

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

**I**N preparation for the submission of Myanmar Thanaka cultural tradition to UNESCO’s Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity before March 2025, educational programmes on Thanaka culture are being conducted throughout February at museums and libraries under the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture.

Students from various schools in Nay Pyi Taw were invited to the National Museum (Nay Pyi Taw) for an educational session on Thanaka culture on 7 February. Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Daw Nu Mra Zan delivered a lecture on the history of



Myanmar Thanaka showcased ahead of **UNESCO** submission

Myanmar submitted a proposal to UNESCO in March 2021 to include Myanmar Thanaka on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Workers process Thanaka bark for distribution to local markets.

Thanaka, its uses and its significance in Myanmar’s daily life, emphasizing its uniqueness as a cultural tradition. The students actively participated by applying Thanaka to each other in a joyful atmosphere.

At the National Museum (Nay Pyi Taw), various activities are being held as part of the educational programmes, including exhibitions of explanatory texts and documentary videos on Thanaka, students’ poetry recitations related to Thanaka and hands-on demonstrations where participants can grind and apply Thanaka themselves. — MNA/KZL

Myanmar begins zero-tariff maize exports to Thailand



A farm worker sorts corn for export processing.

**MYANMAR** have started to ship maize to Thailand under Customs Tariff exemption, maize traders said.

Thailand gives the green light for maize imports under zero tariff (with Form D), between 1 February and 31 August. However,

Thailand imposes a maximum tax rate of 73 per cent on maize imports to protect the rights of their growers if the maize is imported during the maize season of Thailand. Therefore, traders are stocking them to export under duty exemption.

Myanmar’s maize is primarily exported to the Philippines, Vietnam and India through maritime trade. They are also sent to neighbouring countries at borders.

Myanmar shipped 1.88 million tonnes of maize in the eight months of the current financial year 2024-2025 beginning 1 April, bagging US\$477 million, according to Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association.

Myanmar exports around two million tonnes of maize. The corn is cultivated in Shan, Kachin, Kayah and Kayin states and Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions. Myanmar has three corn seasons — winter, summer and monsoon. Myanmar’s annual corn output is estimated at 2.5-3 million tonnes. — NN/KK

Union-Level MSME Exhibitions extended by two days

THE Union-level MSME product exhibitions and competitions marking the 78<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Union Day are taking place at Tabaung Ground near Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw from 10 to 14 February.

The event was crowded with students, government employees, families, locals and MSME entrepreneurs from the very first day. Therefore, it will be extended by two days – 15 and 16 February, according to the event organizing subcommittee.—MNA/KTZH



**NATIONAL PAGE 6**

K15B investment revives Nay Pyi Taw’s Water Fountain Garden



**BUSINESS PAGE 7**

Mineral trading licences mandatory by deadline



# NATIONAL

## Empowering Youth: Nurturing Future Leaders for National Integrity and Prestige

- The youth who will serve the State are its future leaders.
- It is essential to systematically nurture young people to instil good morale and a strong national spirit, enhancing the State's prestige and preserving national integrity.

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

## Taunggyi pagodas bustling with pilgrims on Tabodwe full moon



Devotees are seen pilgrimage to Taunggyi's prominent pagodas in the photos above and below.

TAUNGGYI witnessed a bustling scene at its famous pagodas on 12 February, which marked Union Day as well as a full moon day of Tabodwe.

As the day holds special significance for Buddhists, visitors flocked to pagodas and stupas, the pride of the city. The well-known pagodas of Taunggyi, such as the Culamuni Lokachantha Pagoda, Shwephonepawnt Pagoda and Myaseintaung Pagoda, along with popular relaxation spots like the Bogyoke Park, were filled with both pilgrims



and visitors who gathered to pay homage and engage in relaxation activities. — Sai Than Kyaw (Taunggyi IPRD)/KZL

## Gold Market Rate as of 13 February 2025

THE price of one tical (16.329325 grammes) of gold with density of 19.25 grammes per cubic centimetre and above is K5,490,000, as established by the Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee.

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## Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Thursday 13 February 2025)

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

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 14 February 2025:** Light rain will be isolated in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State. Degree of certainty is 80%. Weather will be partly cloudy in Taninthayi Region and Kayin, Chin and Mon States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about 4-6 feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Likelihood of isolated light rain in Kachin State.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14 February 2025:** Generally fair weather.


**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14 February 2025:** Generally fair weather.

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14 February 2025:** Generally fair weather.


— DMH

## EARTHQUAKE NEWS

A slight earthquake of magnitude 4.2 Richter Scale with its epicentre inside Myanmar about 15 miles southeast of Mingen, latitude 22.70°N, longitude 94.62°E, depth 75 kilometres, about 66 miles southwest of Kanbalu seismological observatory was recorded at 13 hours 35 minutes 14 seconds MST on 13 February 2025. — DMH



Department of Meteorology and Hydrology  
Seismological Division  
Nay Pyi Taw  
Tel 067-3411269 Fax 067-3411253



**Earthquake Information**

Date	13.2.2025
Time (MST)	13:35:14
Magnitude	4.2 (Slight)
Latitude	22.70 N
Longitude	94.62 E
Depth	75 km
Region	About 15 miles SE of Mingen.

For More detail information  
<https://www.moezala.gov.mm/>

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# 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)*

## Myanmar, China discuss strengthening legal cooperation

UNION Minister for Legal Affairs and Attorney-General of the Union Dr Thida Oo met Ms Ma Jia, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar, and her delegation yesterday afternoon at the diplomatic hall of the Ministry of Legal Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, both sides discussed enhancing legal cooperation between the two countries, particularly on telecom fraud crimes, cross-border offences, online gambling and drug-related cases. They also exchanged views on provisions regarding the general elections under the Constitution, as well as

the possibility of the Union Minister and Attorney-General of the Union serving as an Honorary Professor at the University of Political Science and Law in China. They then discussed necessary support for diploma courses and training programmes conducted at the Legal Awareness Centre (LAC). — MNA/KZL

Union Minister Dr Thida Oo holds talks with China's Ambassador Ms Ma Jia yesterday.



## Power supply expands in Yangon eastern district townships



Repair works underway at the Shweli-Mangsi 230 kV transmission line.

AS of 13 February, the power supply schedule has been extended to a four-hour on, and four-hour off scheme in Yangon Eastern District, which includes

Tamway Township, South Okkala Township, Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township, Dagon Myothit (South) Township, Dagon Myothit (North) Township,

Dagon Myothit (East) Township, Dawbon Township, Pazundaung Township, Botahtaung Township, Mingala Taungnyunt Township, North Okkalapa Township, Yankin Township, Thingangyun Township and Thakayta Township, from the previous four-hour on and eight-hour off schedule.

The four-hour on, four-hour off scheme was back in Yangon Western District on 3 February after the 230 kV Shweli-Mangsi transmission line was repaired.

“Of two Shweli-Mangsi transmission lines, the 230 kV line was repaired but the other one, which also has 350-400 megawatts, has yet to be repaired due to the security concern,” said an official from the Ministry of Electric Power. — Htun Htun/ZS

## Notice for mineral (gold) trading licence

THE Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation has notified on 30 October 2024 that the gold shop owners have to apply for gold trading licences following Notification 055/2024 released on 25 October 2024 and will have to face legal action under Section 5 of the Essential Supplies and Services Law if they fail to do so.

It has already been announced in newspapers issued on 7 November 2024 to start applying for a gold trading licence on 18 November 2024, and the process will end within three months on 17 February 2025. The newspaper issued on 11 December 2024 also mentioned that those who do not apply for the licences will face legal action under Section 5 of the Essential Supplies and Services Law.

