

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing, his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla host dinner to mark 78th Anniversary of Union Day



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing warmly greets traditional ethnic cultural troupes from states and regions.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla hosted a dinner in honour of the 78th Anniversary of Union Day 2025 at the square of the City Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening.

On their arrival at the square of the Nay Pyi Taw City Hall at 6 pm, the Senior General and his wife were welcomed by SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Thiri Pyanchi Maha Thray Sithu Soe Win and his wife Daw Than Than Nwe, Union ministers

and their wives, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Than Tun Oo and his wife.

The Senior General and his wife, and the Vice-Senior General and his wife cordially greeted traditional ethnic cultural troupes from regions and states, chairpersons and representatives from political parties, leaders and representatives from NCA signatory ethnic armed organizations, economic ministers and ethnic affairs ministers from regions and states, MSME businesspersons from regions and states, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, Union ministers, Union-level dignitaries and their wives, SAC members and their wives, the

Council Joint Secretary and his wife, the Secretary and his wife.

The Senior General and his wife enjoyed the fireworks display to mark the 78th Anniversary of Union Day 2025. The Senior General and wife had dinner together with the attendees. At the dinner, singers from Myanmar Athan's modern band performed songs.

After the dinner, the Senior General and his wife enjoyed traditional dance entertainment of artistes from the Fine Arts Department and traditional ethnic cultural troupes at the open-air theatre.

The Senior General and his wife presented the flower basket of honour to the traditional ethnic cultural troupes.

Also present at the dinner were the SAC Secretary and wife, the Joint Secretary and wife, members of SAC and wives, members of SAC Central Advisory Body and wives, retired senior Tatmadaw officers, Union ministers, Union-level dignitaries and their wives, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, deputy ministers, chairmen and representatives from political parties, leaders and representatives from NCA signatory ethnic armed organizations, economic ministers and ethnic affairs ministers from regions and states, MSME businesspersons from regions and states, and ethnic cultural troupes and guests.

— MNA/TTA

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Crackdown nabs 120 YBS pilferers in 2 weeks; 280 phones, K1M seized

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.

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)

The State flag hoisting and saluting ceremony to mark the 78th Anniversary of the Union Day 2025 took place at the square of the City Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning, attended by Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Thiri Pyanchi Maha Thray Sithu Soe Win who read the Union Day message sent by SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing.

The 78th Anniversary of the Union Day 2025 was held with five national objectives with full essence. These objectives are: 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; To encourage collaborative efforts among all ethnic nationals to pursue dialogue for durable peace and to end armed conflicts; To collectively advance cooperation amongst all national people, the government, and Tatmadaw to ensure stability and the rule of law; To enhance

Union Day flag-hoisting and saluting ceremony marks 78th Anniversary of Union Day 2025



State Administration Council Vice-Chair Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Thiri Pyanchi Maha Thray Sithu Soe Win reads the Union Day message delivered by SAC Chair Prime Minister Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing.

collaborative efforts to ensure nationwide stability and tranquillity, enabling the successful conduct of multiparty general elections; and To promote balanced development across all regions and states, as well as enhance health, education and job opportunities for ethnic nationals.

The flag of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar was raised at 5:30 am.

Departmental personnel, social organizations, ethnic people and guests took the position at the square of Nay Pyi Taw City Hall. The Guard of Honour took the position at the square at 7 am.

The Vice-Senior General took the salute of the Guard of Honour. He saluted the flag of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar together with the attendees. The Guard of Honour

played the National Anthem.

The Vice-Senior General read the message sent by SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing.

Also present at the ceremony were Union ministers, the Auditor-General of the Union, the chairman of the Union Civil Service Board, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, the Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar, the Chairman of Anti-Corruption Commission, the Chairman of Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, senior Tatmadaw officers, judges from the Supreme Court of the Union, members of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union and Union Election Commission, deputy ministers, departmental heads, ethnic cultural troupes and guests. — MNA/TTA



The State Flag-hoisting and saluting event to mark the 78th Anniversary of Union Day in progress yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

NATIONAL

78th Union Day celebrations held nationwide

THE ceremonies commemorating the 78th anniversary of the Union Day took place in respective regions, states and self-administered division and zones yesterday. Also present at the ceremonies were chief ministers of regions and states, regional commanders,

township-level departmental officials, social welfare organizations, teachers, students and locals.
First, the chief ministers of regions and states, regional commanders and attendees saluted the State Flag, and the fallen martyrs and soldiers.

Then, the respective officials read out the message sent by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing to the occasion.
Then, the officials inaugu-

rated the vegetables, fruits and horticulture exhibition competition, and sports events marking the 78th Union Day. They observed the departmental and private booths at the event.
Moreover, the officials awarded the departmental staff and students who won in

competitions and sports events and served ethnic traditional food.
In the evening, the colourful fireworks display shows and funfairs were organized in respective regions, states and self-administered division and zones. — MNA/KTZH



Bago Region.



Yangon Region.



Mon State.



Taninthayi Region.



Rakhine State.



Kachin State.



PyinOoLwin Township.



Sagaing Region.



Taunggyi Township.

147 Myanmar EPS workers deployed to S Korea

2nd ASEAN-Pakistan Business Conference hosts Myanmar delegates

SWD opens enrolment for school-based vocational training

For further detail, individuals can enquire about Yangon schools in Bahan through contact numbers 09 427900046, Mandalay schools through 02 436798, Mawlamyine through 057 2027166, Toungoo through 054 2823571, Myitkyina through 074 2522558, Pyapon through 09 262757899, Patheingyi through 042 25373, 042 21037, Sittway through 043 22067, Ywangan through 081 4768015 and Dawei through 059 2024009. — NN/KK

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

NATIONAL

Zalun Pyidawpyan to host 8-day Buddha Pujaniya Festival



This photo captures the view of the Zalun Pyidawpyan Pagoda Buddha Pujaniya Festival in the previous year.

THE Buddha Pujaniya Festival at Zalun Pyidawpyan Pagoda will be held for eight days, from 7 to 14 March 2025, featuring ceremonies and festivities to honour the Buddha, Dhamma, and Sangha, according to U Khin Maung Oo, a member of

the Zalun Pyidawpyan Pagoda Board of Trustees. “The Zalun Pyidawpyan Pagoda’s Buddha Pujaniya Festival takes place from the 9th waxing day to the 1st waning day of Taboung. During the festival, we will offer whole-body

gold foils and a gold ceiling to the Buddha, as well as alms and rice offerings to members of the Sangha. Additionally, there will be a lively marketplace and entertainment activities,” explained U Khin Maung Oo. — ASH/MKKS

Yoma Yeiktha Housing Project to offer low-cost apartment units

YOMA Yeiktha Housing Project developed by the Yangon Region government in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township, Yangon Region, will be put up for public sales for low-income people struggling to own an accommodation, ac-

cording to a management committee for Yoma Yeiktha Apartment sales. Application forms will be sold on the ground floor of Yangon City Galley (office of Yangon Region Urban and Housing Development De-

partment) between 13 to 21 February. Applications can be submitted between 17 and 25 February. Those entitled to purchase apartment units will be notified, the committee stated. — NN/KK

