation of water pumps and solar systems using the fund.

The Union minister concluded the meeting after giving proper instructions. — MNA/KTZH

## MSWRR Deputy Minister meets ICRC Resident Representative



Deputy Minister U Soe Kyi receives Mr Arnaud de Baecque, ICRC Resident Representative to Myanmar, yesterday.

DEPUTY Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Kyi received

Mr Arnaud de Baecque, Resident Representative of the International Committee

of the Red Cross (ICRC), at the ministry's reception hall yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, they openly exchanged views on promoting collaborative efforts between the ministry and ICRC in mine risk awareness and safety education, improving the capacity of personnel in this field, providing assistance to people affected by conflict and rehabilitation assistance initiatives of mine-affected people.

Directors-general of the Disaster Management Department and the Rehabilitation Department, relevant officials, and representatives from the ICRC were also present at the meeting. — MNA/MKKS

### Top websites and web portals to access Military Service Rules

1. Ministry of Defence  
<https://www.mod.gov.mm>
2. Ministry of Legal Affairs  
<https://www.mlis.gov.mm>
3. Ministry of Information  
<https://www.moi.gov.mm>
4. Myawady Webportal  
<https://myawady.net.mm>
5. Myanmar National Portal  
<https://myanmar.gov.mm>

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.

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NATIONAL

Workshop on “Enhancing DICA’s Evaluation Capacity as IPA” held

THE workshop on “Enhancing DICA’s Evaluation Capacity as an Investment Promotion Agency (IPA)”, organized by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) under the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations (MIFER) and funded by the ASEAN-Japan Centre (AJC), was held as the AJC’s National Activity Project in a hybrid format at the Union Minister’s Office of MIFER in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. Gracing the event, Dr Kan Zaw, Union Minister for MIFER delivered an opening speech, followed by the welcome address by Head of Bilateral Programme Mr Phutsakhon Sengmaniphon, on behalf of the Secretary-General of the ASEAN-Japan Centre (AJC).

In the opening speech, Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw highlighted the four key activities of the project: a pre-assessment survey, this workshop, a post-assessment survey, and the preparation of a need assessment report. Regarding the workshop, the Union minister emphasized the importance of monitoring and evaluation processes that can highly



The workshop on “Enhancing DICA’s Evaluation Capacity as an Investment Promotion Agency” in progress yesterday, addressed by MIFER Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw.

support the organizational performance of an Investment Promotion Agency (IPA). He then conveyed both the AJC’s continuous support and the contribution of the international expert.

Afterwards, Head of the Bilateral Programme and Assistant Director Mr Phutsakhon Sengmaniphon also addressed that AJC supports investment promotion efforts across ASEAN including through knowledge-sharing initiatives and technical exchanges. He also pointed out that monitoring and

evaluation are key to ensuring policy effectiveness and optimizing investment facilitation services and AJC remains committed to supporting ASEAN investment-related efforts.

The workshop will bring a certain degree of enhancing the practical skills to evaluate investment promotion and facilitation procedures conducted by DICA and to examine the barriers and challenges that DICA staff may confront during the effective monitoring and evaluation (M&E) process.

During the workshop, international expert Ms Premila Nazareth Satyanand provides valuable insight into the M&E process by highlighting its significance and exploring the strategies to promote investments in the country.

The workshop was attended by a total of 150 participants, including directors-general, deputy directors-general and senior officials from MIFER, and representatives from the ASEAN-Japan Centre. The workshop will last for two days until 6 February 2025. — MIFER



This image showcases the map of Shwepyitha Township.

Shwepyitha land plots selling quickly

LAND plots in Shwepyitha Township, Yangon Region, have been bought up these days, according to the real estate market.

Although there has been a decline in the sale of expensive houses, land plots priced between K50 million and K60 million have been bought on the outskirts.

“Currently, only fifty to sixty million plots are bought. The current market trend is not good for expensive houses. Small plots 20 feet wide with high liquidity worth K50 million sell well. They are not in the centre of Shwepyitha. Ward 15, Ward 16, and Ward 17 on the outskirts sell better,” said Ko Htet Myat Aung, a real estate agent in Shwepyitha.

Most buyers intend to save money by buying property and there are no buyers to live in that township these days.

“They buy to invest. The market for buying to live is cold this month. You can live in Shwepyitha only if you spend around K100 million to K120 million including a house. That is the minimum. If you want a better one, it will cost K170 million for a one-storey house and K250 million for a two-storey house. There is not much buying these days. There are investment buyers for inexpensive property,” he continued. — Thit Taw/ZN

Public Notice

THE 78<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Union Day will be held at People’s Square, with a rehearsal taking place on 10 February 2025 and the official Union Day message reading ceremony scheduled for 12 February 2025. As the event will be conducted at People’s Square, Pyay Road will be temporarily closed from the beginning of the ceremony until its conclusion. During this period, vehicles travelling from north to south along Pyay Road must turn right at the underpass near Myaynigon Bridge and continue via Lower Kyimyindine Road. Similarly, vehicles travelling from south to north along Pyay Road must turn onto Pyidaungsu Yeiktha Road and proceed through Khayaybin Road, Ahlon Road, and Lower Kyimyindine Road. Drivers are requested to follow the designated routes accordingly to ensure smooth traffic flow during the event.

Yangon Region Government

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News and Periodicals Enterprise



# NATIONAL

## Department of Highways targets completion of Yangon-Ayeyawady road expansion



Authorities concerned are seen inspecting the upgrading of some road parts.

THE Department of Highways under the Ministry of Construction is trying to complete road expansion on the

main road sections linking Yangon and Ayeyarwady regions within the set timeframe.

The department is endeavouring to finish upgrading the road sections including Yangon-Pathein Road, Pathein-Ngwehsaung Road and Pathein-Shawpya-Chaungtha Road.

Upgrading of the 220 feet long reinforced-concrete bridge 1/106 from two to a four-lane road, road expansion of 48 feet wide asphalt concrete road, upgrading of the bridge to a four-lane road, 48 feet wide four-lane asphalt concrete road and 260 feet long and 28 feet wide RC concrete bridge on Yangon-Pathein road sections are included. Moreover, the upgrading of roads on Pathein-Shawpya-Chaungtha Road is being undertaken. The department is managing the project with momentum to complete it within the set timeframe. — ASH/KK

## Yangon Zoo welcomes 2 rare red pandas from Nay Pyi Taw for panda show

TWO rare red pandas have been transferred from Nay Pyi Taw Zoological Garden to Yangon Zoo for display in the zoo's red panda exhibit, according to the Yangon Zoo management team.

The newly arrived red pandas, a female named Mee Mee and a male named Maung Maung, have been relocated to Yangon Zoo. These two pandas were originally transferred from Myitkyina, Kachin State, to Nay Pyi Taw Zoological Garden in 2015. The transfer was made to replace an elderly red panda at Yangon Zoo that had passed away from old age.

Mee Mee, the female red panda, has a deep reddish-brown coat and is approximately 13 years old, while Maung Maung, the male, has a distinctive yellow head and is around 12 years old.

Red pandas, known for their striking red fur and unique facial form, are scientifically classified as *Ailurus fulgens*.

