

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

## SUNDAY EDITION

### Temporary permits for Thilawa, Kanaung Housings by Urban Development Dept

THE Department of Urban and Housing Development under the Ministry of Construction will issue residence permits for units of Thilawa and Kanaung affordable housing complexes to those who have registered with the department for purchasing them.

The Construction, Housing and Infrastructure Development Bank (CHID) has been assessing loan applicants for those housing complexes sold on 21 June 2024 under the home loan development project. Those who have been allowed to purchase the units and who have registered with the department are entitled to reside at the respective units with temporary residence permits.

The residence permits will be issued between 4 and 14 February 2025 at the department located at 228/234 on Bogyoke Aung San Road in Botahtaung Township with a citizenship scrutiny card, household registration copy, and authorization letter for those who cannot verify themselves.

Those who are eligible to buy the apartment units need to complete a loan assessment of the CHID Bank and enquire about details of the residence permits through the contact numbers of the department at 09 983930881 and 09 421721033 during office hours. — NN/KK



PHOTO: MOUNT POPA NATIONAL GEOPARK

## Rare bird species, including Himalayan vulture, spotted in Kyetmauktaung Dam area

**T**he world's rare bird species such as migratory water birds, forest birds and Himalayan vulture or Himalayan griffon vultures are residing in Kyetmauktaung dam and watershed area in Kyaukpadaung Township of NyaungU District, Mandalay Region, according to Nature and Wildlife Conservation Division of Mount Popa National Geopark.

"Currently, there are nearly 1,000 birds of over 20 species of migratory water birds and forest birds in Kyetmauktaung dam and its vicinity area. Migratory birds, especially, take shelter in our country and it is a sign of fine environment and habitats. It is such a pride and the bird watchers also like it in the ecotourism sector," said Senior Forester U Kyaw Naing Oo.

The migratory birds like lesser whistling duck, spot-billed duck, Podiceps nigricollis, heron, Eurasian coot, egret species, ruddy shelduck, Jicanas and other water birds are living in the Kyetmauktaung Dam and watershed area whereas the arrivals of lesser whistling duck are the highest. Among them, Himalayan vultures, yellow-breasted bunting and 15 other bird species are

"... Migratory birds, especially, take shelter in our country and it is a sign of fine environment and habitats. ..."

found.

"The forest birds are found in the fields of the upper part of the Kyetmauktaung Dam. If we conserve these birds, there might be arrivals of other unique bird species in coming years. The Himalayan vultures are world rare species and we see them this year," he continued.

Eighteen seasonally protected bird species, 49 normally protected bird species and 30 totally protected bird species are spotted in the Kyetmauktaung Dam and Mount Popa National Geopark. — Thitsa (MNA)/KTZH

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# NATIONAL

## State Designates MNDA, TNLA, AA as Terrorist Groups: Collaboration Equals Terrorism

THE State designated the MNDA, TNLA, and AA armed groups as terrorist organizations on 2 September 2024.

Therefore, anyone who engages with these terrorists is also participating in acts of terror.

*(Excerpt from the guidance given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting hall of the Eastern Command Headquarters on 3 September 2024)*



### National Objectives for 78<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Union Day 2025

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

### Mottos for 78<sup>th</sup> Union Day 2025

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

### Gold Market Rate as of 1 February 2025

THE price of one tical (16.329325 grammes) of gold with density of 19.25 grammes per cubic centimetre and above is K5,450,000, as established by the Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee.

## 2024 Myanmar Academy to highlight ICH-listed Thingyan Festival

PERFORMANCES of the 2024 Myanmar Film Academy Award Ceremony will include a programme of the traditional Myanmar New Year Thingyan Festival, recognized as an Intangible Cultural Heritage, according to U Chantha Kyi Soe, Joint Secretary of the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization.

The ceremony will be opened with a star dance by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, followed by entertainment by the film organization in honour of Thingyan, a performance of the Myanmar Theatrical Association, and entertainment by the event ushers.

“In honouring the Thingyan Festival, which is listed as an Intangible Cultural Heritage, we will present that our movies and Thingyan are related, and there are many classic films that were shot on the theme of Thingyan from ‘Taw Myaing Soon Ka Lwan Aung Phan’ in the silent film era to ‘Thingyan Moe’ era. We will show scenes from those films for about seven and a half minutes,” he said.

It will be held in Nay Pyi Taw on 9 February 2025. The judging panel selected 18 films as the final stage after reviewing 49 films and it plans to provide 12 winner awards. — ASH/ZN



A classic ‘Thingyan Moe’ movie poster.

# 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)*

### Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council

#### Order 20/2025

4<sup>th</sup> Waxing of Tabodwe 1386 ME  
1 February 2025

### Appointment and Duty Assignment of Deputy Minister

THE State Administration Council has appointed and assigned U Kyaw Shwe Tun as Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Commerce under Section 419 of the Constitution.

By order,  
Aung Lin Dwe  
General  
Secretary

## MoALI provides flood recovery to livestock firms

DEPUTY Minister for Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation Dr Aung Gyi and departmental officials attended a ceremony to provide 500 pigs to livestock farmers affected by Typhoon Yagi. The ceremony was held yesterday in Paunglaung village, Paukmyaing village-tract, Lewe Township, Nay Pyi Taw, with the participation of livestock farmers.

At the ceremony, the Deputy Minister stated that residents, animals, and buildings were affected by Typhoon Yagi in Mandalay Region, Nay Pyi Taw, Shan State, and Bago Region in September 2024. The government has already provided 71 buffaloes, 1,215 cattle, 3,957 pigs, 1,688 sheep/goats, 23,207 local chickens, 93,700 broilers, 9,115 layers, and 11,163 ducks in Nay Pyi Taw. The losses included 71 buffaloes, 2,142 cows, 3,978 pigs, 22,878 local chickens, 9,115 layers, 94,200 broilers, and 12,163 ducks, and the government will continue to provide replacements for the lost animals. He instructed all relevant parties to work together to ensure the successful breeding, production, and system-

atic expansion of livestock, with the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department providing necessary breeding methods and healthcare.

The deputy minister then provided the 500 pigs, which were accepted by representatives of livestock farmers from Paukmyaing, Yelepauk, Gyopintha, Paunglaung, and Aungthukha villages. Afterwards, Paukmyaing village Administrator U Maung Myaing, on behalf of the pig farmers, expressed thanks.

The deputy minister then visited the Hein Maha broiler farm in Pantin village, Lewe Township, where he inspected the breeding of 20,000 broilers and instructed improvements to biosecurity measures.

Following this, he met officials of the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary sector at the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department in Nay Pyi Taw to discuss ways to create a strong market for the livestock industry, raise the production of quality products that meet market demands, and implement affordable-scale livestock projects based on units. — MNA/MKKS

## Tatmadaw vessel provides healthcare to Cocokyun residents



Locals receiving medical treatments from the Tatmadaw hospital ship.

A Tatmadaw hospital ship 'Thanlwin' delivered healthcare services to locals along the Taninthayi coastal region, Cocokyun Township in Yangon Region and Hainggyikyun Town in Ayeyawady Region.