The three-month duration of the licence application date from 18 November 2024 to 17 February 2025 is approaching to expire. Therefore, businesspeople should apply for the licence during a fixed duration and those who fail to do so will face legal action under Section 5 of the Essential Supplies and Services Law.

*Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation*



# NATIONAL

## MoI Union Minister hosts Myanmar-Belarus Cooperation Committee Chairman

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn met Mr Alexander Shpakovsky, Chairman of the Myanmar-Belarus Cooperation Development Executive Committee, at the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

At the meeting, Mr Shpakovsky presented the Union minister with copies of Myanmar Selected Stories and 38 Mingala Stories (in Russian and My-

anmar), along with four songs about Myanmar composed by a Belarusian composer.

He then explained the purpose of the book donation and discussed media cooperation between Myanmar and Belarus.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Minister U Ye Tint, Permanent Secretary U Win Kyaw Aung, and other departmental officials. — MNA/MKKS



Myanmar-Belarus Cooperation Development Executive Committee Chairman Mr Alexander Shpakovsky calls on Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn yesterday.

## MRCS, German Red Cross host 2-day road safety training in Mawlamyine



An official presents the certificate to a trainee in Road Safety Education Training.

ACCORDING to the MRCS's First Aid and Safety Department, the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) and the German Red Cross Society

jointly held two days of Road Safety Education Training in Mawlamyine, Mon State.

It was held for two days from 29 to 30 January at the Mon State Red Cross Supervisory Committee Office in Mawlamyine.

The Road Safety Education Training was jointly opened by the Red Cross Societies of two countries where 30 members from the Township Red Cross branches in Mon State attended.

Similarly, the First Aid and Disaster Prevention Department of MRCS is providing lectures and practical training to social assistance groups in various regions and states through Red Cross trainers. — ASH/ZN

## PM grants K20,000 monthly aid to displaced persons

STATE Administration Council Chairman and Prime Minister Senior General Thadde Thray Sithu Thadde Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing mentioned in a message sent to the ceremony to mark the 78<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Union Day in 2025 that temporarily displaced people will receive K20,000 each per month from January to December this year.

These grants will be transferred to the disaster management fund accounts of the region and state governments, including the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area. In providing such grants, the Prime Minister urged authorities concerned to cooperate systematically and effectively to include all displaced people in their respective areas with no one left behind on the lists.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing further instructed in the message to update the existing lists of temporarily displaced people with newly collected data for proper scrutiny and support.

The Prime Minister met Chief Ministers of the Regions and States in Nay Pyi Taw on the morning of 11 February and handed over the monthly aid to the temporarily displaced people. — Htun Htun/ZN

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

The Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

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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.



# Union-Level MSME Exhibitions and Competitions enter fourth day

THE Union-level MSME product exhibitions and competitions marking the 78<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Union Day were held in Tabaung Ground near Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, and crowded with ministries' staff, families, MSME entrepreneurs and people.

The event entered its fourth day, and all the booths featuring the most recent technologies and industrial equipment were crowded with visitors from different regions and states,

The in-charge personnel of galleries clarified the powerful ability of quality types of machinery, purchasing and assembling of international machinery, market demands using technologies in the future in detail, and conducted the demonstration of types of machinery.

Moreover, they briefed the



Crowds browse booths at the Union-Level MSME Exhibitions and Competitions in Nay Pyi Taw, captured in the photos above and below. **PHOTOS: KO HTEIN**

sharing of information on MSME development programmes and technologies, reachable and competitive businesses to penetrate the local and foreign markets, and solutions to overcome the

challenges of respective businesses. Such doings can improve the local manufacturing sector and export goods production rate, and create more job opportunities.

Similarly, the event showcased the MSME products and traditional food and costumes of different regions and states including Nay Pyi Taw, and the products and food were sold at

cheap prices.

All the galleries also played songs depicting the traditional cultural dance and customs and raising patriotism and notional spirit to forge unity between the people living across the country.

In the evening, the ethnic traditional dance troupes performed actively, and the people also participated in dancing and singing events.

The exhibitions and competitions will take place from 10 to 14 February. It will accommodate some 80 booths of ministries, regions and states, traditional ethnic foods, business-to-business linkages, technological booths, foreign machinery and product booths, small-scale industries and manufacturing cooperative booths, and a total of 31 prizes will be awarded for different competitions. — Jaing Law/KTZH



## January TOP-J training certificates issued

CERTIFICATES for the January TOP-J exam can be collected, as announced by the Myanmar Association of Japan Alumni.

Test vouchers of TOP-J sat on 19 January were issued from 13 to 16 January at the MAJA Yangon office and Mandalay branch. MAJA has reminded candidates to show the test vouchers when they come to collect exam results. If the test vouchers got damaged or lost, the original and copy of the ID card are required.

Yangon candidates can come to collect as of 13 February 2025 at MAJA Education Centre located in Ward 10, South Okkalapa Township in Yangon, between 9 am and 4:30 pm from Monday to Friday, except for weekends and public holidays.

Mandalay candidates can come to collect at 1 pm on 14 February at the MAJA Mandalay branch located at Mingala Mandalay, Chanmyathazi Township in Mandalay between 9 am and 4:30

pm from Monday to Friday, except for weekends and public holidays, and the phone number is at 09 255162533. — MT/ZS



### 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>



# NATIONAL

## K15B investment revives Nay Pyi Taw's Water Fountain Garden



This photo showcases visitors at the Nay Pyi Taw Water Fountain Garden.

THE Nay Pyi Taw Water Fountain Garden is under renovation and expansion into the Royal Garden at a cost of over K15 billion.

The Nay Pyi Taw Water Fountain Garden, which was first built in 2008 and is now 17 years old, is being renovated and expanded into the Royal Garden in line with the urban character of the developing Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

The renovation and new construction are carried out in three phases. The first phase involves four types of upgrades and 14 types of new construction. The second phase involves 14 types of new construction, and the third phase involves 17 types of new construction, making a total of 49 projects. Of the 45 new construction projects, modern children's playgrounds, new parks, and large

figures are being included, and 14 have already been completed.

Efforts are also underway to ensure that the trees and flowers in the new Royal Garden are always green and beautiful and to hold seasonal festivals and flower festivals. Currently, the Nay Pyi Taw Water Fountain Garden is open daily from 8 am to 8 pm, and the entrance fee is K1,000 per person. — ASH/MKKS

## Post-award generosity: K20M donation to fellow film world members



This photo showcases Nay Toe presenting cash donations to Ko Lu Chaw's group.

ACTOR Nay Toe, who recently won the Best Actor Award at the 2024 Myanmar Film Academy Awards, donated K20 million to members of the film industry on 12 February at Story Book Studio in Dagon Myothit (North) Township, Yangon Region. The donation was a gesture of goodwill following his award win.

The donation comprised K10 million for Ko Lu Chaw's group, which includes supporting actors (often playing villainous roles), and K10 million for the film crew.

"This donation is a kind of Academy Award-related charity," said Nay Toe. "This year, we particularly wanted to support Ko Lu Chaw's group and the film crew. It's a way of giving back to the people in the industry who helped me receive this award. I decided to donate to support supporting actors who are unwell, and our fellow industry members who are no longer able to work. It's about looking after and caring for our colleagues who can no longer work, while we are still able to".

Furthermore, Nay Toe also won the Best Actor award for the film "Hnaung" at the 2024 Myanmar Film Academy Awards. He has now won four Academy Awards. — ASH/MKKS

## Performance competition on applying Thanaka culture held in Yangon

THE Myanmar Cultural Heritage Trust announced that it organized a performance competition titled the 'National Brethren's Thanaka Festival' on the evening of 12 February at Seinlan Soepayay Park in Kamayut Township, Yangon Region.