Ancient Tougoo Ketumati City excavation uncovers buried turret

DURING excavation work at the ancient city of Tougoo Ketumati in Tougoo Township, Bago Region, archaeologists discovered a buried turret, according to sources from the Tougoo Ketumati excavation site. The excavation of the ancient city of Tougoo Ketumati began in January and remains ongoing. The city walls unearthed during the process will be preserved in their original state to maintain their historical value. The turret at the ancient city of Tougoo Ketumati was found on 2 February to the east of the central city gate (Mawgun Gate) on the northern city wall. Excavations in the area have so far reached a depth of approximately

50 feet. “As we traced the original wall lines and dug further eastward, we encountered a raised mound. Upon excavation, we uncovered bricks beneath the surface. The structure extends about 18 feet outward from the city wall. The excavation is still in progress,” said an official from the Tougoo Ketumati excavation site. The ancient city of Ketumati, established by King Mingyi Nyo in AD 1510, is located in Tougoo Township, Bago Region. It spans approximately 700 ta (2,240 metres or 7,350 feet) from east to west and 600 ta (1,920 metres or 6,300 feet) from north to south. — ASH/KNN



Excavation Site of the Ancient City of Ketumati.



‘Chit Kae Thahmya’ Art Expo to open on 15 Feb

THE ‘Chit Kae Thahmya’ art exhibition will be showcased from 15 to 19 February at the Artistic Space Art Gallery in Botahtaung Township, Yangon Region. The exhibition will feature a diverse collection of paintings created by renowned artists of the past as well as prominent contemporary

painters. The displayed artworks will encompass various styles, colours and themes, offering a rich and immersive experience for visitors. According to representatives from Artistic Space Art Gallery, this exhibition will present a remarkable collection of paintings, including rare masterpieces from legendary artists such as U Balon Lay, U Ohn Lwin, Maung Ngwe Htun, U Sein, U Kyaw and U Lunn Tin. Many of these paintings are rarely seen due to their historical value, private ownership or past deterioration. This exhibition provides

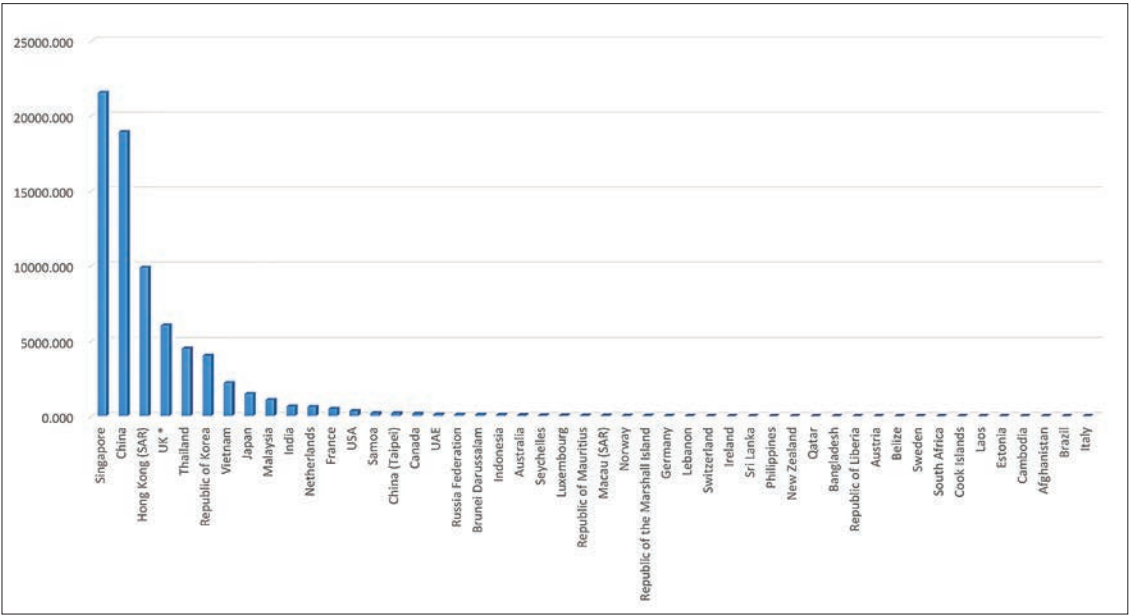
a unique opportunity to appreciate these invaluable artworks in one place. The exhibition will also feature works from contemporary artists such as Mote Thote, Ko Su and Ba Htay Kyi, offering a glimpse into the modern artistic landscape. Visitors will have the rare chance to explore a diverse range of artistic expressions in a single venue. The exhibition will also showcase various painting mediums, including watercolour, poster colour, ink, pencil, pastel, sketch, illustration and painting. — ASH/KZL

Singapore tops Myanmar investment charts in Apr-Jan period

SINGAPORE is the top investor in Myanmar during the April-January period of the current financial year 2024-2025, with an estimated capital of US\$446.65 million including the expansion of capitals by existing enterprises, the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration's statistics showed.

Singapore-listed companies put investments into urban development, real estate, transport and communication, oil and gas, power and manufacturing sectors. Myanmar Investment Commission gave the green light to three Singapore-listed enterprises in the past ten months.

China stood as the second largest investor this FY with an estimated capital of over \$83 million made by 30 newly approved enterprises and existing



Charge shows foreign direct investment by countries in Myanmar in January 2025.

ones. Thailand is ranked third in the line-up with more than \$46 million from two new businesses and the existing ones. Myanmar Investment

Commission greenlighted 52 foreign projects from 11 countries — China, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong SAR, India, Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand,

Republic of Marshall Islands, the Russian Federation, Japan, and the UAE – to make investments of over \$656 million in the past ten months, including

expansions of capital by existing enterprises.

The oil and gas sector witnessed a capital expansion of \$357 million. The manufacturing sector drew \$148.6 million, the transport and communication sector attracted \$87.7 million and the services sector received over \$51 million. The remaining FDI flowed into agriculture, livestock, fisheries and power respectively.

Singapore stood as the largest foreign investor in Myanmar in the previous years, pulling in the FDI of \$345 million in the 2023-2024 FY, \$1.158 billion in the 2022-2023 FY and \$297 million in the 2021-2022 mini-budget period (from October to March).

Moreover, Singapore is one of the leading foreign investors in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone. — KK

CBM injects \$21M into fuel oil sector

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) announced on 11 February that it would sell US\$21 million to fuel oil importers and, shortly after, injected over \$21.4 million and 500,000 baht into the markets on that day. It sold \$82,000, 220,000 yuan and one million baht into the financial market on 10 February, \$23 million and 600,000 yuan on 7 February and over \$150,000 and 214,830 yuan on 6 February.

CBM announced on 5 February that it would inject \$23 million into the fuel oil sector. CBM sold \$490,000 and 500,000 yuan on 5 February, over 105,900 yuan on 4 February and 500,000 yuan on 3 February. CBM pumped in \$124M, 13.8M baht and 4.8M yuan into financial markets in January 2025. CBM aims to curb the instability in the foreign exchange market and the currency devaluation. According

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



This file photo shows a petrol station in Yangon.