They are found in the northern regions of Myanmar, along the borders of China and India. However, due to deforestation, illegal poaching, and climate change, red pandas are listed as a globally endangered species. Immediate conservation action is necessary due to the red panda population's continuous deterioration. — ASH/MKKS



This image displays a poster for Panda Day.

## The Teacher 2 to premiere on 7 Feb

THE premiere show for the film named The Teacher 2 took place on 3 February at the President Cinema in Dagon Township, Yangon. Actress Mya Ya, who stars in the film confirmed the event ahead of the movie's official theatrical release on 7 February.

Academy Award-winning director Nyo Min Lwin handled the story, screenplay and direction for 'The Teacher 2' under Nyakyaung Film Production.

According to lead actress Mya Ya, The Teacher 2 is even more intense than its predecessor. "This sequel is much scarier than 'The Teacher 1'. It revolves around the mysteries at Basic Education High School (BEHS 6) Min Khong and how the characters uncover the truth. My role in the film is that of an inquisitive teacher and audiences will find it more of a detective thriller



Cast members at the premiere show of The Teacher 2.

than a conventional horror film," she explained.

The cast includes Mya Ya, Myat, Win Lae Shwe Yi, Lin Htet Wha, Than

Dhana Soe, John Nine Aung, Paing Thit, Moe Yan, Hnin Wut Yi, Eain Jury Mon and Hmone Nant Thar. — ASH/KZL

## 144 bird species recorded wintering in Meinmahla Island Wildlife Sanctuary



This photo showcases migratory birds spotted in the Meinmahla Island Wildlife Sanctuary.

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, a total of 144 bird species have been observed wintering in the Meinmahla Island Wildlife Sanctuary, located in Bogale Township, Ayeyawady Region, from November 2024 to January 2025.

During this period, 38 migratory bird species and 106 resident bird species, making

up a total of 144 species, were recorded in the sanctuary. Among the observed migratory birds were the Caspian Tern, Chinese Pond Heron, Common Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper, Eurasian Curlew, Grey-headed Lapwing, Lesser Adjutant, Oriental Darter, Purple Heron, and Whimbrel.

In collaboration with Nature Conservation Society – Myanmar, the Ministry

of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation conducted bird population surveys in the Meinmahla Island Wildlife Sanctuary and other key areas, including Ramsar sites where wintering and waterbirds are known to gather, such as Ngamanthaung, Gadonkalaykyun, and Gayetgyikyun.

The Meinmahla Island Wildlife Sanctuary was desig-

nated as an ASEAN Heritage Park in 2003 and a Ramsar site in 2017. It is also part of the East Asian–Australasian Flyway, a vital migratory route for birds. These wintering birds typically arrive at the Meinmahla Island Wildlife Sanctuary in the second week of November and return to their breeding grounds in April. — ASH/ KNN

# Yangon Gold and Silver Lab registered with DICA

YANGON Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA) stated that the Gold and Silver Standards Laboratory is accredited by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

Yangon Gold and Silver Standards Laboratory Co Ltd was incorporated under the Myanmar Companies Law 2017 on 31 January 2025 as a Private Company Limited.

YGEA will ensure competent and consistent operations of the laboratory as per gold standards and will endeavour for the lab to hold accreditation of ISO-17025 that enables traceability of testing and calibration to international standards.

The Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee set the pure gold reference prices at K5.47 million per tical (16.329325 grammes) with 19.25 grammes of the density of gold on 5 February. The figures show an increase of K120,000 per tical within two weeks.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation notified gold shop owners of seeking gem trading licences by 17 February 2025 and failing to obtain a licence will be subject to legal action.

The ministry stated that those who run gold transaction service businesses must comply with rules and regulations following Notification 055/2024 released on 25 October 2024. Those entities will face actions under Section 5 of the Essential Supplies and Services Law if they fail to obtain a licence within the set timeframe and execute gold transactions without following reference prices, announced through State-run newspapers on 30 October 2024.

The Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee issues daily gold reference prices for a tical of pure gold (16.329325 grammes) with 19.25 grammes of the density of gold starting from 6 December through MRTV, MWD, the MoNREC website [www.mining.gov.mm](http://www.mining.gov.mm) and YGEA's Facebook page. — NN/KK



The display of gold ingots.

# MGMA adjusts new member fees to match CBM trading rates



Female workers diligently sewing garments at the CMP workplace.

MYANMAR Garment Manufacturers Association (MGMA) changed the contribution fees of new member CMP factories according to the

market trading rate of the Central Bank of Myanmar starting from 1 February 2025.

MGMA set up the Myanmar Gar-

ment Human Resources Development Training Centre (MGHRDC) on 25 March 2009 to offer free capacity building and development courses to workers from the garment industry and create greater job opportunities.

According to MGMA's work executive committee's meeting resolutions (2/2024) and (1/2025), contribution fees for import/export companies working on a Cutting, Making and Packaging basis will be amended starting from 15 February 2024; US\$1,000 (equivalent amount of Myanmar Kyat as per CBM's market trading rate of K3,600 against a US dollar) for wholly foreign invested CMP enterprises or Joint Venture having over 35 per cent shares owned by foreign investors from the previous rate of K500,000. The fees for CMP factories owned by Myanmar Citizens will remain unchanged at K500,000, MGMA stated. — NN/KK

# MoC urges traders to adhere to market price guidelines



Workers meticulously arranged export rice bags at the warehouse.

THE Consumer Affairs Department under the Ministry of Commerce stated that reasonable market prices of rice for February 2025 were issued and non-compliance with the set prices is subject to legal actions.

The Ministry of Commerce issued reasonable prices for all varieties; K70,000-82,000 per 108-pound bag of non-premium rice (Aemahta, Ngasein, Sinthukha, Ngasein Yakyaw, Kayinma, Yadanatone, Tunpu, GW-11, 747, Theepu, Shweman, Nankauk, and

among others), K82,000 per bag of rice varieties (Zeeya, Ngwetoe, Minaya, Nankauk, Shweman) that are consumed locally and exported, K95,000 to K101,000 to Shwethwe, Hmawby -2,3, 90-day short matured rice, Manaw Thukha, Sinthuka, Byawtun, Ayeyapadetha, Ayeyamin produced from Ayeyawady, Yangon and Bago regions, K90,000-133,000 to moderate quality rice including Magyantaw, Ayeyamin and Ayeyapadetha produced from Mandalay, Magway, Sagaing,

Nay Pyi Taw and upper Myanmar regions, and premium Pawsan rice (Ayeyawady Pawsan, Shwabo Pawsan). The retailers are not entitled to make a profit of more than eight per cent of the set reasonable market prices, the ministry announced.

The ministry determined reasonable market prices by considering the following factors; fair profit for the farmers, millers and distributors, reasonable prices for consumers, last year's market price, global market prices and other commodities prices. There are separate prices for modern trade with consumer packaging at mini-marts and supermarkets.

If individuals have difficulty buying rice, they are urged to contact the Myanmar Rice Federation. The buyers can complain about overpricing to the Consumer Affairs Department and MRF.