Medical specialists,

doctors and nurses joined the ship's mobile medical team to offer treatment to residents of Cocokyun Township and nearby villages.

The mobile medical team set up operations at the Cocokyun Township People's Hospital, where

they provided healthcare services to 66 residents from Cocokyun and surrounding villages. The team treated 26 patients for general illnesses, one for surgical conditions, three for OG issues, one for paediatric care, one for orthopaedic conditions, one for ENT issues, 13 for eye diseases and 20 for dental and oral health.

The team also conducted five X-ray scans, six ultrasound examinations, five ECG tests and five laboratory tests. One patient requiring further medical attention was arranged to receive treatment at the nearest Tatmadaw hospital. — MNA/ KZL



Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation Dr Aung Gyi provides a pig to a livestock farmer from Lewe Township yesterday.

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.

# NATIONAL

## Tatmadaw vessels return after providing healthcare along Ayeyawady

TWO Tatmadaw vessels: the Shwe Puzun and Saku, which had been providing healthcare services to local communities along the Ayeyawady River from 15 to 30 January returned to Yangon yesterday morning. The vessels, part of the Tatmadaw's floating medical teams, were staffed by doctors, nurses and medical professionals from the Tatmadaw Mobile Health Teams.

During this mission, healthcare services were provided to 6,833 local people living in villages along the Ayeyawady River. Medical treatments included consultations for 2,002 patients with general illnesses, 294 requiring surgical care, 227 women with OG conditions, 478 children, 1,196 with orthopaedic diseases, 654 with ear, nose, and throat issues, 1,278 with eye conditions and 704 patients with dental is-



Doctors, nurses and medical professionals from the Tatmadaw Mobile Health Teams are warmly welcomed back by commander, officers and families from Naval Training Command HQ at No 4 Naval Jetty yesterday.

sues. The medical team was able to provide the necessary treatment and some patients were even treated for surgery

on board the vessel with 105 general surgery cases and 42 eye surgeries performed.

The team conducted diag-

nostic tests including X-rays for 249 patients, malaria tests for 474 people, ECG heart tests for 404 individuals and laboratory tests

for 815 patients. The floating clinic also successfully assisted in the delivery of three pregnant women. For 60 individuals requiring further care, arrangements were made for them to visit the nearest Tatmadaw and general hospitals.

The commander of Naval Training Command, on behalf of State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, honoured the medical team with gifts in recognition of their efforts and the medical personnel were treated to meals and refreshments.

This mission was the 19<sup>th</sup> of its kind, with a total of 185,568 people benefiting from the healthcare services and 31 successful births taking place in the vessel's maternity ward. — MNA/KZL

## Nutritional support provided to Aungmyaythazan KG students

A second round of nutritional support was delivered yesterday to 2,644 Kindergarten (KG) students across 54 primary schools in Aungmyaythazan Township, Mandalay Region. The initiative, aimed at improving the nutrition and development of school-age children is being coordinated by the Department of Public Health.

Township Health Officer Dr Thant Zin Lin along with health staff, members of the Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Women's Affairs Federation and the Township Education Officer Daw Thida Htay led the programme. They provided lunch to KG students at the primary schools 12 and 18 including rice, eggs, mixed bean dish-

es and banana. The students also received supplementary nutrition and were educated on proper handwashing before meals and brushing their teeth after eating.

This nutritional initiative aims to ensure the students' overall health and energy, fostering habits that contribute to better health and nutrition. The programme is part of a broader effort to improve the well-being of young children and their families by promoting healthy dietary habits alongside educational growth. The initiative not only benefits the students but also raises awareness of health and nutrition within the broader community. — Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House) /KZL



Kindergarten (KG) school children across 54 primary schools in Aungmyaythazan Township, Mandalay Region, have meals during the second round of nutritional support on 31 January 2025. **PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG (MANDALAY SUB-PRINTING HOUSE)**

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### ADVERTISING & MARKETING

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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.

## Weekly Roundup

26 January

### Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attends Chinese New Year celebration

Myanmar seeks to build trustworthy and friendly neighbouring ties with China, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the Chinese New Year celebration in the Year of State for 2025 National Indoor Stadium-1 in Thuwunna of Yangon.

### War veteran housings, Thilawa Integrated farm inspected

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspected Myanmar Thagaung advanced war veteran housing (Laydauntkan) in Dagon Myothit (South) Township and the Thilawa Integrated farm implementation process in Yangon Region.

27 January

### Congratulatory message offered to Tipitakadhara Tipitakavida Sayadaw

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudamma Min Aung Hlaing offered a congratulatory message to Sayadaw Setthañanalankara, the 17<sup>th</sup> Tipitakadhara Tipitakavida title recipient in the 77<sup>th</sup> Tipitakadhara Tipitakavida Selection Examination.

31 January

### National Defence and Security Council holds 1/2025 meeting

Pro Tem President (Duty) Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing highlighted that political solutions require dialogue at the negotiation table, at the meeting 1/2025 of the National Defence and Security Council at the Chairman of the State Administration Council Office in Nay Pyi Taw. He explained the various facts about expanding more six-month term for the State of Emergency of the country.

### SAC reconstituted

The State Administration Council was reconstituted with 16 members including Prime Minister Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Deputy Prime Minister Vice Chairman Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Secretary General Aung Lin Dwe and Joint Secretary General Ye Win Oo.

### SAC reforms Cabinet

The State Administration Council reconstituted the Cabinet with 35 portfolios including Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win and another five Deputy Prime Ministers in addition to Union ministers.

### SAC changes portfolios of two Union Ministers

The State Administration Council changed ministries of Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Yar Pyae with Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung.

### SAC allows retirements, appointments, reorganization of MNHRC

The State Administration Council allowed retirements of Union Ministers U Myint Naung, U Min Thein Zan and Dr Daw Thet Thet Khaing from their ministries, appointment of Union Ministers U Maung Maung Tint, U Chit Swe, Jeng Phang Naw Taung, U Kyaw Soe Win and U Khun Thant Zaw Htoo, appointment of U Toe Yi as member of Anti-Corruption Commission, retirement of Deputy Minister for Education Dr Moe Zaw Tun, appointment of Deputy Ministers Maj-Gen Aung Kyaw Kyaw and U Nay Myo Hlaing, appointment of U Yan Kyaw and U Shwe Kyein as members of Central Advisory Body of the SAC, and reconstitution of a nine-member Myanmar National Human Rights Commission including Chairman U Paw Lwin Sein. — GNLN/TTA

## Three-day illegal trade crackdown seizes goods worth K211M

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

On 30 and 31 January, the combined teams impounded illegal timbers weighing 2.448 tonnes valued at K227,664 in Hlegu Township, illegal timbers weighing 1.236 tonnes valued at K168,096 in Pantanaw Township and illegal teak weighing 0.513 tonne, hardwood weighing 2.051 tonnes and illegal other timbers weighing 10.011 tonnes valued at K3.329 million in Bago, Toungoo, Nyaunglebin and Pyay districts. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

On 1 February, the combined on-duty teams seized

industrial materials worth K182.515 million without official documents from four containers at the Asia World Port Terminal container checkpoint and three kinds of consumer goods worth K25 million that were smuggled and piled up by the roadside on the Kengtung

detour. The action was conducted per Customs procedures.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported eight arrests on 30 and 31 January and 1 February, seizing illegal goods worth approximately K211 million. — MNA/MKKS



Confiscated timbers in Bago Region.