YSX stock trading hits K513M in Jan



Electronic board shows the indexes of YSX's stock shares in Yangon.

THE grand trading value of the eight listed companies on the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) exceeded K513 million with 165,452 shares in January 2025, according to the monthly report released by the exchange.

At present, shares of eight listed companies — First Myanmar Investment (FMI), Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH), Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB), First Private Bank (FPB), TMH Telecom Public Co Ltd (TMH), the Ever Flow River Group Public Co Ltd (EFR), Amata Holding Public Co Ltd (AMATA) and Myanmar Agro Exchange Public Co Ltd (MAEX) are traded in the security market.

FMI topped the trading with 19,912 shares worth K159.8 million, followed by 62,487 shares of FPB worth over K117.27 million, 35,848 shares of MTSH worth over K111.118 million, 9,324 shares of AMATA worth over K37.73 million, 22,533 shares of EFR worth K37.28 million, 9,744 shares of MAEX worth over \$31 million, 5,337 shares of TMH worth over K17.127 million and 267 shares of MCB worth over K2.239 million respectively last month.

The trading value in December 2024 was over K466 million with 132,866 shares. Trading value in January is up by K47 million with 32,500 more shares traded. — NN/KK

Don't forget the important role of radio in society

RADIO, a remarkably useful device in the global communication sector, has played a pivotal role in enhancing the lives of people worldwide. It has contributed to the transformation of various sectors across different countries, improving work processes, saving valuable time, and increasing the lifespan of individuals.

World Radio Day (WRD), proclaimed by UNESCO Member States in 2011 and adopted by the United Nations General Assembly (A/RES/67/124) in 2012, is celebrated on 13 February. On this significant day, the world emphasizes the power of radio as a medium that fosters humanity's diversity and provides a platform for democratic dialogue. Radio continues to be the most widely consumed medium globally, with its extensive reach enabling it to shape societies, reflect diverse voices, and create inclusive spaces for all.

Since its inception, radio and its devices have proven invaluable in connecting people across various situations. Different radio devices are useful for volunteers to carry out search and rescue operations, relief, and rehabilitation activities, saving lives and property of the residents in natural disasters and the aftermath of armed conflicts. Radio connections have also been crucial in mitigating the impacts of climate change and other disasters.

In addition, various forms of radio devices have been instrumental in bridging distances and saving time and money through effective connections.

On World Radio Day 2025, the theme will focus on "Radio and Climate Change," supporting radio stations in covering this pressing issue. Despite challenges such as reduced funding and staff cutbacks, radio stations must rely on diverse, credible sources to report on climate change. Broadcasters are encouraged to address climate scepticism, investigate greenwashing, explore ecological economics, and cover climate activism as well as obstacles to effective solutions.

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As innovation continues, scientists are creating an increasing number of useful devices based on radio technology. With advanced technologies, applications, and accessories emerging continuously, it is important not to forget the societal benefits of radio. To honour World Radio Day, people around the globe should recognize and appreciate the enduring value of radio for the future.

For a Good Myanmar Teacher to Become

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

IN THE instruction of school subjects in our country, an educator may be a success as a Myanmar, Maths, Chemistry or History teacher in particular to the extent to which he focuses his efforts on this subject. Out of these subject teachers, I believe it is most fortunate that a teacher experiences success in teaching Myanmar. This is simply because a Myanmar teacher will be up the creek without a paddle if he cannot draw attention and teach Myanmar students the Myanmar language to the degree that they show interest in the language. Excellent Myanmar teachers will be able to teach the Myanmar language so well that their students can be firm believer in learning the language. Thus, the common characteristics of a good Myanmar teacher (SAT) will be described in this article, based on my teaching experience.

First of all, I would like to start talking about the introductory chapters of poetry and prose. All high school teachers

and students must skim through these introductory chapters before the very poetry and prose teaching-learning activity. The introductory chapters usually make students interested in the following lessons, i.e. poems and prose. Here, introductory chapters are just interesting matters to students and it is only poems or prose that teachers have to teach their students. Hence, a teacher should never spend the whole class time (40 minutes nowadays) telling only one introductory chapter. Unexpectedly, if he does so, his teaching will lessen students' attention momentum towards the very lesson. For instance, in a Grade 11 Myanmar poem `ရွှေနှင်းယိုးမှား ဝန်းစံကား` (Shwe-nint-yoemar Pansagar), a teacher has to tell Panbe Maung Thintel and his sister's love story as much as needed, not Ko Byutta and Mewunna's. Great Myanmar teachers make good use of introductory parts to obtain students' long attention spans in poetry or prose instruction.

It is most Myanmar teachers who read and teach poems in a periodic tone. Seldom do many teachers read and sing Myanmar poems of their kind. It may be possible to say that such teaching has been out of date these days. In general, as poems contain systematic patterns of rhymes and rhythms, they are well-readable or even singable. If a teacher sings and teaches a Myanmar poem that is worth singing, his students will enjoy the poem more than normal. For instance, `မေတ္တာတင်မြေ` (Mezataungchay) from Grade 11 Myanmar is full of heart-break and compassion for Lord Letwethondara. But there is one point that should be noticed in poetry reading. Unless a teacher has such a good singing voice, it would be best if he does not sing and teach a Myanmar poem. Good Myanmar teachers read a poem before students, and then they make the entire class read out the poem neatly and rhythmically. As I am aware, most students can see the rhyming patterns of



Good Myanmar teachers use engaging introductions. These introductions capture student attention. They focus on relevant details, like the Shwe-nint-yoemar Pansagar poem's Panbe Maung Thintel story, not unrelated ones. On Mt Popa, a Nat-spirit resides amidst fragrant, gold-coloured Champac flowers. PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/MDN/FILE

a Myanmar poem pretty easily whether they are read or sung.

In learning Myanmar poems, both teachers and students will have to study the word choice and lexical composition of the poems. This is often called 'Dissecting the Anatomy of Poetry', which means seeing the vocabulary and sentence structures of a poem one after another. But on the other side, some Myanmar teachers say that this method destroys the beauty of a poem into pieces. Myself, I am strongly of the opinion

that it is merely learner's freedom of poetry study. Good Myanmar teachers, metaphorically speaking, tend to undergo an operation on a poem in the theatre called classroom, not deforming the poem at all.

Of course, a poem looks like a well-built little girl. Since poems are generally composed of short words and to the point, many poetry learners are always keen as mustard to study the poems. And it is also quite easy to memorize a poem by heart. However,

prose is not like this. The prose is figuratively a strong and healthy man. Because a language in which thousands of prose can be seen is still living in the world of language, learners are given to pay more attention to prose rather than poetry. Compared with a poem, prose is simple to understand but sometimes totally difficult to write. Although there is no restriction in prose composition regarding the number of words or stanzas, rhyming schemes, and intonation patterns, practically writing the

prose cannot arrive at its main theme or aim. But strangely enough, almost all students get bored with learning prose as well as can be under the illusion that they will be able to write similar prose with their eyes closed. In that connection, good Myanmar teachers show a detailed organization of prose arranged from words to sentences, paragraphs and the whole passage instead of overexplaining what the prose means.