Chairperson Daw Sanda Khin of the Myanmar Cultural Heritage Trust said that the festival was held to promote the preservation of Myanmar's traditional culture of wearing Thanaka, a practice followed by all ethnic groups and age groups. The event also aims at encouraging various social organizations nationwide to submit the tradition of wearing Thanaka for inclusion in UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

A total of 36 teams participated in the Thanaka performance competition, competing in different styles of applying Thanaka paste.

The Department of Archaeology and National Museum under the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture is working to resubmit the 'Myanmar Thanaka Culture' for inclusion in UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity before 31 March 2025. A survey has also been launched to collect feedback on including Myanmar's traditional Thanaka culture in UNESCO's List of Intangible Cultural Heritage. — ASH/TH



This photo showcases the 'National Brethren's Thanaka Festival' held at Seinlan Soepayay Park in Kamayut Township, Yangon Region on the evening of 12 February.

### 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](http://www.moi.gov.mm/mal), [www.moi.gov.mm/km](http://www.moi.gov.mm/km), [www.moi.gov.mm/nlm](http://www.moi.gov.mm/nlm) and [www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper](http://www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper).

News and Periodicals Enterprise







Gem merchants evaluating jade stones in the previous gem emporium.

# Mineral trading licences mandatory by deadline

ONLY a few days are left to seek a gem trading licence and those who fail to do so by the deadline will face legal actions, the Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee stated.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation notified gold shop owners of seeking a gem trading licence within three months of the notification (18 November 2024 to 17 February 2025) and failing to obtain a licence will be subject to legal action.

Over 1,000 application forms have been taken out and

over 700 have been submitted so far, according to the Initial Evaluation Committee on Yangon Region Mineral (Gold) Trading Service.

The ministry stated that those who run gold transaction service businesses must comply with rules and regulations under Notification 055/2024 released on 25 October 2024. Entities failing to obtain a licence within the set timeframe or conducting gold transactions without adhering to reference prices will face penalties under Section 5 of the Essential Sup-

plies and Services Law.

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 Facebook page.

The committee set pure gold at K5.49 million per tical (16.329325 grams) with 19.25 grams of the density of gold on 13 February 2025. — NN/KK

# Myanmar Tourism Fair 2025: Showcasing top destinations

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, the Myanmar Tourism Fair (MTF) 2025 will be held for the first time to attract more foreign visitors by leveraging local tourism destinations.

Union Minister U Kyaw Soe Win met the Myanmar Tourism Federation's chair and central executive committee members on 11 February 2025 at the Nilar meeting hall of the Ministry regarding holding MTF 2025 to promote tourism destinations and increase arrivals of tourists.

President U Yan Win of the Myanmar Tourism Federation, presented the objectives of the MTF 2025, tourism linkages in the region and tourism promotion matters. Then, Myanmar Tourism Federation's exhibition organization committee chair U Min Thein also presented the agenda of the Myanmar Tourism Fair and cooperation with related institutions and companies. He also requested the Union Minister to coordinate some matters.

Later, Daw Kyi Kyi Aye,

senior consultant of the Myanmar Tourism Federation and members of drafting up Myanmar Tourism Master Plan (2026-2030) also explained their activities and the permanent secretary and attendees discussed some matters.

The Union minister highlighted how public-private partnership is requisite for tourism development and how tourism contributes to the economic growth of the country. He recognized connections with regional tourism cooperation to enhance the tourism sector. He also coordinated processing with respective ministries to hold the fair.

Afterwards, he encouraged stakeholders in the tourism industry to bridge connections with players of other respective sectors in effectuating tourism development. He also discussed the creation of new tourism destinations through PPP. He also urged them to hold workshops related to drawing Myanmar's tourism Master Plan by inviting the ministries concerned and tourism institutions. — NN/KK

## Public Notice

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

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

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

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

Anti-Corruption Commission

# 'So Digital by Digital Zay' features top Myanmar firms



An advertisement for 'So Digital by Digital Zay'.

THE 'So Digital by Digital Zay' showcasing digital products with Myanmar's top companies will be held at the Sedona Hotel in Yangon on 15 February.

The exhibition will take place from 10 am to 8 pm at the Sedona Hotel Grand Ballroom, with digital product booths, featuring a lucky draw programme for DZay App customers to immediately win a prize for an iPhone 16 and other famous brands, more than 20 food stalls, a magic show, a model show, and a game activity zone.

Entry fees will be free for those interested in digital events and those who want to shop while eating at the Sedona Grand Ballroom. The Myanmar Travel Bank (MTB) will support and participate in the 'So Digital by Digital Zay' event on that day, the bank announced.

In this event of digital products to keep up with the latest technology, being joined by many leading Myanmar businesses, the Myanmar Travel Bank will provide bank and pay account opening services for the guests, and give away prizes by spinning the Spin Wheel, it added. — MT/ZN



# Raise public awareness for valuing ancient cultural heritage

MYANMAR is home to significant ancient cultural heritage sites of immense historical, cultural, archaeological, artistic, anthropological, geological, and biological value. Therefore, it is important for people to promptly entrust any ancient objects they find to relevant authorities and departments to ensure these artefacts are systematically preserved.

Currently, authorities and the Department of Archaeology and National Museum provide information on the prices of entrusted ancient objects and rewards for artistic works. These

artefacts are displayed in national and archaeological museums across the country. Such objects are often of great historical value or considered priceless, contributing to both historical evidence and national prestige. Therefore, citizens should take pride in their role in preserving and protecting the country's ancient cultural heritage by handing over these objects to the relevant authorities.

At this point, it is crucial to raise public awareness about the value of ancient artefacts. Only when people fully understand the significance of these objects will they willingly and responsibly hand them over to the appropriate authorities. Without an emphasis on the importance of cultural heritage, individuals may resort to smuggling these artefacts out of the country through illegal channels. If so, Myanmar will risk losing its ancient treasures and vital pieces of its historical narrative.

Currently, some ancient objects from Myanmar, which are trafficked through smuggling routes, can be found in museums abroad. Some of these artefacts are even displayed in hotels, restaurants, and the homes of wealthy individuals. This misuse is deeply regrettable for all Myanmar citizens, as it tarnishes the image of the nation and its cultural heritage.

People must take steps to prevent the loss of Myanmar's cultural heritage by preserving ancient objects in all their forms. Myanmar has the rightful ownership of its ancient artefacts and full rights to possess and display them as part of cultural preservation. Furthermore, it is crucial to understand that anyone who intentionally or unintentionally smuggles these ancient objects – whether to other countries or through smugglers – will face legal consequences for their actions.

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Regardless of the circumstances, the long-term preservation of Myanmar's cultural heritage and ancient objects should be the responsibility of the relevant departments. All Myanmar citizens must cultivate a spirit of valuing and preserving cultural heritage as part of their national duty. At the same time, the relevant authorities must take action against those who violate the Protection and Preservation of Antique Objects Law.

CYBER threats around the world have been increasing in number; and Myanmar has not been immune to the challenges posed by cyber threats.

When comparing Myanmar to the other ASEAN countries, its internet penetration percentage is lower. However, Myanmar's mobile telecommunications network has expanded rapidly across the nation over the past decade. This expansion has led to a substantial increase in mobile user rates.

The four major telecom operators MPT, Ooredoo, Telenor, and Mytel have played pivotal roles in this growth. The cost of a SIM card is now less than one dollar.