## Human traffickers face legal actions

COURTS sentenced four human traffickers for their role in trafficking Myanmar girls to China, where they were sold off.

Shwe Nu Sein and Mi Mi Khine from Sittway of Rakhine State lured three young girls from Sittway to China with the promise of cash after being brides of Chinese men. Sittway Myoma Police Station filed a case under Section 35/44 of Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law, and Sittway District Court sentenced offender Shwe Nu Sein to 15 years in prison on 27 January.

Similarly, Nan Seng Kham (aka) Mar Mar from Ruili and Gao Gengyin from China, Zin Thu Khine from Bago Region and May Htet Naing Oo (aka) Htet Htet from Mandalay persuaded a girl from Lewe to be the bride of Chinese with K10 million. Airport Myoma Police Station opened a case under Section 38 (a)/44 of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law. On 30

January, TadaU District Court sentenced offenders Nan Seng Kham (aka) Mar Mar and Gao Gengyin to 20 years in prison with hard labour under Section 38 (a) of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law.

Moreover, Nan Seng Kham (aka) Mar Mar from Ruili, Chit Htoo from Sinbaungwe, Zin Thu Khine from Bago, May Htet Naing Oo (aka) Htet Htet and Kaung Htet Kyaw (aka) Phoe Si form Mandalay persuaded two girls from Nyaungshwe and Dagon Myothit (South) townships to be brides of Chinese men with cash incentive of K8 million. Airport Myoma Police Station opened a case under Section 38 (a)/44 of Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law, and TadaU District Court sentenced offenders Nan Seng Kham (aka) Mar Mar and Chit Htoo to 20 years in prison and hard labour under Section 38 (a)/44 of Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law. — MNA/KTZH

# NATIONAL

## Myanmar implements 11 solar power plant projects

A total of 11 solar power plant projects are currently under construction and development across Myanmar, with an installed capacity of 1,026 megawatts, according to the Electricity and Energy Development Commission.

Among these, four projects are being built in the Union Territory of Nay Pyi Taw, three in Mandalay Region, one in Bago Region, and one in Shan State, collectively contributing 530 megawatts. Hybrid (Gas Engine + Solar) projects are underway in Mandalay Region and Magway Region, with a combined installed capacity of 496 megawatts.

Given the increasing na-

tional electricity demand, the government is expediting renewable energy projects to boost power production. Currently, Myanmar operates 28 hydropower plants, 27 thermal power plants, and eight solar power plants, with a total installed capacity of 6,371 megawatts. However, electricity production has declined due to damage to power lines from attacks and natural disasters.

The Electricity and Energy Development Commission aims to prioritize the development of electricity and energy infrastructure to support daily livelihoods and economic growth, with local and international investments. — ASH/KZL



Solar power system in operation.

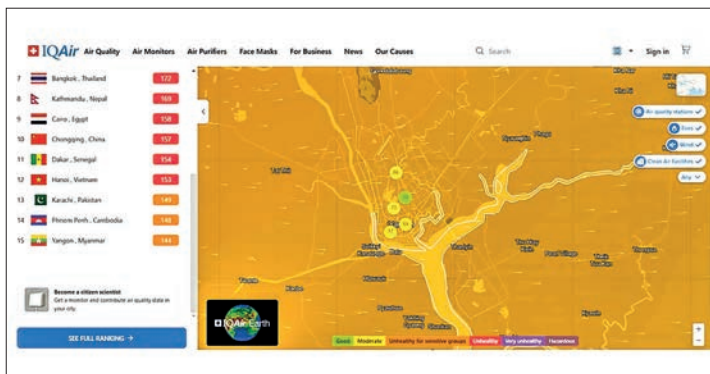
## Meteorologist predicts rising air pollution levels

AIR pollution may continue to rise as temperatures in the upper atmosphere drop until early March, meteorologist U Win Naing informed on his social media page.

In early February, the cloud formations can decrease and daytime temperatures may rise again, while night temperatures are forecast to decrease and cool down again.

There is a possibility of rain in the northern parts of Kachin State, while there is no likely rain in the rest of the regions and states. The maximum temperature may rise from 33° to 35°C in Yangon, Ayeyawady, Bago, Taninthayi regions and Kayin state, while the minimum temperature may remain below 20°C.

In the central regions of Magway, Mandalay, Sagaing and Nay Pyi Taw, the daytime temperature will barely exceed 30°C, while the minimum temperature will continue to drop and it may be even colder. — MT/ZN



Air pollution conditions found according to GSM 3 Weather Station Data + IQAir measurements at 1 pm on 31 January.

## Farmers urge expansion as konjac prices soar



A konjac farm in southern Shan State.

DUE to some reasons, the number of konjac farmers has shrunk, however, there is a likelihood that yam raw materials are expected to be short over the next years, encouraging farmers to expand their plantations in safe areas.

“Konjac plantation acres have quite declined recently. It is mainly grown in highland areas but the plantation has extremely decreased in 2025, which is why yam raw materials may be short of supply in 2026, 2027 and 2028. Chin State is a major yam producer but it is now unable to produce. So, the price is likely to be high if it

is produced from other areas,” said Ko Salai from the Cherry-may Yam trading from Mindat Township.

Yam called konjac doesn't need much care. You can leave it after planting. You just need to clear weeds and come to dig roots, so do in Shan State's Pindaya and Ywangan,” he said.

In November last year, the number of farmers who grew yam for commercial purposes was large in southern Ye Township, and a yam farm can receive K50 million. The yield of yam produced from the township is larger than others and the price was good. — Thit Taw/ZS

## Playboy Than Naing to perform with new-gen singers at concert

A concert will be held by veteran singer Playboy Than Naing, along with new-generation singers, at The Heart of Rangoon (THOR) Bar on 13 February in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Yangon Region.

The singers' performance will be supported by the once-famous music group, Playboy.

“Playboy band will per-

form with new-generation singers Pyae Phyo Sein Lwin and Htet Htet Pearl at THOR Bar on 13 February,” said veteran singer Playboy Than Naing.

Singer Pyae Phyo Sein Lwin is the son of singer Sein Lwin, while Htet Htet Pearl is the daughter of singer Than Naing and singer Pearl. The concert will start at 6:30 pm at THOR Bar. — ASH/MKKS



Playboy Than Naing and new generation singers are seen at the concert billboard.

## Myanmar targets \$700M in fishery exports for FY 2024-2025



Workers diligently processing and packaging fisheries products of international standard.