MRF warned that overpricing, sales with inaccurate measurement and quality and non-compliance with directives are subjected to fines, taxation and prosecution under Section 5 of the Essential Supplies and Services Law. Thus, rice millers, rice shops, traders and merchants are encouraged to follow the rules. — NN/KK

OPINION

Sustain harmonious interfaith across Myanmar

THE United Nations General Assembly designated the first week of February as the World Interfaith Harmony Week in 2010. The General Assembly emphasized that mutual understanding and interreligious dialogue are essential aspects of a culture of peace and established World Interfaith Harmony Week to promote harmony among all people, regardless of their faith.

Recognizing the imperative need for dialogue among different faiths and religions to enhance mutual understanding, harmony and

Since ancient times, the people of Myanmar, comprising more than 130 ethnic groups, have lived together through thick and thin, sharing the same destiny. They have fostered a harmonious interfaith tradition, passing it down through generations as a national heritage. Therefore, they must successfully uphold the theme of the commemorative day: ‘Living Wisdom: Meditations and Practices for a Compassionate Life.’

would promote the aim of the WIHW objectives.

Myanmar is home to more than 100 ethnic nationalities residing in all parts of the country. No ethnic group discriminates against the residents of other ethnicities in their regions. They all live in unity and collaborate based on the spirit of the Union. They firmly believe that everyone has the right to live anywhere in the country, as all areas are their shared homeland, inherited from their forefathers.

At the same time, they do not discriminate against different faiths or impose a threat on people with different beliefs. They show respect for all religions. In the Constitution (2008), Section 362 stipulates: “The Union also recognizes Christianity, Islam, Hinduism and Animism as the religions existing in the Union at the day of the coming into operation of this Constitution,” and Section 368 features: “The Union shall honour and assist citizens who are outstanding in education irrespective of race, religion and sex according to their qualifications.”

Since ancient times, the people of Myanmar, comprising more than 130 ethnic groups, have lived together through thick and thin, sharing the same destiny. They have fostered a harmonious interfaith tradition, passing it down through generations as a national heritage. Therefore, they must successfully uphold the theme of the commemorative day: ‘Living Wisdom: Meditations and Practices for a Compassionate Life.’

cooperation among people, the General Assembly encourages all States to spread the message of interfaith harmony and goodwill in the world’s churches, mosques, synagogues, temples and other places of worship during that week, on a voluntary basis and according to their own religious traditions or convictions, according to the United Nations.

World Interfaith Harmony Week (WIHW), conceived to promote a culture of peace and nonviolence, was first proposed by King Abdullah II of Jordan at the United Nations in 2010. This was quickly adopted by the UN General Assembly (resolution A/RES/65/5), declaring the first week of February each year as World Interfaith Harmony Week, calling on governments, institutions and civil society to observe it with various programmes and initiatives that

“A Pledge to Peace: A Call for Solidarity”

By Inori

HISTORY is indelible, and 12 February 2025 marks the 78th Union Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. Throughout Myanmar’s history, it was only under the reigns of Anawrahta, Bayinnaung, and Alaungpaya that we managed to chronicle the unity of all national brethren in the archive called history. On 12 February 1947, the endeavours of our national leader, General Aung San, and the martyrs – to put an end to the apartheid imposed by the British government between Upper and Lower Myanmar – were acknowledged. The Panglong Agreement was

reached between the leaders representing Upper Myanmar and the government of Myanmar, led by General Aung San. This agreement was a prerequisite demanded by the British government for Myanmar to attain independence.

However, the stark reality is that, amid rising political conflicts, democratic decline, and violence, union solidarity is crumbling – and, we, the people of Myanmar, are witnessing it unfold before our eyes. The shared patriotic spirit within us will certainly condemn any act that threatens to divide the union. On our journey to pave the

way for Federal Democracy, we cannot lose sight of our ultimate goal – that is, to safeguard the perpetual peace and unity of Myanmar.

“Unity is strength.” As the motto goes, we cannot let differing political views divide us, or else every inch of our concerted effort in building this nation will be in vain. If we wish to harness the collective strength of our national brethren, restoring consensus, harmony, and solidarity among diverse ethnic groups is inevitable. This, undoubtedly, is not beyond our capabilities. By promoting understanding and fostering compassion, we will



Anawrahta is one of the most famous kings in Myanmar history. ILLUSTRATION: SOUTHEAST ASIAN HERITAGE & HISTORY

not only create a harmonious and inclusive society, but we will also strengthen the union spirit among us.

Furthermore, we must keep

in mind that foreign interference – one of the root causes propelling Myanmar towards political unrest – is our shared adversary. Myanmar’s geographical

location serves as a strategic point for warfare and economic advantage for some powerful nations seeking global dominance. Exploiting insurrections, politi-

cal chaos, and Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) in Myanmar, these external forces trample upon and sacrifice the people of Myanmar for their own gain.

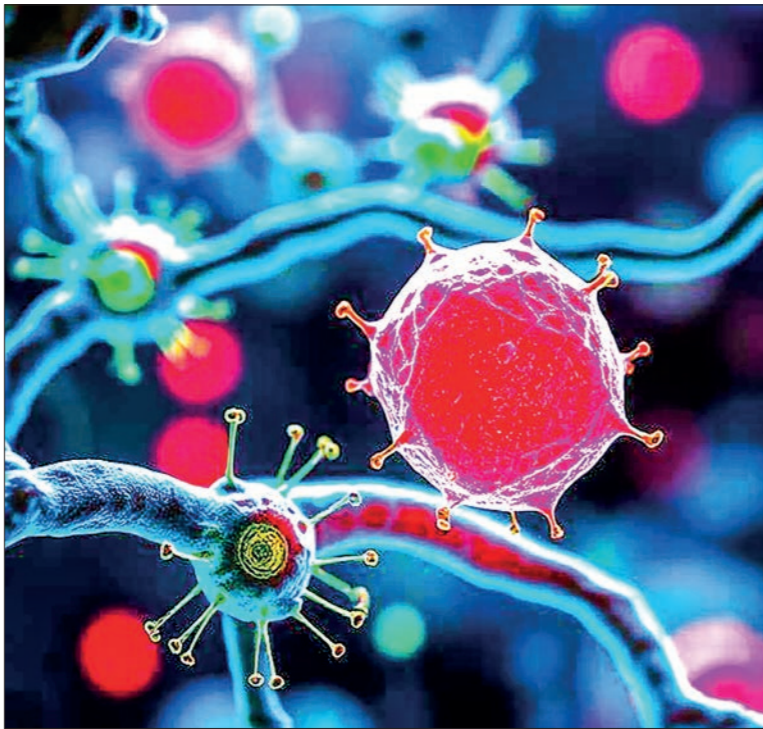
Therefore, any form of foreign intervention or encroachment in Myanmar’s internal affairs is reprehensible. Together, we serve as sentinels, watching for any potential threats that may befall our motherland. It is our shared duty to keep the sovereignty of Myanmar in safe custody.

Myanmar, with its seven states and seven regions, has been passed down to us by our ancestors, and we are duty-bound to preserve the union territory they have entrusted us with. This is why we must join hands in harmony with one another and repel any kind of external interference. Let us remember that it is we and we alone – with compassion and understanding – who can steadfastly keep union solidarity intact and ensure peace and stability within the state.