## Digital Development in Myanmar

Myanmar's Ministry of Post and Telecommunication issues four types of telecom licences. These licenses differ based on the types of activities that they carry out, the application procedures and timeframes, and licence durations and renewal conditions.

As of 2019, 173 companies were providing internet-related services in Myanmar, including four mobile phone companies and all other types of telecommunications-related companies.

## Financial Sector Reforms

In recent years, Myanmar has undertaken significant reforms in the financial sector. The Central Bank of Myanmar established Financial Network System Phase I (CBM-NET) in 2016 with the support of JICA and Financial Network System Phase II (CBM-NET2) was successfully launched on 16 November 2020. The system facilitates 24/7 domestic MMK remittance across different banks, bulk payments such as payroll transfers, and automatic withdrawal of taxes and utility bills.

The National Payment System Governing Committee, chaired by the Central Bank of Myanmar and comprising representatives from other relevant

# Digital Development and Cybercrime in Myanmar

By Kyaw Thein Lwin

ministries, was established on 17 May 2021. The committee is responsible for implementing the National Payments System Strategy (2020-2025) and ensuring a secure national payment system that effectively contributes to both financial stability and economic growth.

CBM is striving to enhance payment service providers' platforms that offer digital transaction services nationwide, secure the digital payment system and reduce the use of cash among people.

CBM has established the necessary infrastructure and regulatory framework to enable the operation of mobile wallet services. In 2006, CBM enacted the Financial Institution Law and Mobile Financial Services Regulations. As of 2022, CBM has granted five companies, including Wave Money, OK Dollar, MPT, Ooredoo and Mytel as mobile financial service providers. Additionally, CBM has granted licences to 18 private banks for mobile banking under the Law and Regulations.

## Domestic Laws Development

The Computer Science Development Law (1996), the Electronic Transaction Law (2004) and the Telecommunications Law (2013)

currently serve as the primary laws for computer-related crimes.

Amendment to the Electronic Transaction Law was enacted in 2021. The amendment law covers the areas of maintaining, protecting and systematically managing personal data. Moreover, the amendment law introduced new definitions for terms such as cyber resource, malware, cyberspace and cyberattacks, along with penalties for those convicted of spreading fake news or false news and for those convicted of cyberattacks.

The Cybersecurity Law is currently in the drafting stage, and it covers various areas, including the formation of the Cyber Security Central Committee and Steering Committee, protection of personal information, safeguarding of critical information infrastructure, application procedures for digital certification licences, registration requirements for digital platform service providers, provisions for cybersecurity service providers, digital platform service, cyber fraud and cybercrime, cyber security service, online gambling and online financial service, and offences and penalties. The draft version (2022) is available online.

## Case 1: Online Scam Involving Impersonation of a Bank Staff

Scammers create a fake Facebook account using the KBZ Bank logo and pretend to be bank staff from KBZ Bank. These scammers contact users of mobile payment services through Messenger or Viber. Mostly, they sent a message like:

- “Your mobile payment application requires an upgrade from level 1 to level 2. Please upgrade now, otherwise, it will be shut down”
  - “Our bank needs to verify your mobile payment account registration information. Please provide a copy of your CSC card and other necessary details.”
- Subsequently, the scammer



Cyber threats around the world have been increasing in number, and Myanmar has not been immune to the challenges posed by cyber threats. ILLUSTRATIVE IMAGE: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/CONCEPT ART

logs into the payment application using the targeted phone number and waits. When the targeted user logs into the payment application and receives the OTP (One-Time Password) code sent by the bank, the scammer asks for the OTP code from the target.

After obtaining the OTP code, the scammer accesses the target's account with the OTP code and withdraws all funds.

Sometimes, the scammer sends a message stating, 'We will upgrade your payment application level. Please download and install the application first.' However, the downloaded application is actually remote access software, such as the AnyDesk application, and if you install it,

the scammer gains the ability to manipulate your mobile payment application.”

## Case 2: Package Delivery Scam

A scammer sent a friend request to the plaintiff through a Facebook account and established a friendship with her. Two weeks later, the scammer contacted the plaintiff and said that she was a Korean American citizen and while serving in the Syria Peacekeeping Troop she received gold bars and US dollars. She expressed difficulties due to the COVID-19 pandemic in retaining these assets and expressed a desire to entrust and deliver them to the plaintiff. The scammer also provided photographs of the gold bars and US dollars.

Two days later, the plaintiff received a phone call from a woman's voice. The caller informed her that the delivery package had arrived at the Yangon International Airport Logistic Division and a fee of US\$1,250 was required to release the package. The plaintiff remitted US\$1,250; however, the plaintiff received another phone call requesting additional US dollars for various reasons. Following the request, the plaintiff remitted around US\$5,000 to the specified bank account.

As a result of the police investigation, it was revealed that the scammer approached an individual with limited financial means to open a bank account and then purchased that person's bank account. This account was then utilized to deceive money from the plaintiff. The police arrested a Nigerian citizen who led the deception, along with another Myanmar woman in connection with the case, and seized 57 bank accounts along with other related materials. The scammers confess that they committed 51 cases across the country in 2020.

## Case 3: Online Loan Scams

Scammers create counterfeit Facebook accounts, using the identical name and logo of legitimate microfinance companies, gold and jewellery shops or banks to engage in online money lending schemes.

These scammers offer online money lending services through these counterfeit Facebook accounts. Upon encountering such a page, the plaintiff mistakenly believes it to be an authentic branch of the microfinance company, gold and jewellery shop or bank.

When the plaintiff contacts the fake accounts for the purpose of borrowing money, the scammer then requests the plaintiff to complete various forms and demands an upfront payment for registration. Once the plaintiff transfers the requested amount, the scammer subsequently asks

for additional funds, such as fees for documents and forms.

In the final stage of the deception, the scammer blocks the plaintiff's phone number.

## Preventive Measure

The Myanmar government has made various efforts in recent years to tackle fraud and scams. These efforts include:

1. Re-registration of SIM users with correct personal information and ID card numbers;
2. Cancellation of SIM cards that are incomplete or incorrectly registered;
3. Registration of biometric data of citizens and the implementation of an e-ID database system;
4. Scrutinizing and comparing the SIM registration data with the biometric data;
5. Upgrading wallet users from Level 1 to Level 2 with the correct information for the KYC (Know Your Customer) process;
6. Investigation and prosecution of cybercriminal activities;
7. Upgrading the legal framework;
8. Public awareness campaigns, and so on.

## Conclusion

The nature of cybercrime and its threats is complex and diverse. Cooperation and exchange of knowledge, best practices, and innovative solutions among government, the private sectors and organizations will strengthen cyber resilience and pave the way for a safer, more secure digital future.

## Reference:

- (1) Ministry of Posts and Telecom, Licence Issued Lists (2019)
- (2) The National Payments System Strategy (2020-2025)
- (3) Ministry of Information website

# Intestinal-womb connection successfully repaired through innovative endoscopic surgery

IN A groundbreaking medical achievement, a team of doctors at New Delhi Private Hospital has successfully treated two women suffering from complex fistulas, an abnormal connection between the large

intestine and womb—using an innovative cardiac occluder fistula closure device.

Using a novel approach, the medical team employed a cardiac occluder device, typically used in heart surgeries, to seal

the fistulas, offering a new treatment option for this challenging condition.