MYANMAR Fisheries Federation and Fisheries Products Processors and Exporters Association stated that Myanmar targeted to achieve export value of US\$700 million from fisheries exports in the 2024-2025 financial year (from April 2024 to March 2025).

Myanmar ships fisheries to foreign trade partners through three ways of exports by road, ship and air.

“We have reported to the author-

ities that fisheries export value is expected to meet \$735 million for the current FY. Fisheries exports have bagged \$521 million so far. We are not sure whether the income will reach \$200 million in the last quarter or not. The average earnings from fisheries exports is around \$65 million. Export value might fall short of the target a bit. The main trade channel is by ship. Then, it is also exported

by air, mostly to China. The export at the border is not that high. They are sent to Thailand via Kawthoung-Ranong and Myawady border posts,” said an official of MFF and MFPPEA. Myanmar’s fisheries exports swelled to \$521 million between April and December of the current FY. They are primarily shipped to China, Thailand, Japan, European countries and neighbouring countries. — ASH/KK

## CBM to release 10M yuan for importers

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) will sell 10 million yuan to importers on 31 January 2025.

It sold five million baht on 31 January and \$20 million to the fuel oil sector on 30 January.

CBM injected \$20 million on 24 January, 800,000 yuan on 21 January, 1.91 million baht on 20 January, \$150,000 and 1.14 million yuan on 17 January, one

million baht on 16 January, over \$25.35 million and 369,000 yuan on 15 January and over \$1,600 and 556,000 baht on 14 January into the financial market.

CBM announced on 13 January to sell \$25 million to fuel oil importers soon after selling 600,000 yuan on that day. CBM injected \$3.9 million on 11 January, 714,000 yuan on 10 January, \$2.2 million on 9 January, \$256,000 on 8

January again after sales of over \$2.15 million on 7 January, \$25 million and 2.8 million baht on 6 January, 510,000 yuan on 3 January, \$25 million, over 670,000 yuan and 2.45 million baht on 2 January into the financial market.

CBM pumped \$144 million, 321 million baht and over 12 million yuan in December 2024, over \$59 million, over 280 million baht and 8.78 million yuan in November and over \$91 million, over 610 million baht and 9.8 million yuan in October into the financial market.

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



The facade of the Central Bank of Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw.

## MoC explores new international-standard export products

THE Ministry of Commerce held a work coordination meeting on 30 January 2025 at a meeting hall of the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization to designate new agricultural and livestock export products of international standard.

The director-general of Myanmar Trade Promotion gave an opening remark that it is pivotal of importance to export marketable products from the agriculture and livestock sectors, meet the standard and criteria of importing countries and explore potential export markets to grasp more market shares in trade partnering countries as Myanmar is the developing country.

He then instructed officials from related departments, economic attaches and institutions to penetrate export markets with new promising products and abide by responsible business conduct under existing laws and international standards and regulations to achieve long-term development goals in the trade sector.

Attendees including economic attaches and presidents of the related associations also requested to disseminate knowledge about international standards at the meeting. — NN/KK

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News and Periodicals Enterprise



# OPINION

## Conserve long-term existence of wetlands for all life

**W**ETLANDS are vital ecosystems where water is the primary factor shaping the environment and supporting diverse plant and animal life. These habitats play a key role in maintaining different species of biodiversity, offering safe spaces for numerous species. Wetlands can be found in a variety of environments, including freshwater and coastal ecosystems, such as lakes, rivers, marshes, swamps, peatlands, estuaries, mangroves, and even human-made areas like rice paddies and fishponds.

In Myanmar, wetlands are critical habitats for migratory birds and endangered species like butterflies, reptiles, amphibians, mammals and so on. Successive governments conserve wetlands by enacting the relevant laws. These wetlands not only support thriving ecosystems but also attract tourists and contribute to the

nation's environmental health. Thanks to wetlands, various species of flora and fauna are thriving safely in the country.

Wetlands offer numerous benefits to both nature and humanity. These ecosystems provide essential services that include climate regulation, flood control, and water purification. They also support biodiversity, provide resources for food and medicine, and offer recreational and cultural value. Despite covering only about 6 per cent of the Earth's surface, wetlands are home to 40 per cent of all plant and animal species, highlighting their importance for global biodiversity.

Over a billion people depend on wetlands for their livelihoods, making them crucial for sustainable development and human well-being. Wetlands contribute to food security, tourism, and employment, and help mitigate climate change by storing carbon and

regulating water cycles. They are vital to the health of our planet and the prosperity of communities that rely on them.

Conserving wetlands is a shared responsibility of governments, non-governmental organizations, and individuals. The World Wetlands Day 2025 theme, "Protecting wetlands for our common future," emphasizes the importance of safeguarding these ecosystems for the long term. As the planet changes, it is crucial to preserve wetlands, which not only benefit the environment but also directly enhance human life. Wetlands help combat climate change and provide essential resources, including food for humans and animals.

That is why the conservation of wetlands must be a global priority. These ecosystems provide invaluable services, and their protection is essential for the survival of countless species, including humans. Wetlands contribute to mitigating climate change as well as providing feeds for animals and food for humans. By safeguarding wetlands, it ensures a sustainable future for both nature and society.



Book Title - A Brief of Modern History of Myanmar  
 Author - Inspector of National Schools U Po Kya  
 Publishing House - Seikku Cho Cho  
 Publication Date - November 2024 (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition)  
 Price - K9,000

### A Brief of Modern History of Myanmar

'A Brief of Modern History of Myanmar' is a chronological account of Myanmar's history, tracing the journey of its indigenous peoples from their early migrations to the fall of King Thibaw and the subsequent annexation of the country by the British in 1886. The book delves into the significant historical events of various dynasties, including the Tagaung, Sri Ksetra, Bagan, and Inwa eras. Written to educate young minds at the then middle-level grades, the book aims to help readers distinguish between right and wrong, good and bad while fostering a deeper understanding of Myanmar's rich historical heritage.

The author, Inspector of National Schools U Po Kya, submitted the manuscript to the

Education Department on 21 May 1936, seeking approval for its use in schools. In his report, he emphasized that the book was designed for students in middle schools to present Myanmar's history in a concise, engaging, and accessible manner. Additionally, he envisioned the book as a foundational text for students advancing to high school.

The book covers the major historical events of Myanmar, beginning with the migrations of its indigenous peoples – such as the Myanmar, Mons, and Shans – and concluding with the fall of King Thibaw, the last monarch of Myanmar, and the British annexation in 1886. It highlights essential historical milestones and progressions, while also

incorporating simple stories and events to spark curiosity and interest in history among young readers. These narratives are designed to reflect people's perspectives from those times, while also providing a factual basis that will encourage readers to explore historical truths as they mature.

One of the key strengths of the book is its ability to help young readers develop moral and ethical values by presenting historical events that illustrate the distinction between right and wrong. The author's intention is not only to educate but also to shape the character of the youth, encouraging them to learn from the past and apply those lessons to their own lives.