After teaching poetry and

prose, teachers ought to ask students some questions related to them, especially the learning objective, curiously. At that time, the instructional objectives established by the students may be different from those prescribed in the curriculum. For language, study is absolute of diverse thoughts and perceptions. If and when the objective of the students has no clear correlation with that of the lesson in the curriculum, the teacher will need to express the very objective of the poem or prose, whether general or specific, where he can agree with other poetry- or prose-related acceptable feelings and opinions from his students without a second thought, mainly if he is meant to be a good Myanmar teacher.

Finally, good teachers who fully appreciate the Myanmar language like to teach it to their students so that they are getting to adore the language. Also, their Myanmar teaching pedagogy enables the students to be mad keen on continuing the language study. They make their students practise essay writing or do spelling and dictation exercises so often. In the main, their handwriting is pretty, neat and tidy, especially without writing system errors or spelling and dictation mistakes. And they like extensive reading besides studying the curriculum. Some even state that an enjoyable learning environment of the school largely depends on Myanmar teachers over there. Therefore, being a Myanmar teacher that does great credit to an educator is a foregone conclusion.



By leveraging AI, researchers can analyze vast amounts of retinal data far more efficiently and accurately than traditional methods. ILLUSTRATION: REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE/CONCEPT ART

Research reveals new insights into retinal thickness that may detect type 2 diabetes, dementia early

RESEARCHERS have conducted one of the largest eye studies in the world to reveal new insights into retinal thickness, highlighting its potential in the early detection of diseases like type 2 diabetes, dementia and multiple sclerosis.

The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute (WEHI) led study used cutting-edge artificial intelligence technology to analyse over 50,000 eyes and produced maps of the retina in unprecedented detail to better understand how retinal differences

link to various diseases.

The retina is part of the central nervous system, which also comprises the brain and spinal cord. Many diseases are linked to degeneration or disruption of this critical system, including neurodegenerative conditions such as dementia and metabolic disorders like diabetes.

Sported by AI, the research has created the most detailed maps of the retina ever produced.

WEHI researchers have used these maps to link retinal thinning to a range of diseases as well as

identifying new genetic factors that influence retinal thickness.

The findings could pave the way for routine eyecare imaging as a disease screening tool. Unlocking a window into the brain.

Lead researcher, WEHI's Dr Vicki Jackson, said the findings broaden the horizons for using retinal imaging as a doorway into the central nervous system, to help manage disease.

"We've shown that retinal imaging can act as a window to the brain, by detecting associations with neu-

rological disorders like multiple sclerosis and many other conditions," said Dr Jackson, a statistician and gene expert.

"Our maps' fine-scale measurements reveal critical new details about connections between retinal thinning and a range of common conditions."

The study also identified new genetic factors that influence retinal thickness, which are likely to play a role in the growth and development of a person's retina.

SOURCE: ANI

KEY HIGHLIGHTS:

- Researchers conducted one of the largest eye studies to reveal how retinal thickness can aid in early disease detection, including type 2 diabetes, dementia, and multiple sclerosis.
- Led by the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute (WEHI), the study used AI technology to create detailed retina maps, linking retinal thinning to various diseases.
- The findings show that retinal imaging could serve as a diagnostic tool for neurological and metabolic disorders, offering a window into the brain.
- Additionally, new genetic factors influencing retinal thickness were identified, further enhancing its potential as a disease biomarker.

NATIONAL

Six fires strike Yangon in single day



Firefighters are struggling to extinguish a fire in Dagon Myothit (South) Township, Yangon Region, on 7 February.

SIX fires broke out in Yangon Region in one day on 10 February, according to the Myanmar Fire Service.

The first fire broke out at 11:45 am in Lower Mingaladon Street, Phawkan Ward, Insein. Three fire engines from Insein, two from Mayangon, and two from the Northern District Station were dispatched to extinguish it.

About an hour later, another fire broke out at the corner of

Sule Pagoda Street and Anawrahta Street in Kyauktada Township and it was extinguished by two fire engines from that township. In Insein at 2:52 pm, three fire engines had to extinguish the third fire in Taungthugon Ward.

The fourth was a dried grass fire in Hmawby at 2:48 pm and the fifth in North Okkalapa Township at 8:24 pm while both were extinguished by two engines each from the respective township. Then, the sixth and the last fire broke

out in Sanchaung Township.

Ma Shwe Lei, chairman of the Shwe Metta Charity Association, urged people to be aware of the fire hazard as there are many fires caused by negligence.

“After using a fire, it is necessary to turn it off properly. If the power goes out, people should remind themselves to turn off any electrical appliances – especially rice cookers and electric pots and pans,” she said. – Htet Oo Maung/ZN

Crackdown nabs 120 YBS pilferers in 2 weeks; 280 phones, K1M seized



An alert signage saying 'Beware of pickpockets' sticks to a YBS bus.

IN two weeks from 14 to 31 January 2025, pickpockets were arrested on 120 YBS buses and more than 280 mobile phones and cash K1 million along with a vehicle were seized, Yangon Region Public Transport Committee YRTC Joint Secretary U Lyan Cing Mang wrote on his Facebook page.

“CCTVs are installed on YBS buses, so you opportunists, pilferers, stop right now,” he said. According to YRTC statistics on 8 February, 3,606 buses from 132 bus lines provided the public transport service for 1,506,562 passengers.

YRTC has provided warning signs for pickpocketing on YBS buses and passengers are advised to stay alert when the bus is crowded, properly keep their purses and mobile phones and not to get sleepy. – MT/ZS

Counter-argument to false information

Security forces accused of torching two villages in Kanbalu

MALICIOUS media outlets intentionally spread fake news, claiming that security forces launched drone attacks in Koemyo village and Thoeboe village in Kanbalu Township, Sagaing Region.

According to a security official, security forces conducted security measures to protect the lives and properties of civilians under the law. Terrorists launched arson attacks and fired at the villages using heavy weapons for various reasons without taking the lives and properties of people into consideration.

Subversive media outlets intentionally circulate false claims and misinformation to cover the destructive actions of terrorists and mislead the public about security forces carrying out security duties. — MNA/KTZH



This screenshot spreads false claims.