To conclude, I proudly hail the 78<sup>th</sup> Union Day by chanting the motto:

“United in heart and soul, marching towards the Union’s goal.”

■



This research not only sheds light on the mechanisms behind SHH medulloblastoma but also opens new avenues for treatment that could significantly impact the lives of children diagnosed with this challenging disease. ILLUSTRATION: REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE IMAGE/ CONCEPT ART

BRAIN cancer presents a unique set of challenges for researchers because by the time a person develops symptoms, the tumours are sometimes so complicated that the fundamental mechanisms driving tumour

growth are no longer easily identifiable. A research team led by Dr Peter Dirks is aiming to overcome this obstacle for sonic hedgehog (SHH) medulloblastoma.

In a new study, the researchers identify that a protein is re-

Researchers find out way to prevent childhood brain tumour: Study

Scientists at The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids) have discovered a way to prevent tumour growth in a subtype of medulloblastoma, the most prevalent children’s malignant brain cancer.

sponsible for the waking up of ‘sleeping’ stem cells and driving SHH medulloblastoma tumour formation and regrowth. By blocking this protein and preventing the stem cells from waking, the study demonstrates what could be a pivotal treatment strategy for the cancer, utilising cutting-edge genomic approaches in combination with functional experiments in a preclinical model.

“Our findings offer a novel strategy to target cancer stem cells, providing hope for more effective treatments against aggressive brain tumors,” says Dirks, Senior Scientist in the Developmental, Stem Cell & Cancer Biology program and Chief of the Division of Neurosurgery.

The research team began by examining cellular transitions that drove the development of SHH medulloblastoma tumours. They found that early in tumour development and after conventional treatments, a protein called OLIG2 would activate ‘sleeping’ stem cells, causing them to divide and grow into a tumour.

“There is order to how the cancer initiating stem cells undergo fate changes to form tumours. We can target an early transition event and intercept the entire process — essentially stopping the cancer in its earliest form,” says first author Dr Kinjal Desai, a postdoctoral researcher in the Dirks lab.

During these transitions,

the researchers uncovered a key window during which tumour progression could be blocked. By combining a previously established treatment with a small molecule called CT-179, which disrupts the OLIG2 protein, the research team were able to target the residual stem cells left after treatment and prevent them from re-awakening, effectively preventing tumour relapse. Similarly for early-stage SHH medulloblastoma, CT-179 prevented the tumour from forming and significantly increased survival rates in the preclinical model.

Together with additional preclinical models in a study published simultaneously in Nature Communications from colleagues at Children’s Healthcare of Atlan-

ta and QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute in Australia, the findings showcase what could be an effective new treatment for SHH medulloblastoma, as well as other brain cancers including diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma (DIPG).

The study complements recent research from the Dirks Lab in Nature, which describes the early stages of glioblastoma development. While future research will expand these findings into clinical trials for patients, particularly among those being monitored for relapse, the Dirks lab, part of the Arthur and Sonia Labatt Brain Tumour Research Centre (BTRC), is excited for the diagnostic potential this discovery presents.

Key Findings:

- Role of OLIG2: The study reveals that OLIG2 is responsible for “waking up” sleeping stem cells during the early stages of SHH medulloblastoma development. This activation leads to the proliferation of these cells, contributing to tumor growth.
- Targeting Cancer Stem Cells: By blocking OLIG2 with a small molecule called CT-179, researchers were able to prevent these stem cells from reactivating after conventional treatments, thereby reducing the risk of tumor relapse. This approach represents a novel strategy to target cancer stem cells directly.
- Preclinical Success: In preclinical models, the combination of CT-179 with established treatments not only prevented tumour formation in early-stage SHH medulloblastoma but also significantly improved survival rates.
- Broader Implications: The findings suggest potential applications beyond SHH medulloblastoma, including other aggressive brain cancers like diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma (DIPG). This could pave the way for new therapeutic strategies across various types of brain tumors.
- Future Directions: The research team is looking to expand these findings into clinical trials, particularly for patients at risk of relapse. The study emphasizes the importance of precision biology in cancer treatment, moving beyond traditional genetic testing to more targeted approaches.

“At SickKids, we’re already genetically testing every child with cancer to inform their diagnosis and treatments – our study goes beyond genetic testing to precision biology,” says Dirks. “I am excit-

ed for a future where this ‘magic bullet’ for early treatment could be combined with diagnostic tests to potentially prevent the cancer from developing at all.”

SOURCE: ANI

# NATIONAL

## Hospital ship ‘Thanlwin’ continues medical services



Locals receiving healthcare from the hospital vessel.

TATMADAW’S hospital ship ‘Thanlwin’, accompanied by mobile specialist medical teams comprising consultants, doctors, and nurses on board, has been providing healthcare services to residents along the Taninthayi coastal region, as well as to communities near Cocokyun Township in Yangon Region and Hainggyikyung in Ayeyawady Region.

The mobile medical team set up a temporary base at the Tatmadaw Hospital at Kyaung

Thit Monastery in Chaungwa Village, Ngapudaw Township in Ayeyawady Region to provide healthcare services to 626 locals from the town and nearby villages.

The treatments included general medical consultations for 134 patients, surgical care for 55 patients, obstetric and gynaecological care for 26 patients, paediatric treatments for 59 children, orthopaedic care for 97 patients, ear, nose, and throat treatment for 39 pa-

tients, ophthalmology services for 123 patients, and dental care for 93 patients.

Moreover, two patients underwent general surgeries, 15 had X-ray examinations, 65 were tested using ultrasound, 68 underwent ECG heart screenings, and 80 had laboratory tests. Furthermore, arrangements were made for four patients requiring further treatment to be referred to nearby Tatmadaw hospitals.

— MNA/KTZH

## Counter-argument to false information

### Malicious media spreads false reports on Myitsone Village incident

SUBVERSIVE media outlets falsely reported that security forces carried out an airstrike on Myitsone Village in Myaung Township, Sagaing Region, on 3 February, destroying two houses. Investigations have confirmed that this claim is baseless.

According to security officials and residents, security forces have been conducting necessary security measures to prevent terrorists from using these townships as hideouts. They have not targeted villages that are not military objectives and there have been no attacks in such areas. Terrorists have deliberately launched drone and heavy weapon attacks on



This screenshot validates misinformation.

villages and neighbourhoods that do not support them, aiming to instil fear among residents. Reports indicate that malicious news media inten-

tionally fabricated this story to conceal terrorist activities and mislead the public about the actions of security forces.