The book is titled 'A Brief

of Modern History of Myanmar' because it systematically presents Myanmar's historical records, combining traditional accounts with newly discovered stone inscriptions and statues. It is divided into ten sections, covering topics such as the Myanmar peoples, the Tagaung era, the Sri Ksetra era, the Bagan era, the Pinya and Sagaing era (the first Shan era), the Inwa era, the second Shan era, the Toungoo dynasty, the second Inwa era, and the Konbaung Shwebo era. An appendix is also included for further reference.

Inspector U Po Kya addresses the young readers directly, urging them to study the history of Myanmar, a country he describes as prosperous and admirable. He encourages them to learn from the actions of ancient kings and to apply those lessons to their own lives, particularly in serving the community and upholding moral values.

This book is a valuable resource for students and anyone interested in understanding Myanmar's history clearly and engagingly. It not only educates but also inspires readers to reflect on the past and apply its lessons to the present and future.



Book title - Myanma Ramayana  
 Writer - Hla Thamein  
 Publishing House - Seikku Cho Cho  
 Date - December 2024 (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition)  
 Price - K5,500

### Ramayana

THE term 'Rama' is familiar to Myanmar people as Ramayana stories and plays, dramatic performances, theatrical performances, poems and novels are of continued interest among Myanmar people. The Ramayana depicts the story of Rama's journey written by Valmiki, along with the Mahabharata are the ancient Sanskrit epics.

Ramayana spreads across South East Asia with different versions. Well-known pieces of Ramayana (Rama Zattaw), and Jataka tales of Theravada Buddhism, play a key role in Myanmar's literature, rendition and culture as well. The earliest pictorial evidence of Ramayana is considered to date back to the Bagan era. The epic Yama figure can be witnessed on the murals of Natlaung Kyaung (Temple) believed to have been founded by

King Anawrahta. Another pictorial evidence of Rama is the stone inscription of Kyansittha in the Mon Language. The storytelling of Rama was found in the Bagan Period. The Rama novel became a solid part of literary work in the Kingdom of Inwa. The earliest literary reference to the Ramayana can be found in Myanmar "Pyo" (poem) entitled "Thuwun-nashan Thahtaykhan", written by Shin Agga Thamadhi, in which the story about Thida (Sita) and Hanuman were included.

Prayers of King Dasaraha were seen in Manikat Play. Rama Play was performed in full splendour at the royal palace during the reign of King Sinphyushin (AD 1763-1776). Theatrical performers were among the spoils of a war with Thailand. Thereafter, Yama's play was notably performed at the royal palace. Moreover, more

plays were translated into Myanmar and incorporated into Myanmar's theatrical performance, including some elements of Ramayana. Rama thachin, the well-known literature piece, composed by U Aung Pyo in the reign of King Bodawpaya and U Toe's Ramayakan (Rama's song) is the Ramayana-related Myanmar literature and classical music.

This research book highlights the unique characters, performances, and costumes of the Myanmar Ramayana version in contrast to the versions of other Asian countries. It elaborated with supporting details of the history of the Yama play, Myanmar's Ramayana version, costumes, Thailand's headdress, religion, dramatic performance and characters.

The writer mentioned in the preface that Ramayana is widely

known in Myanmar. Despite its origin in India, this great epic about the story of Rama spread throughout Southeast Asian countries and became part of literature, art and culture.

There are three forms of the Rama Story in this book, which aims to give insights into Myanmar people about the role of Rama in the world's great literature: Myanmar Rama as a Buddhist Bodhisatta (Alanungdaw Rama) in Jataka Zattaw, Rama Zattaw (Pondaw Rama), which is a combination of edited Rama stories from Thailand and Valmiki's Ramayana from India, and Rama as an avatar, incarnation of Vishnu and a Hindu deity worshipped by Hindus (Pashyuyama).

Bagan period and Rama play, Myanmar literature and Rama play, Myanmar art and Rama play, Myanmar music and Rama play, origin of Myanmar Rama version, Myanmar Rama performance, study on performance of protagonist of Rama play, Myanmar Rama Play and costumes, Rama play and religion, difference version of Myanmar and Thailand Ramayana and Thailand's Rama play and name of characters in Rama story, introduction, conclusion and references were included in the book.

**Anything with you?**  
 By Chit Ko Pe

Gone with the time,  
 I'm dragged into a bind.  
 I wash my face to clear  
 as my view is blurred.  
 The toll gate is in the vicinity,  
 to collect an entry fee.  
 My pocket is thin and flat.  
 Nothing else! Meritless!

ဘာပါလဲ  
 အချိန်က တကွတ်ဆွဲလို့  
 နှိပ်သွင်းလိုက်တာ  
 ဘယ်ဝယ်ရောက်လာ  
 ဝိးတိုးဝါးတာပါ  
 မျက်နှာသစ်မိရဲ့။  
 ဖြတ်ကျော်ရက် အနီးလေးပဲ  
 ဝင်ကြေးပေး ရှေ့ဆက်ဖို့  
 လက်ထဲကုန်သွင်းအိတ်ကပ်ရယ်  
 ပြားချပ်ချပ်နဲ့ ။

ချစ်ကိုပေ

**Difference in Whiteness**  
 By Mya Thae (Research)

- Inhale the white fragrant Jasmine.
- Heart is peace and pleasant.
- Adorn the fragrant beautiful Thazin on hair.
- Loving and winning are fair.
- If inhale the white narcotic drug.
- Anormous of using cause passing fast.
- Although they are the same whiteness.
- Dignity is quite different.

Ref. Myanmar Poem  
 "အဖြူခြင်းဖြင့်မဟုတ်"  
 written by "Mya Thae (Research)"  
 22.1.2025.  
 The Mirror.

**Sweet Smile**  
 By Minthuwn, Translated by Myint Zan

whitish and bluish  
 the smile:  
 thou face is like the silvery moon

the gracious movements  
 the style:  
 'tis like a gentle breeze in the night

friendly and welcoming  
 the sweet voice:  
 'tis like  
 water flowing  
 gently in the creek

Composed in 1936  
 Translated on 29 January 2025

မျိုးဖြူဖြူ  
 ဖြူလျက်သာသည်  
 မျက်နှာလှလှဝန်းနယ်တကာ။

မူရရာရာ  
 သူတန်မှာလျှင်  
 ညခါလပြည့် ညင်းနယ် တကာ။

ပျူဖြူဖြူ  
 နှုတ်ချိုသာသည်  
 စမ်းမှာ ရေစီးသန့်နယ် တကာ။

မင်းသုဝဏ် (၁၉၃၂)



# NATIONAL Entertainment

### U Aung Soe Oo

THE ceremony to handover the copyright of the 'Paritta Delivered by Lord Buddha' book, compiled by author U Aung Soe Oo and released by San Taw Chain publishing house, to the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture was organized at the convocation hall on Kaba Aye Hill on 31 January. The publisher and author released that book as a donation of Dhamma. The Department of Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana will distribute the book as a copyright owner.