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

Answer “1111” to fight against corruption

Answer “1111” to improve services

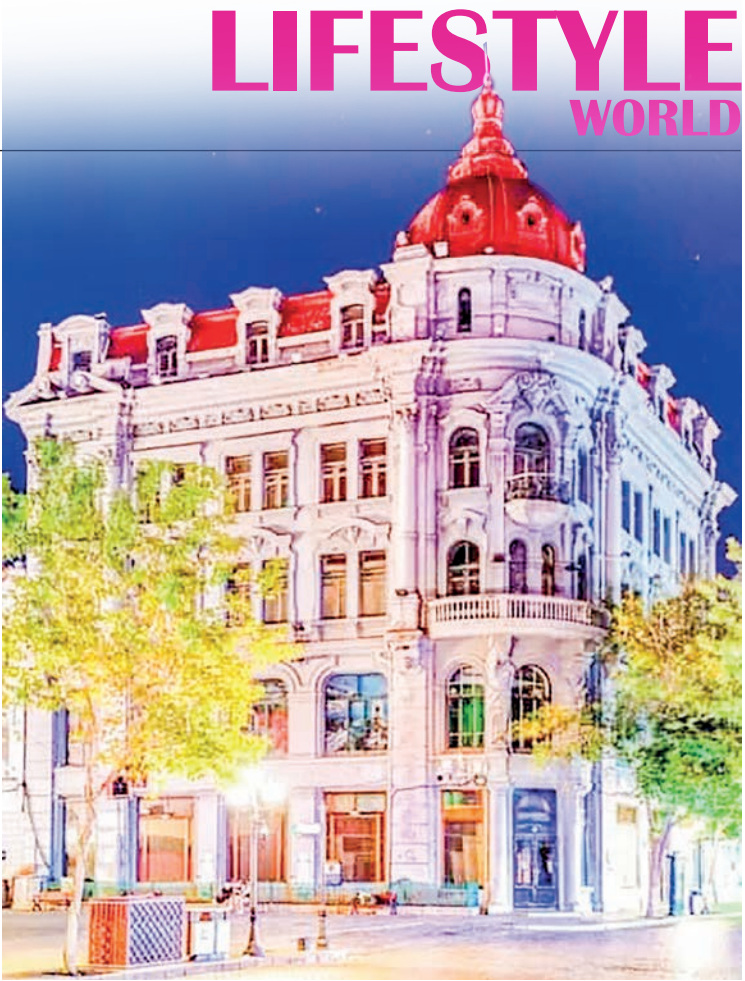
Historic street showcases beauty of cultural fusion in Harbin

Harbin is a beautiful city, with stunning streets and architecture.

HARBIN, the capital of China’s northernmost Heilongjiang Province, once again captured global attention as the 9th Asian Winter Games opened here last week. As a renowned destination for ice-and-snow tourism, Harbin offers a wealth of cultural experiences. The city’s iconic Central Street, lined with dozens of Eu-

ropean-style buildings, features a striking mix of Renaissance, Baroque, Eclectic and modern architectural styles, making it popular among visitors. Embracing the excitement created by Harbin’s hosting of the Asian Winter Games, the 1,450-metre-long street is adorned with ice sculptures and snow carvings, integrating cultural heritage with

the enchantment of the season. “Harbin is a beautiful city, with stunning streets and architecture. The Ice and Snow World at night is beyond our imagination. While Russia also has ice and snow, coming here has allowed us to experience the unique beauty and romance of ice and snow,” said Alexander Adelev, a tourist from Russia. — Xinhua



The city’s iconic Central Street, lined with dozens of European-style buildings, features a striking mix of Renaissance, Baroque, Eclectic and modern architectural styles. **PHOTO: EASTCHINATRIIP**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Women’s group condemns US military’s covert operations in Philippines

An alliance of women in the Philippines, GABRIELA, on Wednesday condemned what it described as covert operations of the United States military in the Southeast Asian country. “GABRIELA strongly condemns the exposed US military intervention in Mindanao (in the southern Philippines) following reports of a crashed US surveillance aircraft in Maguindanao del Sur province that was conducting intelligence operations with Philippine state security forces,” GABRIELA Secretary-General Clarice Palce said. GABRIELA referred to a fatal US-contracted surveillance plane crash on 6 February this year. The US Indo-Pacific Command later confirmed the aircraft “was providing intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance support at the request of the Philippines.” “This incident exposes the truth behind the US military presence in Mindanao -- they are not here for ‘humanitarian assistance’ or ‘joint exercises’ but for actual combat and surveillance operations that violate our national sovereignty,” Palce said. — Xinhua

Federal workers fearful, outraged over ‘DEI watchlist’ website

FEDERAL workers across US health agencies say they are nervous and on edge after a conservative group published more than 50 of their names and photos on a website that at one point described them as “targets.” The so-called “DEI watchlist,” registered in November, triggered alarm among civil servants as it gained traction amid President Donald Trump’s efforts to purge the government of positions and programs related to diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). The website — which initially described the workers as “targets” — now displays “dos-



One federal worker profiled by the site said they were concerned for their safety when a colleague alerted them to the list and its tipline. **PHOTO: AFP** siers” for workers it claims have promoted such initiatives, most of whom are Black and women. The group behind it, the nonprofit American Accountability Foundation, says it plans to add another 40 names on Tuesday. — AFP



‘Captain America: Brave New World’ is directed by Nigerian-born Julius Onah. **PHOTO: AFP**

New ‘Captain America’ film flies into Trumpian headwinds

THE latest in the Captain America film franchise which premiered in Hollywood Tuesday presents a vision of the United States out of step with the Trump era, with a diverse cast, a core message about unity and an endorsement of international diplomacy. Written and filmed before Donald Trump’s return as president, the

latest offering from Marvel Studios has already faced an online backlash from some right-wingers over comments by lead actor Anthony Mackie deemed as unpatriotic. Mackie, the first Black actor to play the superhero, became a target last month after attempting to make a point about the universal message of Cap-

tain America as an ideal of good conscience and incorruptibility. “Captain America represents a lot of different things, and I don’t think the term ‘America’ should be one of those representations,” he said at a promotional event. “It’s about a man who keeps his word, who has honour, dignity, and integrity.” — AFP

ECONOMY
WORLD

What are reciprocal tariffs and who might be affected?

Trump mentioned he would provide a detailed announcement on tariffs, highlighting the importance of matching tariffs to ensure fairness in trade.

US President Donald Trump has threatened to open new fronts in his tariffs war by announcing reciprocal levies on other countries as soon as Tuesday, branding this “the only fair way” to trade.

Trump’s fresh salvo could bring a broad tariff hike to emerging market economies like India and take aim at European Union value-added taxes, fanning tensions with the bloc, analysts warn.

What are reciprocal tariffs?

Tariffs are taxes imposed on goods imported from another country.

As for reciprocal tariffs -- during election campaigning, Trump promised: “An eye for an eye, a tariff for a tariff, same exact amount.”

And on Sunday, he said he would make a detailed announcement on the tariffs on Tuesday or Wednesday, adding that “every country will be reciprocal”.

One approach is to hike tariff rates on imports to match the rate that other countries apply to US products, said Goldman Sachs analysts in a note.

Matching this based on



US President Donald Trump, during election campaigning, promised “an eye for an eye, a tariff for a tariff”. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

different products would raise the United States’ average tariff rate by around two percentage points. Doing so to match the average tariff imposed by countries raises the US rate by a smaller amount.

But taking a product-focused approach has complexities.

Reciprocal tariffs may open the door to “a broad tariff hike” on emerging market economies who have high duties on US products, JPMorgan analysts expect.

— AFP

French wine exports fall as sector worries over trade tensions

FRENCH exports of wine and spirits fell last year, industry figures showed on Tuesday, as

the sector was hit by a trade spat with China and now braces for potential US tariffs.



An exhibitor looks at a bottle of wine at the Wine Paris and Vinexpo Paris exhibition at Paris Expo (Porte de Versailles) in Paris on 14 February 2022. PHOTO: STEPHANE DE SAKUTIN / AFP/FILE

Foreign sales of wine, champagne, cognac and other French alcoholic drinks totalled 15.6 billion euros (\$16.1 billion) in 2024, down four per cent from the previous year, according to the Wine and Spirits Exports Federation (FEVS).