The patients, both in their 60s, had been experiencing severe symptoms, including the passage of stool from the va-

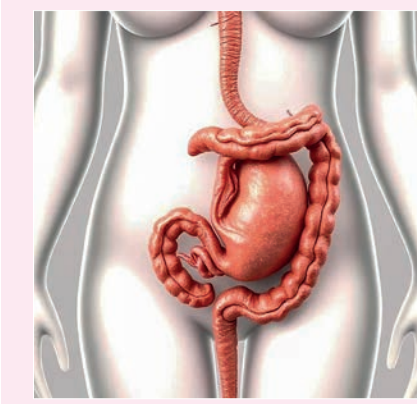
gina, due to radiation therapy and previous surgeries. Despite undergoing multiple surgeries, they found no relief until they were referred to Dr Anil Arora and Dr Shivam Khare.

“The first patient, a 61-year-

old woman, had been suffering from the passage of stool from the vagina due to a rectovaginal fistula for years, following radiation therapy for cervical cancer. The second patient, a 65-year-old woman, was experiencing

the passage of stool from the vagina because of an abnormal connection between the small intestine and the vagina, known as an enterovaginal fistula. Both patients had previously undergone unsuccessful surgeries and faced limited treatment options until they were referred to Anil Arora and Shivam Khare,” said the hospital in a statement.

SOURCE: ANI



Using a novel approach, the medical team employed a cardiac occluder device, typically used in heart surgeries, to seal the fistulas, offering a new treatment option for this challenging condition. ILLUSTRATION: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/CONCEPT ART



# NATIONAL

## Migratory birds flock to Bagan's ponds amid good rainfall

LARGE ponds located in the Ancient Cultural Heritage Zone of Bagan-NyaungU, Mandalay Region, have become a seasonal refuge for migratory birds.

These ponds, filled with local and regional species, see an influx of wintering birds, as reported by birdwatching guides.

The Bagan-NyaungU area, which includes Ngathayauk and Bagan City is a relatively dry region with limited rainfall, but recent good rainfall has replenished the ancient ponds, leading to an abundance of water.

This, in turn, has created an ideal environment for the hibernating birds to arrive and feed. Local bird enthusiasts said that as the ponds' water levels are still full into the winter season, the birds have found their way to the area, especially to the large ponds.

The ancient ponds like Alanbagan Lake, Alel Lake,



Migrating birds create a picturesque scene as they hibernate at a large pond in the Bagan-NyaungU Ancient Cultural Heritage Zone.

Laydaunt Lake, Nyaunglaphak Lake, Phoethudaw Lake (aka) Culamuni Lake, Oo Kyipway Lake, Shwenann Yintaw Lake (aka) Htein Lake, Shwehti Lake, Makyee Lake, Zeyyathut Lake, Mingala Lake, Phwa Saw Lake (Montein), Ko Mauk Lake, Kan-

thit Lake, Kansoontaw Monastery Lake, Manukan Maywe Lake, Oak Phoak Lake, Sel Lake, Kanthitgyi Lake, Kyauky-

oe Lake and Taungkyaung Lake, as well as other large and small ponds have filled with water.

Migratory birds have been seen visiting these ponds, possibly resting during their travels. Local guides have noted that birds are often spotted perched on local plants around the ponds. In past years, these ponds received little water. But this year, they have stayed full, attracting more migratory birds. Ducks, geese and shorebirds have been observed resting there. Some birds are hard to identify without special cameras, but birdwatchers have reported a high number of birds visiting the ponds this year.

In years with good rainfall, the ponds in the Bagan-NyaungU area are usually replenished, providing a resting place for migratory birds from late autumn to early spring. — Dipa Lin// KZL

### Counter-argument to false information

## Security forces accused of torching homes, launching attacks using heavy weapons

MALICIOUS media outlets intentionally spread fake news, claiming that security forces set the houses ablaze and launched attacks using heavy weapons in the wards of Dabayin Township, Sagaing Region, on 12 February.

According to a regional security official, such news was invalid, and security forces conducted routine security measures. Terrorists asked for money from the civilians, recruited new members and threatened the people. Moreover, they burnt down the houses in wards and villages. Subversive media outlets intend to circulate false claims to mislead the public about security forces carrying out security duties. — MNA/KTZH



This screenshot discloses misinformation.

## Drugs seized in Kengtung, Tangyan and Namhsam

DRUGS were seized in Kengtung, Tangyan, and Namsang townships, according to the Myanmar Police Force.

On 10 November at 7:30 pm, a combined team, including members of the Anti-Drug Police Force, stopped and searched a Toyota Hilux Revo in Kengtung Township. The vehicle was driven by Aik Kam Yong, who was accompanied by Ma Nan Seng Mo. The search led to the seizure of 39 kilogrammes of ketamine worth K331.5 million and 18 kilogrammes of crystal methamphetamine (Ice) valued at K144 million.

On 12 February at 11:30 am, the police stopped a motorbike driven by Maung Shwe Aung in Tangyan Township and found 2,000 stimulant tablets in his possession. Later that day, at 1:30 pm, officers searched his house in Tangyan Township, seizing an additional 5,500 stimulant tablets – bringing the total to 7,500 tablets worth K7.5 million – as well as 20 grammes of heroin valued at K400,000.

At midnight on 12 Febru-



Photos reveal offenders alongside confiscated drugs and vehicles.

ary, police searched the home of Aik Htun in Namsang Township and seized 20,050 stimulant tablets worth approximately K10 million.

The offenders have been charged under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, according to reports. — MNA/MKKS



# North Korea destroys family reunion centre in ‘inhumane act’, Seoul says



The reunions at Kumgang were testament to the devastating human cost of the Korean peninsula’s division. **PHOTO: KOREA POOL / KOREA POOL/AFP/FILE**

*Seoul has condemned this act as “inhumane”, stating that it tramples on the earnest wishes of separated families.*

NORTH Korea is demolishing a venue that for decades hosted tearful reunions of families separated by the Korean War and the division of the country, Seoul said Thursday, calling the move “inhumane”. Millions of people were swept apart by the 1950-53 Korean War, which split the peninsula and separated brothers and sisters, parents and children and husbands and wives.

Hostilities ceased with an armistice rather than a peace treaty, leaving the two Koreas technically still at war and with all direct civilian exchanges prohibited. Emotional reunions in the North’s Kumgang mountain served as a testament to the devastating human cost of the division. But the meetings were subject to the vagaries of inter-Ko-

rea politics and often used as a negotiating tool by Pyongyang. The last one was held in 2018. “The demolition of the Mount Kumgang Reunion Center is an inhumane act that tramples on the earnest wishes of separated families,” a spokesperson for Seoul’s unification ministry said. South Korea “sternly urges an immediate halt to such actions” and “expresses strong regret”. — AFP

## BRIEF: LIFESTYLE

### Shanghai to open Harry Potter theme park in 2027

A new Harry Potter theme park will open in Shanghai in 2027, a local amusement park operator said Wednesday, becoming the first of its kind in China and the third globally following ones in London and Tokyo. The Harry Potter studio tour is expected to cover an area spanning 53,000 square metres including both indoor and outdoor spaces at the 40-year-old Jinjiang Action Park in Shanghai’s Minhang District, which will be renovated and reopened in 2027, according to Jin Jiang International Holdings Co. The project will take visitors on a behind-the-scenes tour of the Harry Potter films, where they can explore iconic scenes, see the original costumes and props used in the movies and experience interactive installations, the company said. — Kyodo