### May Sweet

Veteran vocalist May Sweet will organize a show together with Chit Kaung on 8 February (Saturday). The event will be accompanied by "Oxygen Band", and will take place at 37 (B), U Tun Nyein Street, Inya Lake Garden Compound in Mayangon Township, Yangon. May Sweet gained fame for her recovery songs of famous singers such as Sai Htee Seng, Soe Paing and Htoo Eain Thin. She mostly chooses songs that go well with a female voice.



### Khin Nyunt Yi

Myanmar classical singer (Daw) Khin Nyunt Yi was taken to the cancer ward of Yangon General Hospital on 30 January. She is suffering from a brain tumour, and her daughter O Pyae Shin said, "I can't afford medical treatment anymore. So, I informed Auntie Dr Nilar Thien (author Mya Kyar Ngon), and she provided me with assistance. She always helps me".



### Si Thu Lwin

Vocalist Si Thu Lwin who has over 30 years of experience in the music world in Myanmar said that he treated the media respectfully and became a singer due to the support of U Nyi Htut. Such frankly speaking style is a trade mark of Si Thu Lwin. He organized his Live Show with the Odyssey Band at Lafaya at Urban Asia Centre, corner of 48<sup>th</sup> Street and Maha Bandoola Road, Botahtaung Township in Yangon on 31 January.



### Nyein Chan Khaing

Author Sue Hngat pointed out the clarification of a Myanmar traditional dancer regarding the Tone Kyaw Ma song history of Liberty Ma Mya Yin. The dancer said, "That performance was over eight years ago. I told the case that I heard from a senior comedian from Mandalay as I think it is true. But, I didn't say anything about it as it is not sure. I am sorry as I made a mistake." The audience praised her admission and author Sue Hngat appreciated her apology and changed his post to "Only Me".



### Wint Yamone Naing

Dawei ethnic actress Wint Yamone Naing posted her photo taken at the beach in Myeik during her Dawei traditional photo shoot on her Facebook page in the last week of January. She made the caption "Dawei ethnics are honest, friendly and have different accents. I tried to wear the pot on my head." She attended the opening ceremony of the Shwe Pyi Soe jewellery shop in Myeik on 22 January. — Htun Htun/KTZH

## Shwe Than Lwin donates medical funds for 2 artistes



Shwe Than Lwin Media Co Ltd donates cash for two artistes.

**T**he handover ceremony of cash donated by Shwe Than Lwin Media Co, Ltd for director A1 Than Htut (Maung Set Su) and Ma Tuu, who are under medical treatment, was organized at the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization on 30 January, according to U Aye Kyu, vice-chair of the organization.

Shwe Than Lwin Media Co Ltd donated cash for two well-known artistes director A1 Than Htut (Maung Set Su), who is under medical treatment after a car accident, and Ma Tuu for her kidney disease.

"Actor Maung Set Su who is also known as director A1 Than Htut is undergoing medical treatment at Yangon General Hospital after being struck by a vehicle. Shwe Than Lwin Media Co Ltd donated K200,000 for treatment at the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization. Similarly, the company donated K200,000 for Ma Tuu as she is also under medical treatment for kidney disease at Yangon General Hospital," he said.

The cash donations made by Daw Nan Mauk Lao Seng of Shwe Than Lwin Media Co Ltd was accepted by the vice-chairperson and central executive member of the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization. — ASH/KTZH

# CELEBRITY BRIEF



- MODEL - Wint Yamone Naing
- MUA - Aung Khin Sint Dawei
- DAWEI Attire - Saw Mich Kael
- SET & Props Styling - Kaung Myat Aung
- PHOTOGRAPHER - Yel Yint Thway

## PM Modi lauds Indian Coast Guard on their Raising Day for exemplary service

*PM Modi praised the Indian Coast Guard on its 49<sup>th</sup> Raising Day for its dedication to safeguarding India's maritime boundaries, with plans to expand its fleet to 200 surface platforms by 2030.*

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday praised the Indian Coast Guard for its bravery, dedication, and relentless vigilance in protecting our vast coastline on their 49<sup>th</sup> Raising Day.

PM Modi said that from maritime security to disaster response, from anti-smuggling operations to environmental protection, the Indian Coast Guard is a formidable guardian of our seas, ensuring the safety of our waters and people.

On their Raising Day, we commend the Indian Coast Guard for protecting our coastline with courage and unwaver-

ing vigilance. Their contributions span maritime security, disaster response, and environmental protection, he said.

Notably, the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) is celebrating its 49<sup>th</sup> Raising Day on 1 February 2025, commemorating nearly five decades of dedicated service in securing India's vast maritime boundaries, an official press release by the ICGT stated.

Since its establishment in 1977 with just seven surface platforms, the ICG has grown into a formidable force, now operating 151 ships and 76 aircraft. — ANI



By 2030, the ICG plans to expand further, targeting 200 surface platforms and 100 aircraft. PHOTO: ANI

## Japan records biggest jump in foreign workers

JAPAN saw its biggest year-on-year jump in foreign workers since records began, government data showed Friday, as the country seeks to address labour shortages exacerbated by its ageing population.

In October 2024, the na-

tion's foreign workforce stood at 2.3 million — an increase of around 254,000 people from a year earlier, labour ministry data showed.

That marks the biggest jump since records began in 2008, and is the latest in a se-

ries of annual record-breaking increases.

The total has jumped around threefold from a decade ago, in 2014, when the number of foreign workers stood at 788,000.

Japan has the world's second-oldest population after Monaco, according to the World Bank, and its relatively strict immigration rules mean it faces growing labour shortages.

Friday's data showed Vietnamese, Chinese and Filipinos were the top three nationalities in Japan's foreign labour force.

Among the most common jobs held by foreign workers were positions in the manufacturing, hospitality, and retail sectors. A "technical intern" programme continued to account for a sizable portion of the foreign workforce, at 20.4 per cent. — AFP



Japan had a record 2.3 million foreign workers as of October 2024, marking a 12.4 per cent increase from the previous year.

PHOTO: AFP

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Little fanfare as UK marks five years since EU exit

BRITAIN left the European Union five years ago on Friday, but the anniversary was met with little fanfare as Labour Prime Minister Keir Starmer seeks closer relations with the bloc.

Starmer, who voted to remain during the 2016 Brexit referendum, had no plans to mark the occasion, which fell just days before he heads to Brussels for talks with European counterparts.

"We are very much looking forwards and we know we can do better to make Brexit work for the British people," his deputy spokesman told reporters in Downing Street. "It's in the UK's national interest to have a more cooperative relationship with the EU," he said, adding that the bloc was Britain's "largest trading partner and our closest neighbour". — AFP

#### German conservatives bet on far-right support but lose key vote

GERMANY'S conservatives doubled down Friday on allowing the far-right AfD to back their pre-election push to restrict immigration, but failed to pass a contentious bill after a day of jeers and high drama in parliament. CDU chief Friedrich Merz, the election frontrunner, defied a passionate outcry and noisy street protests to seek the parliamentary support of the Alternative for Germany party for a second time this week.