— MNA/KZL

## Myanmar National Human Rights Commission

Statement 2/2025

- On 31 January 2025, the State Administration Council issued Order 16/2025 to constitute the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC) with a chairperson and eight members.
- MNHRC was initially established on 5 September 2011 under Union Government Notification 34/2011 to promote human rights and ensure a comprehensive and effective transition to a democratic state. To align with the international standards for National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) and to ensure a firm and sustainable commission, the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Law was enacted as Law No 21/2014 by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 28 March 2014.
- As an institution established under the MNHRC Law, the commission carries out its mandate and responsibilities following legal provisions. The primary functions of the commission include promoting human rights education and awareness among the public; protecting against human rights violations; advising the government on ensuring that national laws comply with international human rights treaties; recommending the ratification of additional international human rights conventions that the State should become a party to; and engaging not only with government bodies, civil society organizations (CSOs) but also with regional and international human rights mechanisms.
- To effectively implement its mandate, the commission will develop a Framework of Action Plan and an Annual Operational Plan in line with its legal objectives. These plans will focus on enhancing public awareness of fundamental human rights principles and values; handling and monitoring complaints related to human rights violations; systematically conducting inspections of places of confinement, as well as other necessary locations; ensuring the inclusion of human rights standards in legal amendments and drafting new legislation; reviewing international human rights treaties that Myanmar has not yet ratified; and strengthening collaboration with international and regional human rights mechanisms, government institutions, and legally set up organizations including non-governmental organizations (NGOs), international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) and civil society organizations (CSOs).
- Any individual who experiences a violation of their fundamental rights and legal rights may submit a complaint on their own behalf, on behalf of another person, or on behalf of a group. Complaints can be submitted to the MNHRC Chairperson at 27, Pyay Road, Hlaing Township, Yangon, or to MNHRC branches in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Patheingyi and Sittway, by post, in person at the respective MNHRC offices, by fax: 01 654678, by email: protection@mnhrc.org.mm. The commission will review and process complaints and cooperate with relevant government authorities to address human rights violations and provide appropriate remedies.
- Under the MNHRC Law, the commission submits an Annual Report containing recommendations on the state of human rights in Myanmar and the commission’s activities to the President and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. If necessary, the commission may also submit special reports on human rights issues to the President.
- The commission is committed to promoting and protecting human rights and urges all relevant stakeholders to participate in these efforts actively. MNHRC will continue working towards achieving the objectives set out in the MNHRC Law to ensure an effective national human rights institution in Myanmar.

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission  
Date: 6 February 2025

NATIONAL

Stable soft-shell crab supply ensures ongoing exports

TO continuously produce and export Myanmar’s soft-shell crabs to foreign markets, the crab larvae should be bred in the sanctuaries or hatchery farms, according to the Taninthayi Region Fisheries Federation.

The sea crabs from mangroves and seas are cultivated to export as soft-shell crabs. Due to the decline in capturing rate year by year, the crab farmers are worried about the extinction of crabs in the long run.

In breeding sea crabs, one or two-month-old juvenile crabs are kept in a basket, and three-month-old crabs are transferred to freshwater tanks, where oxygen is provided when they raise soft shells. After disinfection,



Soft-shell crabs. PHOTO: ZWE MARN

they are transferred to packaging facilities, and they are packed in plastic bags per crab and put in Styrofoam weighing 28 kilogrammes. After that, they are exported to foreign countries through the cold facilities

of Yangon. “Taninthayi Region produces and exports soft-shell crabs like other marine products. We breed the juvenile crabs and export them from the cold storage plants after packaging them

when they finish moulting. The hardship we face now is that we have to buy the crab larvae, so the raw material demand is high and there is also a shortage of workers. Hatching is the best way to prevent extinction. We need to catch and farm the permitted sizes. Some are released into the natural mangroves. If all conserve together, there will be changes to breed in the long run. Since it earns foreign income, it is essential to ensure its sustainability for the future,” said U Thet Soe, secretary of the federation.

The soft-shell crabs were farmed in Myeik district starting in 2004, and the black crabs (mud crabs) were purchased and bred per the GAqP system. Until December 2024-2025,

Myeik and Kyunsu townships produced 488.512 tonnes of soft-shell crabs in 511.81acres earning US\$1.205 million.

The soft-shell crabs are produced in Taninthayi Region, Ayeyawady Region and Rakhine State and exported to Asian and European countries. Due to the scarcity of raw materials, the people led to prawn farming from crab farming and reduced the crab population in farming. Therefore, the people should follow the rules and regulations of the Fisheries Department to ensure the sustainability of marine resources. Such doings can create job opportunities for residents, and businesspeople can earn foreign income from the export sector yearly. — Thitsa(MNA)/KTZH

Promising trade for Mon State refined salt

REFINED salt manufactured in Mon State has been promising and the price is good too, according to U Naing, a salt businessman from Mon State.

Refined salt price has been fine due to the market demand, he said.

“Refined salt price is good. At the same time, labour costs, fuel costs and manufacturing costs are rising too. Salt factories have labour shortage so their capacity has declined, that is why refined salt demand has mounted now, leading to high prices,” he said.

In the meantime, coarse salt prices have fallen now as a result of the increase in production and farmers have sold aggressively to make money quickly.

“The production is surplus but the manufacturing capacity has declined due to rising labour cost and fuel costs, so farmers need to sell their coarse salts quickly so that they can make money. That is why, the coarse salt price has declined,” said U Win Naing.

Mon State-produced salt

has orders from Yangon and Mandalay regularly and the market has been fine, said a salt business owner. In Mon State, salt farming starts operation in September and harvest season arrives in early January.

Before 2008, Mon State’s Thanbyuzayat, Paung and Ye townships were able to produce salt even nearly 45,000 tonnes, however, depending on the weather and labour force, the state’s annual salt production is now around just 20,000 tonnes. – MT/ZS



Workers harvesting salt at the farm in Mon State.

Increased beef cattle breeding boosts food security



This photo depicts cattle at the farm.

THERE is potential for domestic food security by raising more beef cattle, according to cattle breeders in Myaungdaga.

“Now, in Kawhmu, the breeding zones are being set up in Twantay. There are more cattle breeding zones in Myaungdaga. Compared to other livestock farming, cattle breeding is given more priority. Furthermore, there is potential for domestic food security by raising beef cattle. If the State can create a market, and if there is an opportunity to export, there is potential for livestock farming

to increase significantly,” said Ko Sai La Shee, a cattle breeder in Myaungdaga.

The number of cattle breeding farmers is increasing, and if there are more breeders, they can contribute to domestic food security.

“The number of people who raise cattle on farms is increasing in some places. There are small cattle breeding zones. We have applied for additional cattle breeding zones. They are allowed only for actual breeders. Only then they can contribute to the local food supply,” he said. — Thit Taw/ZN

ECONOMY  
WORLD

Belgian PM unveils economic, security overhaul

Belgian Prime Minister Bart De Wever announced austerity measures, stricter migration controls, and increased defence spending.



Newly appointed Belgian Prime Minister Bart De Wever speaks with Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez at the Palais d'Egmont in Brussels on 3 February 2025. PHOTO: NICOLAS TUCAT, AFP

BELGIUM'S new Prime Minister Bart De Wever outlined his government's priorities in parliament on Tuesday, pledging austerity measures, stricter migration controls, and a security overhaul, including increased defence spending and police reforms.

De Wever emphasized that reducing Belgium's debt, which exceeds 100 per cent of its gross domestic product (GDP), is a key priority. The government plans to cap unemployment benefits at two years and introduce pension reforms, imposing a two per cent

annual penalty for early retirement starting in 2026, rising to five per cent by 2040, while rewarding those who work beyond the legal retirement age.

"Those who retire early must accept the financial consequences," he told lawmakers.

The government also aims to boost employment by gradually raising the minimum wage and cutting employer taxes by 1.5 billion euros (US\$1.56 billion). Workers will receive 500 euros more per month than those on unemployment, reinforcing incentives to remain in the

workforce.