### Young Venezuelans pay homage to their fallen with painted asphalt

THE names of 320 young Venezuelans who have died in 10 years of protests against the government of President Nicolas Maduro appear in white on the black asphalt in Caracas. The tribute, which was painted Wednesday in celebration of Youth Day along the access road to the Central University of Venezuela, honours the fallen on both sides of the political fence. The names include that of Genesis Carmona, who was just 22 years old when she died in a crackdown on a protest in 2014. Also included is Orlando Figueroa, who at the age of 21 was killed — according to the government — after being outed as a Maduro supporter. “It is a protest to commemorate all those young people who have lost their lives... simply for raising their voices for the country they dreamed of, for the country they wanted,” Miguel Angel Suarez, president of a university student federation, told AFP at the makeshift monument. — AFP

## European airport passenger traffic tops pre-COVID level

EUROPEAN airports welcomed more passengers last year than in 2019, surpassing pre-COVID levels for the first time since the pandemic, industry figures showed on Wednesday. Passenger traffic reached 2.5 billion in 2024, up 7.4 per cent from the previous year, according to provisional figures from Airports Council International (ACI) Europe. That total was 1.8 per cent above 2019 levels, said the trade group, which represents more than 600 airports in 55 countries from western Europe to Israel and Central Asia. Growth was mostly driven by international passenger traffic, which rose 8.8 per cent,



Growth was mostly driven by international passenger traffic, which rose 8.8 per cent. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE** while the number of domestic travellers was up 2.5 per cent from the previous year and remained below pre-pandemic levels. “Europe’s airports welcomed an additional 200 million passengers last year, with many surpassing their previous historic records,” said ACI Europe director general Olivier Jankovec. — AFP

## Pope calls Trump migrant deportations a ‘major crisis’

POPE Francis launched a stinging critique Tuesday of US President Donald Trump’s deportations of undocumented migrants, describing it as a “major crisis” that “damages the dignity of men and women”. The Argentine pontiff, 88, has repeatedly defended the rights of migrants during his 10 years leading the Catholic Church, urging world leaders to be more welcoming to those fleeing poverty or violence. “I have followed closely the major crisis that is taking place in the United States with the initiation of a programme of mass deportations,” he wrote Tuesday. — AFP



ECONOMY

WORLD/AD

# Future of Work Forum forecasts economic shifts, outlines AI opportunities, impact on labour market

Discussions explored wage policy approaches, their impact on growth, productivity, and the effects of AI on work patterns and economy.



The discussions took place at the Future of Work Forum, held as part of the World Governments Summit 2025. PHOTO: ANI

THE Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation (MoHRE) and the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, in collaboration with the World Governments Summit Organization, organized the second edition of the Future of Work Forum, as part of the World Governments Summit 2025, with the attendance and participation of Ministers of Labour and Human Resources, policymakers, economic experts, and business leaders from various countries.

The agenda featured six sessions where participants exchanged ideas and visions for shaping a future work environment driven by innovation and sustainability. Discussions covered various approaches to wage policy formulation, exploring their impact on growth and productivity, as well as the effects of artificial intelligence (AI) on productivity, work patterns, and economic trends. Participants also explored the role of academic institutions in supplying labour markets with skilled professionals, among other topics. — ANI

# Zambia's central bank to introduce new banknotes, coins

ZAMBIA'S central bank on Tuesday announced that it will introduce new banknotes and coins. The Bank of Zambia (BoZ) said the new family of banknotes and coins will include six notes and six coins and will be launched on 31 March. "This initiative, which was kick-started by the board's approval in July 2021, reflects the bank's commitment to providing currency that is secure, efficient, user-friendly and well-suited for everyday transactions," Denny Kalyalya, governor of BoZ, said in a statement.

According to the statement, a new 500 Kwacha note (about US\$18), the note with the largest amount, will also be added. — Xinhua

# Jordan marks record 1.32M GCC visitors in 2024

THE Jordan Tourism Board (JTB) today announced that the country welcomed record number of visitors from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) nations in 2024. Overnight visitors from the GCC reached more than 1.32 million in 2024, a substantial 15 per cent increase from 1.15 million visitors in 2023. This represents one of the highest number of annual GCC visitors, cementing Jordan's position as a preferred destination for Gulf travelers and highlighting the success of the country's strategic tourism initiatives, it said. The average length of stay reported growth from visitors across all GCC markets, indicating a significant trend towards longer holidays and deeper exploration of Jordan's diverse attractions. Extended stays were particularly evident during the peak summer months and major holiday periods, with many visitors combining multiple destinations within their itineraries. "The remarkable results we've achieved in 2024 reflect our strategic focus on the GCC market and the strong cultural and tourism ties between Jordan and Gulf nations," said Dr Abdelrazzak Arabiyat, Managing Director of the Jordan Tourism Board. — ANI



Famous for its stunning structures hewn out of the rose-pink cliff faces, Petra is a United Nations World Heritage site. PHOTO: AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (144N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (144N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **14-2-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY.NO. (180N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY.NO. (180N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **13-2-2025** 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MSC SUPARNA F VOY.NO. (SB504A)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MSC SUPARNA F VOY.NO. (SB504A)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **13-2-2025** 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.

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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



Telecom Italia 2024 revenue rises as it eyes resuming dividend payments

TELECOM Italia, Italy’s largest phone company, said Wednesday that revenue rose more than expected in 2024, boosted by its Brazilian unit, and that it could resume dividends payments next year.

Turnover at the company, whose largest shareholder is France’s Vivendi, increased 3.1 per cent to 14.5 billion euros (\$15 billion) in 2024, beating an analyst consensus of a 2.9-per-cent increase.

In a statement, TIM cited a “possible return”

to paying dividends in 2026, for the first time since 2021, thanks partly to the sale of its Sparkle submarine cable division.

TIM’s board of directors earlier Wednesday unanimously approved a 700-million-euro bid by the Italian state for the fibre-optic undersea network, which Rome views as a strategic asset.

“For the third year in a row we fully met the Group guidance, transforming TIM into a more solid and focused company,” Chief

Executive Pietro Labriola said in a statement.

TIM Brasil, which absorbed the mobile activities of local rival Oi in April 2022, saw its revenue increase 6.8 per cent to 4.4 billion euros in 2024.

In Italy’s highly competitive market, revenue gained 1.5 per cent to 10.2 billion euros.

Adjusted gross operating surplus, or Ebitda, jumped 10.1 per cent to 3.7 billion euros, exceeding its eight- to nine-per-cent target. — AFP

Chevron to cut 15-20% of workforce by end of 2026: company



The announcement comes after Chevron last month reported annual profits of \$17.7 billion, down 17 per cent from 2023. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

CHEVRON will cut 15 to 20 per cent of its workforce as part of a reorganization to save money and to position the oil giant for the long-term, the company said Wednesday.

The job cuts will begin in 2025 and be mostly complete by the end of 2026, Chevron said in a statement to AFP. The moves are in line with a previous company pledge to remove \$2 to \$3 billion in “targeted structural costs” by the end of next year.

The move is expected to reduce headcount by thousands. Chevron employed 39,800 at the end of 2024, not counting service-station employees.

“Chevron is taking action to simplify our organizational structure, execute faster and more effectively, and position

the company for stronger long-term competitiveness,” said a statement from Chevron Vice-Chairman Mark Nelson.

“We do not take these actions lightly and will support our employees through the transition,” Nelson said. “But responsible leadership requires taking these steps to improve the long-term competitiveness of our company for our people, our shareholders and our communities.”

The announcement comes after Chevron last month reported annual profits of \$17.7 billion, down 17 per cent from 2023. The company returned a record \$27 billion last year to shareholders in share repurchases and dividends.

Shares of Chevron fell 1.4 per cent in early afternoon trading. — AFP

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CHANGING PESTICIDE TRADE NAME

The trade name of the following pesticide, manufactured by Asiatic Agricultural Industries Pte Ltd (Singapore) registered at Pesticide Registration Board, have been changed in reference to import and distribution.