Centre-left Chancellor Olaf Scholz warned that his rival could no longer be trusted and voiced fears that if Merz wins the 23 February elections, he may in future invite the AfD to join his government. — AFP

# ECONOMY WORLD

## Laos takes steps towards sustainable tourism development

Laos aims to boost sustainable tourism by partnering with the private sector to integrate technology, enhance existing attractions, and improve infrastructure, including green energy and waste management systems.



Photo taken on 15 July 2022 shows a view of the town of Luang Prabang, a UNESCO's world heritage site in Laos. **PHOTO: KAIKEO SAIYASANE/XINHUA/FILE**

THE Lao government plans to integrate innovative technologies into tourism management and create new attractions to boost sustainable tourism development. The Lao Ministry of Information, Culture, and Tourism will partner with the private sector to use technology as a model for expanding tourism activities in Lao capital Vientiane and will explore opportunities and business models for sustainable tourism development, Lao national TV reported on Friday.

The initiative will focus on expanding existing attractions, researching sustainable tourism practices, and improving infra-

structure, including water, clean energy, and waste management systems. It will also enhance communication technologies to improve city services and urban safety.

In addition to upgrading the night market and creating pedestrian-friendly streets, the initiative will develop new attractions along the Mekong River and That Luang Lake. Electric tour buses will be introduced to promote greener tourism. Mobile apps will also be developed to provide a seamless experience for tourists and service providers, aligning with international quality standards. — Xinhua

## Benin seeks home-grown cotton 'revolution'

MATHIAS Azonnoudo, a 50-year-old farmer in Benin, was taking a break sitting on a large pile of freshly picked cotton, which the government hopes will feed the country's nascent textile



Mathias Azonnoudo says Benin authorities are encouraging cotton growers to produce more. **PHOTO: AFP**

revolution. Azonnoudo and other farmers in the West African country have benefited from a recent uptick in demand for cotton, with the government seeking to launch a "Made in Benin" clothing industry.

"I feel like the government has found business leaders that want more, so they are encouraging farmers to produce more," said Azonnoudo, who has been growing cotton for the past 16 years.

Benin has long vied with Mali for the title of Africa's largest cotton producer, exporting mostly raw fibres for processing abroad to countries like Bangladesh or China, the world's largest garment exporters.

But it now wants to process more of its "white gold" locally, to boost production and exports of 100 per cent Beninese clothing. — AFP

## French economy shrinks as political crisis eclipses Olympic boost

THE French economy grew 1.1 per cent in 2024 but shrank in the fourth quarter as a political crisis gripped the country after a boost from the Paris Olympic Games, official data showed Thursday.

The eurozone's second biggest economy performed worse than expected in the fourth quarter as it contracted by 0.1 per cent, figures from the INSEE statistics institute showed.

The institute had expected the economy to post zero growth in the October-to-December

period after growing by 0.4 per cent in the third quarter, which includes the summer months of the Olympic games. "There was a significant post-Olympics pull-back," Maxime Darnet, an economist at insurer Allianz, told AFP. "Despite some resilience, business investment remains weak. Without the political crisis, we might have expected a stronger recovery given lower European Central Bank interest rates and a slight easing in credit conditions," Darnet added. — AFP

## French luxury billionaire sparks tax debate with threat to leave

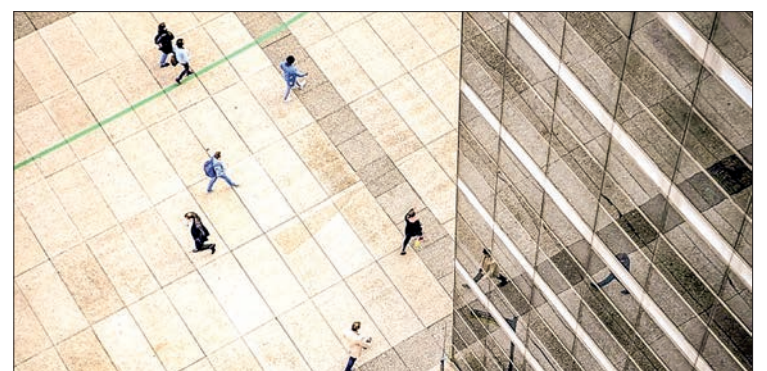
BERNARD Arnault, the billionaire CEO of LVMH, criticized the French government's proposed tax hike on large companies, warning that it could drive businesses out of France.

Arnault, who had recently returned from the US, compared the optimism there with

France's tax environment, which he found discouraging. He expressed frustration over the planned special corporate tax, which would raise taxes on major companies to above 40 per cent. Arnault argued that this move could harm France's competitiveness and suggested

that companies might relocate to countries like the US, where taxes are more favorable.

The tax, part of an effort to reduce France's deficits, was introduced by former Prime Minister Michel Barnier and is expected to raise eight billion euros. — AFP



The French economy grew by 1.1 per cent in 2024, but shrank by 0.1 per cent in the fourth quarter due to a political crisis, with weak business investment and a slow recovery post-Paris Olympics. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

# Lower Brent prices to support margins for Indian fuel refiners: Fitch

*Fitch predicts Indian oil refiners' EBITDA growth in 2025-26, aided by lower Brent prices and steady demand, with refining margins improving to US\$5-6.8 per barrel.*

INDIAN oil marketing companies' EBITDA will rise in the next financial year — 2025-26 — as demand growth remains steady and Brent crude oil prices fall — to US\$70 a barrel in 2025 and USD65 a barrel in 2026, said Fitch Ratings.

EBITDA is earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortisation. The global rating agency expects the oil companies' gross refining margins to hover around US\$

5 per barrel to US\$ 6.8 per barrel and for marketing margins to remain healthy in 2025-26.

Brent crude is currently trading at US\$ 75.76 per barrel, publicly available data showed.

The refining margins would be aided by lower crude oil prices, improving demand and slower net capacity growth.

India Oil Corporation Ltd, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, and

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited reported gross refining margins of US\$ 3.7 per barrel to US\$ 6.0 per barrel in the first nine months of 2024-25, compared to the unusually high levels of US\$9.1 per barrel to US\$12.1 per barrel in 2023-24. Fitch's Brent price assumptions reflect the impact of OPEC+'s large spare capacity, increasing global production and moderating demand growth. — ANI



India Oil Corporation Ltd, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited reported gross refining margins of US\$ 3.7 per barrel to US\$6.0 per barrel in the first nine months of 2024-25 **PHOTO: ANI**

## S Korea's export falls 10.3% in Jan on fewer business days



A ship berths a wharf at the port of Busan, South Korea, on 7 March 2023. **PHOTO: WANG YILIANG/XINHUA/FILE**

SOUTH Korea's export fell in double digits in the first month of 2025 due to fewer business days, government data

showed Saturday. Export, which accounts for about half of the export-driven economy, decreased 10.3 per cent over the year to

US\$49.12 billion in January, according to the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy.

It marked the first downturn in 16 months on the back of the decline in working days, the number of which shrank four days in January compared to the same month of last year, affected by the Lunar New Year's holidays.