On migration, social benefits will be restricted for newcomers until they have lived in Belgium for five years. Family reunification rules will tighten, and asylum seekers will receive reduced financial aid, covering their own expenses once granted residency.

To enhance public security, the government will merge Brussels' police zones to improve coordination in crime response. De Wever vowed zero tolerance for violence against law enforcement and pledged stronger policing measures. — Xinhua

Thai cabinet approves phase 2 of high-speed rail project to link Laos, China

THAILAND'S cabinet on Tuesday approved the second phase of the high-speed rail project that will connect the South-

east Asian country with China through Laos, with completion expected in 2030. Spanning five stations, the 357-kilometre sec-



This aerial photo taken on 25 November 2022 shows the Vientiane Railway Station in Vientiane, Laos. PHOTO: KAIKEO SAIYASANE/XINHUA

ond phase of the railway will extend an under-construction segment linking the Thai capital Bangkok and Nakhon Ratchasima province to Nong Khai at the border with Laos, said Thai government spokesman Jirayu Houngsub. The second phase also includes the construction of a logistics hub in the north-eastern Nong Khai province, which will facilitate freight movement between Thailand's 1-metre gauge railway and the 1.435-metre standard gauge used in the China-Laos Railway, offering a one-stop service for cargo transfer, Jirayu said in a statement. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Indonesia to import 100,000 tonnes of buffalo meat ahead of Ramadan

INDONESIA plans to import 100,000 tonnes of buffalo meat to maintain stable meat stocks ahead of the Ramadan season, which begins in March, the country's National Food Agency announced on Wednesday.

"The import of buffalo meat is intended to stabilize prices and ensure supply during the Eid al-Fitr celebration, as food commodity prices and demand typically rise during that period," said Arief Prasetyo Adi, head of the agency, during a press conference in Jakarta.

He said the meat would be sourced from India and would take approximately one month to reach Indonesia. He also noted that the import policy would take into account the protection of local farmers and ranchers.

"The quantity of the imported commodity aligns with our needs and will not harm our local farmers," he added. — Xinhua

Japan real wages drop for 3<sup>rd</sup> straight yr in 2024 as inflation bites

JAPAN'S real wages fell 0.2 per cent from a year earlier in 2024, marking the third consecutive year of decline, as pay hikes that grew at the fastest pace in 33 years failed to keep pace with rising prices, government data showed Wednesday.

Nominal wages, or the average total monthly earnings per

worker including base and overtime pay, increased 2.9 per cent to 348,182 yen (\$2,300) last year, expanding for the fourth straight year, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare said.

But consumer prices outpaced wage growth with a 3.2 per cent rise in the reporting year, although the pace decelerated

from a 3.8 per cent increase in 2023. By month, real wages at workplaces with five or more employees increased year-on-year only when bonuses were paid in June, July, November and December, despite the government's push to achieve wage growth exceeding inflation. — Kyodo



Pedestrians cross the street in front of luxury shops in the Ginza shopping district in Tokyo on 19 January 2024. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

# Toyota ups FY 2024 net profit forecast on weak yen, hybrid car sales

TOYOTA Motor Corp on Wednesday raised its net profit forecast for the year ending March to 4.52 trillion yen (\$29 billion) from its earlier estimate of 3.57 trillion yen, benefiting from the weaker-than-expected yen and robust sales of hybrid cars. The new figure represents an 8.6 per cent fall from a year earlier, com-

pared with the 27.8 per cent drop forecast previously. Sales are now projected at 47 trillion yen, a record high and up from the previously forecast 46 trillion yen, the automaker said. It also upgraded its outlook for operating profit to 4.7 trillion yen from 4.3 trillion yen. Toyota also said it will set up a wholly owned sub-

sidiary in Shanghai to build electric vehicles under the Lexus brand and batteries, adding that it will employ about 1,000 people and start production from 2027 or later. In the nine months ended December, net profit rose 3.9 per cent from a year earlier to a record 4.10 trillion yen on record sales of 35.67 trillion yen, up 4.9

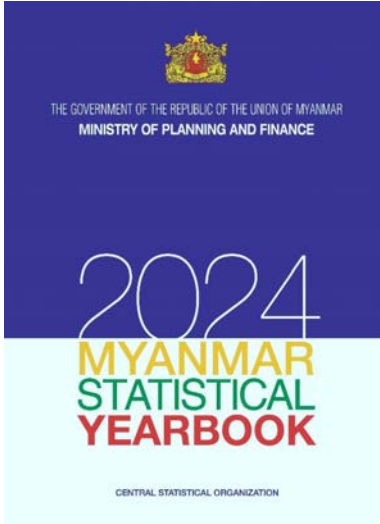
per cent. The group, which includes truck subsidiary Hino Motors Ltd. And small-car maker Daihatsu Motor Co sold 8.30 million vehicles in the nine months, down 3.1 per cent from a year earlier, following a recent vehicle certification scandal that briefly halted production of some models. — Kyodo



In the nine months ended December, net profit rose 3.9 per cent from a year earlier to a record 4.10 trillion yen on record sales of 35.67 trillion yen, up 4.9 per cent. **PHOTO: KYODO**

## Alphabet reports Q4 revenue with 12% growth

Alphabet Inc, Google's parent company, on Tuesday reported its 2024 fourth-quarter revenues at US\$96.5 billion, up 12 per cent from the same period of 2023. Google Services revenues increased 10 per cent to \$84.1 billion, reflecting the strong momentum across Google Search & other and YouTube ads, according to the company's financial report. Google Cloud revenues increased 30 per cent to \$12.0 billion led by growth in Google Cloud Platform (GCP) across core GCP products, AI Infrastructure, and Generative AI Solutions, the company said. — Xinhua



**Myanmar Statistical Yearbook 2024** has been published, just as international statistical bulletins, which includes 16 chapters and over 309 tables with an updated compendium of statistics, technical notes, glossary and the data from many surveys conducted by the Central Statistical Organization. It can be purchased at 160,000/- Kyats for both Hard Copy & CD-Rom, and at 10,000/- Kyats for only CD-Rom. Myanmar Statistical Yearbook 2024 is available at Central Statistical Organization, Office No(32), Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, Central Statistical Organization Yangon Branch, La-127/128, Hluttaw Compound, Alone Road, Dagon Township, Yangon Region, and Sar Pay Beik Man Store (Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon) respectively. Phone : +95 673 406328, 673 406329, 673 406468, 01 8302481, 01 8302482

### Transferring Registered Pesticides

Registered pesticides distributing by **Myanmar Golden Byter Co.,Ltd.** in the territory of Myanmar for the product as following are transferring from **Jingbo Agrochemicals Technology Co.,Ltd.** former producer to **Anhui Byter Agriculture Technology Co.,Ltd.** as per mutual consent from both parties. Any objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board within (14) days.

No	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration No.
1	Strength 250 WP	Diflubenzuron 25% WP	P2020-4866

Myanmar Golden Byter Co.,Ltd.  
No.125-127, Kha 11<sup>st</sup>, Myoe Thit (A+B) Quarter, Inn Sein Township, Yangon.