Sr.	Trade Name (Old)	Trade Name (New)	Active Ingredient	Reg. Type	Reg. No.
1.	Dart 25 SL (ဒုတ်(တိ) ၂၅ အက်(စ်)အယ်)	Dart 25 SL (ဓာတ် ၂၅ အက်(စ်)အယ်)	Fomesafen 250g/l SL	Full	F2020-1584

For the above reason, in accordance with the objection of changing trade name may come and object at The Co Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein Township within two weeks.

Asiatic Agricultural Industries Pte Ltd (Myanmar Branch), Room 209, Rangoun Business Center, No. (97) West Shwe Gon Daing Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, Myanmar. Phone: 095145328

Notice for Change of Pesticides Trade Name

The foreign manufacturer Agrinova Cropcare Pte., Ltd. will import and distribute the following insecticides registered in Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board Changing trading name.

No.	Old Trade Name	New Trade Name	A.I	Reg: Type	Reg: No.
1	Minus 200SL	Zero Plus 200SL	Diquat dibromide 200 g/l SL	Provisional	P2020-5143

It is therefore announced to come and reject within 14 days to joint Secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein in wishing to make any objection in respect of the said changing trading name of pesticide.

Address - Wi Sar Ra International Co., Ltd., No. (33), Shwe Padauk Yeik Mon, Bayinthaung Road, Kamayut Township, Yangon, The Republic of Union of Myanmar.

Notice for Change of Pesticides Trade Name

The foreign manufacturer Optimus Agri-Tech Pte., Ltd. will import and distribute the following insecticides registered in Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board Changing trading name.

No.	Old Trade Name	New Trade Name	A.I	Reg: Type	Reg: No.
1	Two Star 505 EC	Lu Pro 505 EC	Lufenuron 5% + Profenofos 50% EC	Provisional	P2022-5863

It is therefore announced to come and reject within 14 days to joint Secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein in wishing to make any objection in respect of the said changing trading name of pesticide.

Address - Myanmar Kaung Thu Kha Co., Ltd., No. (95-A), Kyaik Wine Pagoda Road, 8 Miles, Mayangone Township, Yangon, The Republic of Union of Myanmar.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V WISDOM VOY.NO. (007N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V WISDOM VOY.NO. (007N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **14-2-2025** 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.

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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 K.NAVIGATE CO., LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V HANSA BITBURG VOY.NO. (504W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V HANSA BITBURG VOY.NO. (504W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **14-2-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP/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 MAERSK A/S



# ROLLING UPDATES

## WORLD



This photo taken on 12 February 2025 shows a scene during the 46<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Executive Council of the African Union (AU) at the AU headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. **PHOTO: HAN XU/XINHUA**

## AU officials urge African unity amid global uncertainty

*The opening session of the 46th Ordinary Session of the AU Executive Council began Wednesday in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.*

THE shifting global landscape, along with current shocks and uncertainties, should serve as a wake-up call for Africa to enhance its collective unity and seek permanent solutions to the continent's development and security challenges under the auspices of the African Union (AU), AU officials said Wednesday. "The current global evolution, which is quite concerning and full of uncertainties, invites us to choose the best path for ourselves and to continue making efforts to find sustainable solutions to Africa's challenges," said Mohamed Salem Ould

Merzoug, Mauritania's minister of foreign affairs and chairperson of the AU Executive Council for 2024. Merzoug made the remarks while addressing the opening session of the 46<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Executive Council of the AU, which began Wednesday at the headquarters of the 55-member pan-African bloc in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa. He said the past year has witnessed various crises both in Africa and the rest of the world, including the ongoing Ukraine crisis, the Palestine-Israel con-

flict, and conflicts and security challenges in different parts of Africa. "We should learn from the current uncertainties that finding a collective solution must be a permanent concern for us. The only alternative we have is to strengthen our continental organization, the AU, which should be the primary platform for advancing our continental projects and aspirations," he said. The sentiment was echoed by African foreign ministers and other AU officials attending the AU Executive Council meeting. — Xinhua

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Israeli troops to remain in S Lebanon despite withdrawal deadline: spokesman

Israeli forces will remain in southern Lebanon despite an approaching deadline for their withdrawal, an Israeli military spokesman said Wednesday, warning civilians against returning to the area. "The IDF remains deployed in the area. Therefore, movement southward is prohibited," Avichai Adraee, an Israel Defence Forces (IDF) spokesman, wrote on social media platform X. "For your safety, you are forbidden from returning to your homes in the affected areas until further notice," he warned. "Anyone moving south is putting themselves in danger." Adraee said the implementation period of the ceasefire agreement "has been extended" but did not specify by whom or provide evidence of an extension. — Xinhua

#### Ireland support for Palestinians has country's Jews on edge

IRELAND'S tiny Jewish community fears that growing anti-Israel hostility since the start of the Gaza war is leading to increased anti-Semitism, raising questions about their future in the EU country. Ireland has been among the most outspoken critics of Israel's response to the 7 October 2023 attacks on southern Israel by Hamas militants that sparked the war in Gaza. Polls since the start of the war have shown overwhelming pro-Palestinian sympathy in Ireland. A survey in June by the news site The Journal found that 76 per cent of Irish people believed the EU should impose economic trade sanctions on Israel over the conflict. — AFP

#### Grenade blast in French bar wounds 12

TWELVE people were wounded when a grenade exploded in a bar in France's southeastern city of Grenoble on Wednesday, officials said. "Someone came in and threw a grenade, apparently without saying a word, and ran away," prosecutor Francois Touret-de-Courcy told journalists at the scene, where emergency workers had cordoned off the area. Two people were in critical condition, he said, adding that "many clients" were present when the grenade exploded, shortly after 8:00 pm (1900 GMT) at the bar in the Olympic Village neighbourhood, built when the picturesque city hosted the 1968 Winter Olympics. Touret-de-Courcy said investigators had not yet identified a motive but did not believe it was a "terrorist attack". "There's nothing to make us think it's linked to terrorism," he said, calling it an "act of extreme violence" that "may be linked to a settling of scores". — Xinhua



Constantine Tassoulas waits to receive the results of the fourth round of voting in the parliament building in Athens on 12 February 2025. Tassoulas, former chief of parliament, has been elected as Greece's president and head of state for a five-year term. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Constantine Tassoulas elected as Greece's new president

CONSTANTINE Tassoulas, former speaker of the Greek Parliament, was elected as the country's new president on Wednesday. Tassoulas, the nominee of the ruling conservative New Democracy (ND) party, secured 160 votes in the fourth round of voting, the same as in the previous rounds. The other three

candidates each received fewer than 50 votes. A total of 276 members of parliament took part in Wednesday's vote. Under the Greek Constitution, a candidate needs at least 151 votes in the 300-member assembly to win the presidency in the fourth round, a threshold lowered from 180 votes in the third round and 200 votes in the first two rounds held over the past three weeks. Tassoulas, a seasoned politician from the ND party, served as Minister of Culture and Sports in 2014 and has been elected Speaker of the Greek Parliament three times by a large majority since 2019. — Xinhua



SPORTS

Myanmar women’s team set for Nepal Four Nations Cup

THE Myanmar women’s national football team has finalized its 23-player squad for the upcoming Nepal Four Nations Tournament.

The squad includes goalkeeper Myo Mya Mya Nyein, defenders May Thet Mon Myint and Zun Yuya Oo, midfielders Khin Marlar Tun, Naw Htet Htet Wai and May Htet Lu (currently playing for USA club LA FC) and forwards San Thaw Thaw and Win Theingi Tun.