Exports were down 0.1 per cent in terms of volume.

The slump comes “in a context still marked by economic and geopolitical tensions”, the federation said in a statement.

Sales of French alcohol to the United States, its top foreign market, grew five per cent last year. — AFP

Germany’s DAX index hits new record above 22,000 points

GERMANY’S blue-chip DAX stock index rose above 22,000 points for the first time on Tuesday, led by industrial conglomerate Siemens and software giant SAP.

The index, which groups the 40 largest publicly traded companies on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange, hit 22,003 points at around 1440 GMT, before falling back.

Independent stock market analyst Andreas Lipkow described the record as “rather un-

satisfactory”, noting that gains were concentrated among only a few firms.

“Most industries and sectors cannot keep up. Only the shares of the few multinational corporations can benefit from the demand of investors,” he said. The majority of companies in the index were “still sluggish”, Lipkow said.

Germany’s economy shrank by 0.2 per cent in 2024, the second year in a row it has been in recession. — AFP

Japan seeks exemption from US steel, aluminium tariffs

JAPAN on Wednesday requested that its steel and aluminium products be exempt from 25 per cent tariffs imposed by US President Donald Trump, who vowed to put the penalties into effect next month, the government’s top spokesman said.

Chief Cabinet Secretary

Yoshimasa Hayashi said the government formally requested the exemption through the Japanese Embassy in the United States.

Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba, who met Trump last week, said in parliament, “We will take necessary measures, including lobbying the United

States for an exemption, while closely monitoring any possible impact on the Japanese economy.” The tariffs are due to take effect on 12 March, according to the White House. It was Trump’s first sector-based tariff order since taking office last month. — Kyodo



Several US trading partners, including Japan, were granted duty-free quotas under the administration of Joe Biden. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

S Korea's export by big firms logs double-digit growth in 2024

Strong demand for capital goods, notably transport equipment and IT components, especially chips, fueled the growth.

SOUTH Korea's export by big firms logged a double-digit growth in 2024 due to strong global demand for locally-made semiconductors, statistical office data showed Wednesday.

Outbound shipment by the country's top 999 exporters out of the total 99,181 exporting companies advanced 11.6 per cent from a year earlier to US\$453.4 billion in 2024, according to Statistics Korea.

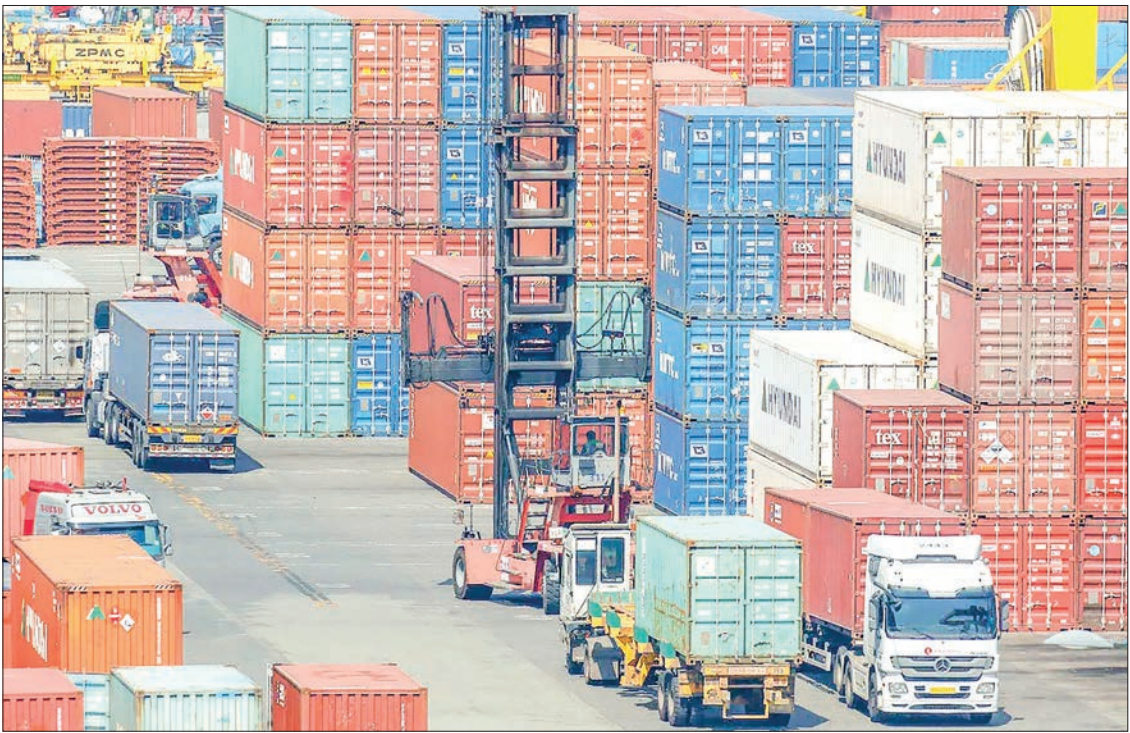
It was driven by solid demand for capital goods such as transport equipment and IT components, particularly chips.

Export by the top 10 export-

ers accounted for 36.6 per cent of the total shipment in 2024, up 3.7 percentage points compared to the previous year.

Shipment by medium-sized exporters reduced 0.7 per cent on weaker demand for raw materials, but export by small firms gained 4.7 per cent thanks to demand for capital and consumer goods. Import by the country's top 1,385 importers out of the total 228,896 importing companies retreated 2.7 per cent to \$383.7 billion last year on the back of lower demand for consumer goods and raw materials.

— Xinhua



Export by the top 10 exporters accounted for 36.6 per cent of the total shipment in 2024, up 3.7 percentage points compared to the previous year. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Venice extends tourist tax for 2025

VENICE authorities said Monday they would extend a controversial ticket policy for day-trippers in 2025, reporting

that last year's trial scheme had "slightly" reduced crowds.

The Italian city, built on islands in a lagoon, will des-

ignate 54 days this year when visitors will have to pay in advance for a ticket to enter the historic centre, up from 29 last year.

Venice rolled out the trial last April. Day-trippers paid a "Venice Access Fee" of five euros (\$5.15) on certain days in what officials called an experiment to make the historic city more "liveable".

Those without tickets risked fines ranging from 50 to 300 euros, with spot checks at key points of entry. Venice is one of the world's top tourist destinations, but many residents say it is drowning under the weight of crowds. — AFP



Venice is a top tourist destination. **PHOTO: AFP**

Malaysia's trade group calls for govt swift action amid US steel tariffs

MALAYSIAN Iron and Steel Industry Federation (MISIF), which represents iron and steel products manufacturers in Malaysia, has called for the government's swift action as the US tariffs will lead to

a surge of steel products in Malaysia.

MISIF said in a statement on Wednesday that it urged the Malaysian government to reinforce anti-dumping legislation and expedite investiga-

tion to mitigate the anticipated trade diversion amid the US tariffs.