### Transferring Distributor for Registered Product

Distribution of following pesticide registered by **Asiatic Agricultural Industries Pte Ltd (Singapore)** is transferring from **Aka Yarzar Co.,Ltd.** to **Farm Link Co.,Ltd.** Any Objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Co Secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, West Gyogone, Insein Township, within two weeks.

Sr.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Reg. Type	Reg. No.
1.	Espire 60 EC	Butachlor 60% EC	Full	F2017-1591

Asiatic Agricultural Industries Pte Ltd (Myanmar Branch)  
Room 209, Rangoun Business Centre; No. 97. West Shwe Gon Daing Road, Bahan Township, Yangon. Tele: 09-5145328

### Transferring Distributor for Registered Product

Distribution of following pesticide registered by **Asiatic Agricultural Industries Pte Ltd (Singapore)** is transferring from **Asiatic Agricultural Industries Pte Ltd (Myanmar Branch)** to **Farm Link Co.,Ltd.** Any Objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Co Secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, West Gyogone, Insein Township, within two weeks.

Sr.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Reg. Type	Reg. No.
1.	Agronil 36 EC	Propanil 36% EC	Full	F2017-1588

Asiatic Agricultural Industries Pte Ltd (Myanmar Branch)  
Room 209, Rangoun Business Centre; No. 97. West Shwe Gon Daing Road, Bahan Township, Yangon. Tele: 09-5145328

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ALVAN VOY.NO. (SCY1176)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ALVAN VOY. NO. (SCY1176)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **5-2-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** 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 LAND AND SEA INTERMODAL LOGISTICS SDN BHD LINE**

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MSC ANDREA F VOY.NO. (SB503A)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MSC ANDREA F VOY.NO. (SB503A)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **6-2-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon. Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel. No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. Phone No: **2301185** Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority  
Agent For:  
**M/S MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY S.A**

## "NOTICE TO MEMBERS OF THE CITY GOLF RESORT FOR PAYMENT OF MONTHLY FEES"

1. It is found out that some members (Myanmar/ Foreigners) of the City Golf Resort, Yangon city Development Committee, have failed to pay their monthly fees for various reasons.  
2. According to paragraph (9) of the rules and regulations of the City Golf Resort, those members (Myanmar / Foreigners) who fail to pay their monthly fees for a period of one year and over shall cease to be a member of the Resort, and so they are intimated to come and clear their outstanding monthly fees.  
**General Manager  
City Golf Resort**

ROLLING UPDATES  
WORLD



A warehouse administrator walks between rows of sacks of rice inside the National Food Authority (NFA) warehouse in Valenzuela City, the Philippines, on 4 February 2025. PHOTO: ROUELLE UMALI/XINHUA

Philippines declares food security emergency to tame soaring rice prices

*Philippine Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel declared a food security emergency to address soaring rice prices, allowing the release of buffer stocks from the National Food Authority.*

PHILIPPINE Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel declared a food security emergency on rice on Monday to stabilize the “extraordinary” rice prices in the country.

“This emergency declaration allows us to release rice buffer stocks held by the National Food Authority (NFA) to stabilize prices and ensure that rice, a staple food for millions, remains accessible to

consumers,” Laurel said in a statement.

Laurel said the emergency rice declaration is based on the recommendations of the National Price Coordinating Council. Under the Rice Tariffication Law, the agriculture secretary can declare a food security emergency in response to extraordinary price increases.

The declaration allows the Department of Agriculture to

direct the NFA to release buffer stocks to government agencies and local government units to pull down the rice prices and protect the consumers from further price hikes.

The declaration is the latest in government efforts to reduce rice prices.

Laurel said the food security emergency will remain in effect until the rice prices are tamed. — Xinhua

BRIEF: WORLD

Saudi Arabia renews stand of no ties with Israel without a Palestinian state

SAUDI Arabia renewed on Wednesday its stand of no ties with Israel without a Palestinian state.

Saudi Arabia's unwavering position on the establishment of a Palestinian state is non-negotiable and not subject to compromises, the Saudi Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

The country will continue its relentless efforts to establish an independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital, and will not establish diplomatic relations with Israel without that, it said.

The country also reaffirms its unequivocal rejection of any infringement on the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, whether through Israeli settlement policies, land annexation, or attempts to displace the Palestinian people from their land, it said. — Xinhua

Sweden: At least 10 dead after shooting at Orebro school campus

A shooting at an education centre in central Sweden left at least 10 people dead and several others injured on Tuesday, as reported by the New York Times.

The suspect was among the dead, Sweden's Justice Minister Gunnar Strommer said. However, authorities released a few other details, including the person's identity and a possible motive.

“We do not think there is any terror motive behind this, but it is too early in the investigation to say,” Roberto Eid Forest, the head of the local police, said on Tuesday evening, as reported by the New York Times. “We think we have the perpetrator,” he added, “but we are not ruling out anything”. — ANI

Meeting Trump not on Iran's agenda now: VP

Iran's First Vice-President Mohammad Reza Aref said here Wednesday that meeting and negotiating with US President Donald Trump, though not “impossible”, is not on Iran's agenda at the moment, the official news agency IRNA reported.

Noting Iran's strategies, especially in the defense sector, are “stable and permanent”, Aref told reporters on the sidelines of a cabinet meeting that under the fatwa, an Iranian religious decree, using nuclear technology for unpeaceful activities is prohibited.

Meanwhile, Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi said on the sidelines of the cabinet meeting that the “maximum pressure” campaign against Tehran the United States just restored will fail again, according to IRNA. — Xinhua

Kazakhstan introduces tourist safety system, every foreign visitor to receive QR code card

KAZAKHSTAN is taking steps to enhance the safety and convenience of foreign tourists and has introduced a new initiative to provide every incoming traveller with a special QR code card linked to the SafeTravel.kz platform.

This multilingual online resource offers essential safety information, emergency contacts, as well as travel recommendation.

The Embassy of Kazakhstan in a press release stated, “At a recent expanded government meeting, the Head of State emphasized the strategic importance of tourism development and the creation of favourable conditions for foreign visitors.”

It added, “In line with this directive, Kazakhstan's Ministry of Internal Affairs continues to enhance the safety of incoming

tourists. Now, every foreign visitor entering Kazakhstan, including those passing through border control, can receive a special card with a QR code linking to the multilingual online platform SafeTravel.kz. This platform provides essential information and recommendations for a safe stay in Kazakhstan, along with links to download useful mobile applications.” — ANI



This resource offers essential safety information, emergency contacts, and travel recommendations, enhancing the safety and convenience of tourists in the country. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIONAL PHOTO/ANI

SPORTS

Japan's Kurosaki appointed head coach of Myanmar U-22 Team

THE Myanmar Football Federation has officially appointed Japanese national Kurosaki as the head coach of the Myanmar U-22 team. Announcing the decision on 5 February, the federation confirmed that Kurosaki, a former Japan national team player, will lead the squad.