The Nepal Four Nations Tournament will take place from 17 to 26 February, featuring Nepal, the host country, Myanmar, Lebanon, and Kyrgyzstan. Myanmar will compete in the group stage matches against Lebanon on 17 February, Kyrgyzstan on 20 February and Nepal on 23 February. The tournament follows a round-robin format, with the top two teams advancing to the final on 26 February. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



This photo reveals the Myanmar women’s national team during a training session. **PHOTO: MFF**

Team Myanmar begins preparations for SEA Games

THE Myanmar U-22 men’s football team has begun preparations for the 33<sup>rd</sup> Thailand SEA Games, set to take place later this year.

The Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) has appointed Japanese coach Kurosaki as the new head coach and Japanese assistant coach Ryuji Sueoka, who is also the head coach of the Myanmar U-19 team. The preliminary player selection is currently underway, with players being scouted from MNL and MNL-2 league clubs, the MNL U-20 league, and those who showcased their talents at the recently concluded National Sports Festival.

Around 150 players have been short-listed, and trials are being held from 13 to 15 February to assess their performance. Following these trials, the final squad will enter a training camp after the league season concludes.

The young Myanmar squad will also compete in other major international tournaments this year, including the ASEAN U-22 Championship and the AFC U-23 qualifiers. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Real Madrid's non-stop fixture list gives Barca and Atletico hope on La Liga matchday 24



ATLETICO Madrid and FC Barcelona are both looking to capitalize on Real Madrid's jam-packed fixture schedule to maintain pressure in the La Liga title race this weekend.

While Atletico and Barca enjoyed a week free of midweek matches, Real Madrid endured a draining Champions League clash against Manchester City on Tuesday night. Although that match ended in a morale-boosting 3-2 win for Real Madrid, they still face the return leg next week, and Carlo Ancelotti may have to rotate his squad for Saturday's challenging league trip to Osasuna.

Real Madrid's defense remains in disarray without Antonio Rudiger, David Alaba, Eder Militao, or Lucas Vazquez, and Fede Valverde is in need of rest after playing over 3,000 minutes this season. Ancelotti is likely to rely on players such as Brahim Diaz, Arda Guler, and perhaps young defender Jacobo Ramon at the notoriously difficult El Sadar Stadium. — Xinhua

Jackson injury leaves Chelsea short of firepower until April

CHELSEA will be without striker Nicolas Jackson until after the next international break, leaving the club without a recognized "number 9" until the start of April.

The Senegalese forward, who has nine goals in the Premier League this season, tore his hamstring against West Ham a fortnight ago and although the club had hoped the injury was not serious, the BBC reports that scans have now shown Jackson could be sidelined for almost two months.

Chelsea also lost 19-year-old former Barcelona forward Marc Guiu in the same game after he suffered a groin strain after coming on to replace Jackson. Chelsea coach Enzo Maresca has admitted Guiu will be out of action for "weeks or months".

The confirmation of Jackson's injury leaves Cole Palmer as Chelsea's main attacking threat, with Christopher Nkunku giving support, although despite Palmer's 14 league goals, he is not a central striker, operating in a slightly deeper role, while Nkunku has only two league goals and is happier operating as a second striker or an attacking midfielder. — Xinhua

Liverpool's Slot banned for two matches after red card



Tempers frayed at the end of the Merseyside derby as Arne Slot's Liverpool were held to a 2-2 draw by Everton. **PHOTO: AFP**

LIVERPOOL manager Arne Slot has been handed a two-match touchline ban following his red card as tensions flared at the end of a fiery 2-2 draw with Everton.

Liverpool were on course to extend their lead at the top of the Premier League to nine points against their city rivals on Wednesday but James Tarkowski struck a stunning volley to level in the eighth minute of stoppage time.

Abdoulaye Doucoure's wild celebrations in front of the away fans sparked a furious reaction, with Liverpool midfielder Curtis Jones confronting Doucoure, leading to the dismissal of both men.

With supporters breaking on to the pitch, stewards and police became involved before Slot and assistant Sipke Hulshoff were also sent off by referee Michael Oliver.

"Liverpool head coach Arne Slot was dismissed at the end of the Merseyside derby for using offensive, insulting, or abusive language," the Premier League said in a statement.

"He is handed a two-match touchline ban as a result".

The matches affected are Sunday's game against struggling Wolves at home and Liverpool's trip to Aston Villa on 19 February. — AFP





# PM Modi arrives in US for two-day visit

Indian community members braved harsh winters to gather outside Blair House, warmly welcoming PM Modi.

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi arrived in the US on Wednesday (local time) for a two-day visit. His visit to the US comes at the invitation of US President Donald Trump. India’s Ambassador to the US, Vinay Mohan Kwatra and other officials welcomed PM Modi at the airport. This will be PM Modi’s first visit to the United States after Donald Trump assumed office for the second term. During his visit, PM Modi will hold a meeting with US President Trump. Members of the Indian community have gathered outside Blair House to welcome PM Modi. They braved the harsh winters and gathered outside Blair House to welcome PM Modi. Speaking to ANI, Baburaj, a member of Indian diaspora said, “I live in Virginia, I belong to Telangana. Today, the Indian diaspora is so excited..All Indians are excited to see him.” Srinivas, a member of the Indian diaspora, said that members of the Indian community are excited that the US gave the “highest priority” to PM Modi. — ANI



Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in the US for a two-day visit. PHOTO: X.COM

## South Africa starts processing group visa applications for tourists from China, India

SOUTH Africa started receiving group visa applications of tourists from China and India on Wednesday under a new initiative to facilitate a seamless process, the Department of Home Affairs announced on Wednesday. According to the depart-

ment, from 8 am Wednesday, the application process went live, allowing 65 selected tour operators to apply for visas for group travellers from China and India. Chinese and Indian nationals planning to visit South Africa do not have to visit South Africa’s missions

abroad or stand in long queues to apply for visas. South Africa is implementing the Trusted Tour Operator Scheme (TTOS) on a pilot basis. The TTOS was announced last year to boost tourism arrivals from China and India, as Chinese tourists account for only 1.8 per cent and Indian tourists 3.9 per cent of all international visitors to South Africa. “The fact that Home Affairs took the TTOS from conceptualization to implementation in less than six months demonstrates our commitment to embracing digital transformation and to playing our role as an economic enabler to create jobs,” said Minister of Home Affairs Leon Schreiber. — Xinhua



This photo taken on 10 August 2023 shows the view of Johannesburg, South Africa. PHOTO: XINHUA

### IN THE FUTURISTIC CITY

## Saudi Arabia to invest \$5 bln in AI data centre

A Saudi company will invest \$5 billion to build an artificial intelligence data centre in the futuristic city of NEOM, state media reported. The agreement, signed between DataVOLT and NEOM, would fund the creation of a fully sustainable AI data centre with a 1.5 gigawatt capacity, the official SPA news agency said. The project will be located in Oxagon, an industrial city within NEOM, which the kingdom aims to transform into the world’s largest floating industrial complex. The NEOM project, unveiled by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, features a mirrored building dubbed The Line stretching 170 kilometres (105 miles) across the desert from the Gulf of Aqaba. When announcing The Line in 2022, Prince Mohammed said it would house more than one million residents by 2030 and nine million by 2045. But developers have since revised those projections to 300,000 residents by the end of the decade, according to Bloomberg. In late October, Saudi Arabia announced the opening of Sindalah, a luxury resort on the Red Sea, marking NEOM’s first operational project. — AFP