The United States has recently announced a 25 per cent tariff on steel and aluminium imports. — Xinhua

China's futures market sees double-digit growth in trading turnover in January

CHINA'S futures market reported double-digit year-on-year growth in trading turnover last month, industrial data showed Wednesday.

Total trading turnover rose 11.01 per cent year on year to 48.87 trillion yuan (about US\$6.81 trillion) in January, according to data from the China Futures Association.

The trading volume of the market reached 553 million lots last month, edging up 0.09 per cent from a year ago, the data showed.

In terms of trading turnover, the top three futures were gold, silver and crude oil at the Shanghai Futures Exchange last month; caustic soda, rapeseed oil, and rapeseed meal at the Zhengzhou Commodity Exchange; palm oil, soybean meal, and soybean oil at the Dalian Commodity Exchange; and industrial silicon, lithium carbonate and polycrystalline silicon at the Guangzhou Futures Exchange, according to the data. — Xinhua

Brazil's biggest industry group slams US steel, aluminium tariffs

THE Brazilian Federation of Industries of the state of Sao Paulo (FIESP), the largest association of manufacturers in South America, on Tuesday rejected the US decision to impose 25-per-cent tariffs on all imported steel and aluminium.

Noting that Brazil is far from being a commercial threat to the United States, the FIESP said in a statement that in the past two decades, the United States registered trade surpluses with Brazil

on 16 occasions.

Economic cooperation between Brasilia and Washington should be enough to guarantee a solution that is beneficial to both countries, the group added. The United States is Brazil's largest market for steel and its third-largest destination for aluminium exports. The recent tariff hikes announced by President Donald Trump are expected to have a direct and significant impact on Brazilian exporters. — Xinhua

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

Jordan to take sick Gaza kids as Trump pushes takeover plan

Trump praised the “beautiful gesture” from the Jordanian monarch, while backing down on withholding aid for Jordan and Egypt.



King Abdullah II of Jordan speaks during a meeting with US President Donald Trump in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, DC, 11 February 2025. PHOTO: AFP

JORDAN’S King Abdullah II on Tuesday told Donald Trump that his country would take in some 2,000 sick children from war-torn Gaza, as the US pres-

ident pushed his plan to take over the territory and push out Palestinians. Speaking at the White House, King Abdullah added

that Egypt would present a proposal on how countries in the region could “work” with Trump on the plan, despite Arab nations and the Palestinians having rejected it outright.

“I think one of the things that we can do right away is take 2,000 children, cancer children who are in a very ill state, that is possible,” King Abdullah said as Trump welcomed him and Crown Prince Hussein in the Oval Office.

Trump called it a “beautiful gesture” and said he didn’t know about it before the Jordanian monarch’s arrival at the White House.

The US president meanwhile backed down on a suggestion that he could withhold aid for Jordan and Egypt if they refused to take in more than two million Palestinians from Gaza.

“I think we’ll do something. I don’t have to threaten that, I do believe we’re above that,” Trump said. — AFP

Truck cabin found in Japan sinkhole search for driver

A truck cabin swallowed by a sinkhole in Japan has been found in a sewer pipe and may contain the body of its missing driver; a fire department official said Wednesday.

Rescuers have been struggling to find the 74-year-old driver since the truck plunged into a chasm that appeared near Tokyo two weeks ago. The sinkhole suddenly opened up at an intersection in the city of Yashio during morning rush hour on 28 January, swallowing the lorry.

“After experts analyzed photos taken with a drone... they said there’s a cabin of a truck in the photos and they can’t rule out the possibility that what appears to be inside is a person,” local fire depart-

ment official Tomonori Nakazawa told AFP.

But rescuers could not enter the sewer pipe where the

truck cabin was spotted due to water flow and high levels of hydrogen sulfide gas, he said. — AFP



The sinkhole suddenly opened up during morning rush hour an intersection north of Tokyo, swallowing the lorry. PHOTO: JIJI PRESS/AFP

Rushdie tells trial of ‘lake of blood’ after stabbing

NOVELIST Salman Rushdie described Tuesday the moment a knife-wielding attacker stormed on stage and attempted to kill him with a frenzied attack that left him blind in one eye.

“The Satanic Verses” author told jurors at the trial of his alleged attacker, 23-year-old American-Lebanese Hadi Matar, that Matar “was stabbing and slashing” at him.

“I was aware of this person rushing at me on my right hand side,” he said, describing how he was on stage at an arts event in New York state in August 2022.

“I only saw him at the last minute.”

“I was very struck by his eyes which were dark and seemed very ferocious to me,” Rushdie said of the attacker who wore a Covid mask.

“It was a stab wound in my eye, intensely painful, after that I was screaming because of the pain,” Rushdie said, adding that



Salman Rushdie was nearly stabbed to death at an arts event in 2022. PHOTO: KIRILL KUDRYAVTSEV/AFP/FILE

he was left in a “lake of blood”.

Matar’s legal team have sought to prevent witnesses from characterizing Rushdie as a victim of persecution following Iran’s 1989 fatwa calling for his murder over supposed blasphemy in “The Satanic Verses”.

Matar is accused of stabbing Rushdie about 10 times with a six-inch blade. He said “Palestine will be free” as he was led into court, and did not react as Rushdie began his evidence. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Norwegian aid group lays off 1,700 workers over US aid freeze

NORSK FOLKEHJELP, a major Norwegian aid group that specializes in demining operations, said Tuesday it would let go 1,700 workers in 12 countries following a US decision to freeze foreign aid payments.

It is the second major Norwegian charity in two days to cut operations because of the decision by US President Donald Trump. The Norwegian Refugee Council said Monday it was suspending humanitarian activities in almost 20 countries.

Norsk Folkehjelp said in a statement that about \$41 million, or 40 per cent of its funding to clear mines and other explosives, had been lost. The job cuts are in countries including Ukraine, Afghanistan, Iraq and Cambodia. — AFP

Panama blocks migrant caravan trying to go home to Venezuela

PANAMANIAN police on Tuesday turned back dozens of migrants, mostly Venezuelans, trying to return home after abandoning their journey to the United States due to President Donald Trump’s deportation policies.

Riot police forced the caravan to go back to Costa Rica to undergo an orderly repatriation process.

“We went in search of a dream that could not be fulfilled and now we are heading back home again,” a migrant who did not give his name told AFP. Venezuelan Andres Paredes said he wanted to avoid going hungry and sleeping on the streets during the long journey to the United States, only to be turned away. — AFP

SPORTS

China sweeps podium in ski mountaineering mixed relay at Asian Winter Games

CHINA dominated the first-ever mixed relay event in ski mountaineering at the Asian Winter Games on Wednesday, with young talents Cidanyuzhen and Buluer claiming gold in a commanding performance.

The mixed relay features teams of one male and one female athlete. In the preliminary round, competitors raced separately, with their combined times determining qualification. Japan's Yurie Tanaka and Tokutaro Shima recorded the fastest time of 14 minutes, 8.39 seconds, securing the top spot, while Cidanyuzhen and Buluer advanced in second place, 27

seconds behind.

The final round was a relay format, with each athlete completing two ascents and descents per leg in a woman-man-woman-man sequence, culminating in a male finisher crossing the line.