Kurosaki played for the Japan national team from 1989 to

1997 before retiring and moving into coaching. He has managed J-League clubs such as Albirex Niigata and Kashima Antlers, as well as China's Qingdao club. This year, he will guide the Myanmar U-22 team in major international competitions, including the 33<sup>rd</sup> SEA Games in Thailand, the ASEAN U-22 Championship and the AFC

U-23 Asian Cup qualifiers, aiming for strong performances in these tournaments. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Japan's Kurosaki signs the contract for the Myanmar U-22 head coach. **PHOTO: MFF**



Austria's Puchner tops second downhill training at world champs

AUSTRIAN Mirjam Puchner hit speeds of 140 kilometres per hour to top the women's second downhill training at the World Ski Championships in Saalbach on Wednesday.

American Ryan Cochran-Siegle headed the men's first training run, leading home a host of race favourites including Swiss racer Marco Odermatt, defending super-G champion James Crawford of Canada and the Austrian duo of Vincent Kriechmayr and Stefan Babinsky.

Puchner clocked 1min 42.30sec down the Ulli Maier course as racers honed their technique and equipment ahead of Thursday's women's super-G, the first individual medal event of the world championships that run until 16 February.

"I did very well today, I was able to build up a good feeling yesterday," Puchner said of finishing sixth in the first training run.

"I really like this downhill. My performances so far this season were not what I wanted them to be. I didn't just want to survive the training runs, I wanted to show what I can do."

American Breezy Johnson was second, while teammate Lindsey Vonn was more than 3sec off the pace after a moderate descent in brilliant sunshine.

There was no drama on the piste, with super-G favourites Lara Gut-Behrami of Switzerland and the Italian trio of Sofia Goggia, Federica Brignone and Nicol Delago all safely negotiating the course. — AFP



Austria's Mirjam Puchner takes part in the women's second downhill training. **PHOTO: APA/AFP**

IOC signs media rights deal with TelevisaUnivision until 2032



The International Olympic Committee (IOC) announced Tuesday TelevisaUnivision became the exclusive media rights holder of free-to air, pay television and digital platforms, as well as non-exclusive radio rights in Mexico through to 2032. **PHOTO: IOC**

THE International Olympic Committee (IOC) announced Tuesday TelevisaUnivision became the exclusive media rights holder of free-to air, pay television and digital platforms, as well as non-exclusive radio rights in Mexico through to

the right to sub-licence media rights within Mexico. The period covers the Los Angeles 2028 and the Brisbane 2032 Summer Games as well as the Milano Cortina 2026 and the French Alps 2030 Winter Games, also the Youth Olympic Games during this period.

"On behalf of the IOC, I am delighted to announce this new, long-term agreement with TelevisaUnivision, which ensures comprehensive coverage of every Olympic Games edition until 2032 for viewers in Mexico.

It follows great collaboration on the Olympic Games Paris 2024 between our organizations," said IOC President Thomas Bach. — Xinhua

Barca avoiding 'excuses' after Real Madrid ref complaints: Flick

BARCELONA coach Hansi Flick said Wednesday his team would not hide behind "excuses" after rivals Real Madrid attacked Spanish refereeing following a surprise La Liga defeat.

Los Blancos were beaten 1-0 at relegation-battling Espanyol on Saturday and subsequently sent a furious letter to the Spanish football federation blasting the country's refereeing as "rigged" and "completely discredited".

Madrid were angry after Espanyol defender Carlos Romero avoided a red card for

hacking down striker Kylian Mbappe and went on to score the winning goal.

"This (letter) is their choice, they do it like this, it's not our way – I said no excuses and we will do it like that," Flick told a news conference ahead of Barcelona's Copa del Rey quarter-final at Valencia on Thursday.

"Every club has some reasons to say something. We're humans, it's normal in life, everyone makes mistakes.

"The referees have tough jobs. we have to take care of them, it's not easy this situation... when I arrived I said no

excuses, no complaining and no blaming, I don't like that."

Real Madrid remain top of La Liga by one point ahead of city rivals Atletico Madrid, whom they host on Saturday in the top flight.

Carlo Ancelotti's side are in action on Wednesday at Leganes in the Copa del Rey, while Atletico thrashed Getafe 5-0 on Tuesday to reach the semi-finals.

Record 31-time Spanish cup winners Barcelona thrashed Valencia 7-1 in La Liga in January but Flick said it would be harder going at Mestalla. — AFP



# WORLD

## Thai PM visits China with eyes on strengthening cooperation, restoring tourist confidence



A Chinese tourist takes photos at the Grand Palace scenic spot in Bangkok, Thailand, on 5 October 2023. (PHOTO BY RACHEN SAGEAMSAK/XINHUA)

Thai Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra is visiting China to enhance bilateral ties and restore Chinese tourist confidence as the two nations celebrate 50 years of diplomatic relations.

“mutual trust and respect, a common vision towards prosperity and progress, as well as familial ties between our peoples”.

Speaking to reporters on Tuesday, Paetongtarn said her visit aims to promote cultural exchanges between Thailand and China, celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic relations, and strengthen economic cooperation.

China has been one of Thailand’s largest sources of foreign direct investment in recent years. According to data released by China’s General Administration of Customs in January, bilateral trade between the two countries reached US\$133.98 billion in 2024, an increase of 6.1 per cent year on year. — Xinhua

THAI Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra embarks on an official visit to China on Wednesday. As 2025 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and Thailand, her visit is expected to enhance

bilateral ties, including further expanding the economic cooperation for mutual benefit and restoring the confidence of Chinese tourists in travelling to Thailand. This is Paetongtarn’s first official visit to Beijing since assuming office in

August last year. Shortly after becoming Thailand’s prime minister, she affirmed her commitment to further strengthening bilateral ties between Thailand and China, emphasizing that the friendship between the two countries was based on

## Trump signs order withdrawing US from UN bodies

US President Donald Trump has signed an executive order withdrawing the United States from

several United Nations bodies, including the Human Rights Council and the main relief

agency for Palestinians, while launching a broader review of US funding for the organization.

US President Donald Trump on Tuesday signed an executive order withdrawing Washington from a number of United Nations bodies, including its Human Rights Council (UNHRC), and setting up a broader review of US funding for the multilateral organization.

The executive order said it withdrew Washington from UNHRC and the main UN relief agency for Palestinians (UNRWA), and would review involvement in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). — AFP



A truck from the United Nations agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) carrying fuel arrives at the Egyptian side of the Rafah border crossing with Gaza on 22 November 2023, during fighting between Israel and Hamas militants. PHOTO: AFP

### THE CITY’S 70 CONSTITUENCIES

#### Voting underway for local elections in Indian capital

VOTING for the local elections that began Wednesday morning is underway in the Indian capital territory, Delhi, officials said.

Polling across the city’s 70 constituencies started at 7 am local time amid tight security and adequate arrangements, and would go on until 6 pm.

Long queues of voters were seen outside designated polling booths waiting to cast votes.

The official broadcaster All India Radio (AIR) said nearly 33.31 per cent voter turnout was recorded until 1 pm local time. According to the Election Commission of India (ECI), 699 candidates are in the fray for 70 seats. Over 15 million voters are eligible to exercise their franchise in the ongoing elections.

Officials said tight security and elaborate arrangements were put in place to ensure free, fair and peaceful polling across the national capital city. The ECI has deployed over 180,000 polling personnel to ensure the smooth conduct of elections. — Xinhua