China took control early in the final. Cidanyuzhen completed the opening leg in 7:34.12, finishing just shy of teammate Suolangquzhen by less than two seconds.

"Falling behind in the first leg wasn't an issue," Cidanyuzhen said after the race. "I saved some energy, knowing there would be opportunities later. I trust my endurance." — Xinhua



Skiers compete during the Ski Mountaineering mixed relay final match at the 9th Asian Winter Games in Yabuli, northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, 12 February 2025. PHOTO: XIE JIANFEI/XINHUA

Union Day Equestrian Competitions held in Yangon



Riders fiercely compete in the equestrian race, showcasing skills and determination.

TO commemorate the 78th Union Day, the Myanmar Traditional Horse Riding and International Equestrian Competitions took place yesterday morning at the Myanmar Equestrian Federation's racecourse in Dagon Myothit (North), Yangon.

The event, held under the banner of the Union Banner Cup, saw Myanmar Equestrian Federation Chair U Pyone Maung Maung and vice-chairpersons inaugurating the competition by cutting the ceremo-

nial ribbon.

The opening day featured various equestrian events including races for Pony, Junior, Intermediate and Senior categories, as well as Show Jumping competitions for riders under 14 and those aged 14 to 18. The competitions also included traditional horse riding events such as the Senior, Intermediate and Junior races, Pony races, Myanmar traditional equestrian performances, sword display competitions and tent pegging.

In the international equestrian segment, competitions featured Children's Show Jumping, Junior Show Jumping for riders under 14, Youth Show Jumping for those aged 14 to 18 and 16 to 21, Senior Show Jumping for those over 21, and Cross-Country Open Class for riders aged 16 and above. Over 100 equestrians from states and regions across Myanmar are participating in the event, which will continue until 16 February. — Arkar Linn/KZL

Phenom Stolz not getting carried away as Olympics loom

STILL only 20, Jordan Stolz has the speed skating world at his feet after making the men's sprint and middle distances his own a year before the Milan-Cortina Winter Olympics.

The down-to-earth American has won back-to-back world single-distance championships over 500, 1,000 and 1,500 metres, as well as a staggering 18 straight World Cup golds across the three distances, becoming the face of the sport along the way.

While his World Cup win streak came to an end with a runner-up finish behind Japan's Tatsuya Shinhama on 2 February, Stolz is primed to head to Italy as the favourite for multiple Olympic titles.

"I think if I can compete as well as I am now, race in the same time and same shape, hopefully that can lead me to a gold medal," Stolz told Kyodo News recently. "I'd like to win a gold medal. At least one".

Moved by multiple short-track medalist Apolo Ohno at the 2010 Vancouver Olympics, Stolz started the sport at age 5 before moving on to the bigger rink, this time inspired by the likes of Canadian great Jeremy Wotherspoon and US star Shani Davis. — Kyodo



Jordan Stolz of the United States competes en route to winning gold in the men's 500 metres at a World Cup speed skating meet in Beijing on 29 November 2024. PHOTO: KYODO

Southgate's ex-assistant wins first game as Yokohama boss

FORMER England assistant Steve Holland won his first game in charge of Japan's Yokohama F-Marinoss, beating China's Shanghai Shenhua 1-0 on Wednesday to top the Asian Champions League East table.

Gareth Southgate's former right-hand man is in his first managerial position since 2008, following long stints as an assistant coach at Chelsea and England.

The 54-year-old enjoyed a successful debut at home with Yokohama, who had already qualified for the AFC Champions League Elite knock-out phase heading into their penultimate league stage game.

"Any new manager, whether they've been a manager previ-

ously or not, you want to get that first win as soon as possible," said Holland.

"Why? Because it starts to grow belief in everybody that what you're doing is a good way. "So to get that first win always for any manager in any new job is a relief".

Brazilian Yan Matheus scored midway through the first half for the Japanese side, who lost last season's final to United Arab Emirates side Al Ain with Australian Harry Kewell at the helm.

Holland also follows in the footsteps of current Tottenham boss Ange Postecoglou, who managed Yokohama from 2018 to 2021. — AFP



THE SUSPENSION
OF CLASSES

South Brazil
heat wave
forces schools to
suspend return

A court has postponed the start of classes Monday for thousands of schools in southern Brazil as a heat wave threatens temperatures of up to 40 degrees Celsius, education officials said.

The heat wave hitting the state of Rio Grande do Sul – which usually has milder temperatures than regions further north – comes after historic floods in the state in 2024 that left more than 180 people dead.

The start of the school year was pushed back a week at the request of a teachers' union, which filed a complaint saying there was "lack of adequate ventilation and sufficient water sources" for students.

"In compliance with the decision of the Court of Justice of the State of Rio Grande do Sul, there will be no classes in the 2,320 schools of the state network this Monday," the education secretariat said in a statement.

The suspension of classes affects around 700,000 students.

The teachers' union hailed the decision as "a fundamental victory for the safety and well-being of the entire school community".

The state government, however, appealed the move and hopes to have students return before 17 February.

"The local government is building a resilient school model, adaptable to climate change, with adjustments to school infrastructure," said the education secretariat.
— AFP



Prime Minister Narendra Modi
with French President Emmanuel
Macron. PHOTO: ANI

PM Modi, President Macron's special
friendship marked by extraordinary
gestures during France visit

President Macron and PM Modi will strengthen their partnership by inaugurating the Indian Consulate in Marseille.

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi's visit to France has been marked by an exceptional display of camaraderie and respect from President Emmanuel Macron, showcasing the strength of their bilateral relationship.

From shared moments at the AI Action Summit to travelling together in a joint motorcade and even on the

same plane to Marseille, the two leaders have highlighted their close personal and diplomatic ties.

On the first day, President Macron spent time with PM Modi at the dinner hosted by him. The camaraderie continued the next day at the AI Action Summit, where India and France co-hosted the summit.

Demonstrating their close ties, they

hosted the India-France CEOs Forum together, reflecting their shared vision for economic collaboration.

In an extraordinary gesture of friendship, both the leaders also travelled together in a joint motorcade and in the same plane to Marseille. President Macron hosted PM Modi for a working dinner in Marseille immediately on landing. — ANI

DeepSeek gains popularity in Russia for
high-quality content, accessibility: media

CHINESE artificial intelligence (AI) application DeepSeek has become popular among Russian users for its high-quality content and accessibility, RIA news agency reported Tuesday.

"DeepSeek has primarily become popular due to the high-quality content that can be

generated using the company's large language model, as well as the availability of its products," the report said, citing the press service of the AI segment of Russia's largest mobile operator MTS.

Unlike ChatGPT, DeepSeek is free and can be easily

downloaded in Russia, it said, adding that the rise of new free and accessible applications like DeepSeek will likely lead to a decrease in ChatGPT's users.

Russian mobile operators t2 and Yota have also previously noted a growing interest in DeepSeek nationwide. — Xinhua



A boy tries an AI-driven pad for learning assistance at the 7th World Voice Expo in Hefei, east China's Anhui Province, 24 October 2024. PHOTO: FU TIAN/XINHUA