The daily average export expanded 7.7 per cent to \$2.46 billion last month, posting the second-highest January figure. — Xinhua

## Pakistan's weekly inflation eases by 0.36%

THE weekly inflation of Pakistan measured by the Sensitive Price Index has decreased by 0.36 per cent on a week-on-week basis, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) said on

Saturday. During the week ending on 30 January the major commodities that witnessed a decrease included tomatoes, eggs, firewood, electricity charges, wheat flour, and

onions, the PBS said.

During the same period, a major increase was observed in the prices of bananas, chicken, sugar, cooking oil, and beef, the bureau said. — Xinhua

## Offshore wind power giant Orsted changes CEO

DENMARK'S struggling offshore wind power group Orsted said Friday it was replacing its CEO with his deputy as the sector faces an "increasingly challenging situation".

Orsted said Mads Nipper would step down as chief executive on Saturday after four years on

the job, with the board appointing 13-year company veteran Rasmus Errboe, the deputy CEO and chief commercial officer, to replace him.

Long dependent on fossil fuels before emerging as a champion of offshore wind power, Orsted has seen its share price

fall 80 per cent since January 2021.

The return of Donald Trump to the White House could prove another challenge as the US president temporarily froze federal permitting and loans for all offshore and onshore wind projects. — AFP

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

M.V BEYPORE SULTAN VOY.NO. (25004)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BEYPORE SULTAN VOY.NO. (25004)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **2-2-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

**M/S CONNEXT SHIPPING PTE LTD**

# WEEKLY WORLD NEWS DIGEST

## World's longest cargo sail ship launched in Türkiye

*The Neoliner Origin, the world's longest wind-powered cargo ship, launched in Türkiye, aims to reduce carbon emissions by cutting fuel consumption.*

**T**he world's longest wind-powered cargo ship was launched Friday in Türkiye, offering a promising way to slash carbon emissions from merchandise trade.

The 136-metre (450-foot) Neoliner Origin was floated at the Turkish port of Tuzla, and will now undergo six months of



This photograph shows the world's longest wind-powered cargo ship Neoliner Origin (in the background) during its launching ceremony at the Turkish port of Tuzla, outside Istanbul, on 30 January 2025. **PHOTO: YASIN AKGUL / AFP**

1 FEBRUARY

fitting-out. Designed by French company Neoline and built by Turkish shipyard RMK Marine, the ship can carry 5,300 tonnes of freight over long distances thanks to its two masts and 3,000 square metres of sails.

"Thanks to the wind, and by reducing speed from 15 knots (about 30 kilometres or 18 miles an hour) to 11 knots, we can cut fuel consumption and therefore emissions by a factor of five compared with a conventional ship," Jean Zanuttini, president of Nantes-based Neoline, told AFP. — AFP

31 January

### Taliban takes control of Kabul's Serena Hotel

**THE** Taliban are taking over the operations of Afghanistan's only luxury hotel in Kabul, more than a decade after they launched a deadly attack there that killed nine people.

The Serena Hotel said Friday it was closing its operations in the Afghan capital on 1 February with the Hotel State Owned Corporation taking over. The corporation is overseen by the finance ministry.

The finance ministry wasn't immediately available for comment. Neither the Serena nor the government clarified the terms under which the hotel was changing hands.

The Taliban first targeted the Serena in 2008 and again in 2014. Acting Interior Minister Sirajuddin Haqqani acknowledged planning the 2008 attack, which killed eight, including US citizen Thor David Hesla. — AFP

30 January

### Mega-iceberg drifts towards Antarctic Penguin Island

**THE** world's biggest iceberg, more than twice the size of London, could drift towards a remote island where a scientist warns it risks disrupting feeding for baby penguins and seals.

The gigantic wall of ice is moving slowly from Antarctica on a potential collision course with South Georgia, a crucial wildlife breeding ground in the South Atlantic.

Satellite imagery suggested that unlike

previous "mega bergs" this rogue was not crumbling into smaller chunks as it plodded through the Southern Ocean, Andrew Meijers, a physical oceanographer at the British Antarctic Survey, told AFP.

He said predicting its exact course was difficult but prevailing currents suggested the colossus would reach the shallow continental shelf around South Georgia in two to four weeks. — AFP

29 January

### UK's growth strategy faces challenges amid delays

**BRITISH** Chancellor Rachel Reeves on Wednesday outlined the latest strategy to revive growth. Yet the policy ambition's path looks treacherous, as sluggish gross domestic product (GDP) and rising borrowing costs keep challenging the economic plans.

After six months in office, the British government faces slow economic growth, with a 0.1 per cent GDP increase in November 2024, record unemployment, and rising borrowing costs. Prime Minister Reeves has

stressed the need for economic growth to meet various promises, including reducing hospital waitlists, increasing police presence, and achieving clean energy goals.

A major challenge is the delayed third runway expansion at Heathrow Airport, which has been controversial due to its environmental impact. Heathrow currently emits over 20 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> annually, and projections suggest this could rise by seven million tonnes with the expansion. — AFP

28 January

### Thai Cabinet approves decree requiring co-payment for scam victims

**THE** Thai Cabinet on Tuesday approved a draft executive decree to amend an existing decree on technology crime suppression, which will require banks, telecom operators, and social media platforms to co-pay victims of online scams. Government spokesman Jirayu Houngsub stated that the Cabinet approved the draft amendment to the Executive Decree on Measures to Prevent and Suppress Technological Crime

2023 after receiving confirmation from the secretary-general of the Council of State that it could be implemented lawfully.

According to Jirayu, the Cabinet was also reassured by Digital Economy and Society Minister Prasert Chantararuangthong that the current technology crime executive decree had become inadequate in combating the growing number of online scams and call-centre gangs. — Xinhua

27 January

### Coca-Cola orders massive Europe recall over chlorate risk

**THE** European bottling unit of Coca-Cola said Monday that it had ordered a major recall of Coke, Sprite and other beverages after detecting high levels of chlorate, which poses potential health risks. Coca-Cola said cans and glass bottles containing elevated levels of the substance were distributed in Belgium, the Netherlands, Britain, Germany,

France and Luxembourg since November, Coca-Cola Europacific Partners Belgium told AFP. "We do not have a precise figure, but it is clear that it is a considerable quantity," the firm said of the amount of drinks involved. Chlorate can be found in foods as it derives from chlorine disinfectants widely used in water treatment and food processing. — AFP

26 January

### Saudi Arabia announces 'strategic partnership council' with Italy

**SAUDI** Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and visiting Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni signed an agreement on Sunday to strengthen ties, Saudi state media said. The official Saudi Press Agency reported that during their meeting in Al-Ula, a UNESCO-listed oasis in the kingdom's north, the two leaders "addressed

relations between Saudi Arabia and Italy, opportunities to strengthen cooperation in various fields, and regional and international developments of mutual interest".

The crown prince, Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler, and Meloni "signed an agreement to establish the Saudi-Italian Strategic Partnership Council", the report said. — AFP

# SPORTS

## Paraguay interested in hosting 2030 Youth Olympic Games

PARAGUAY President Santiago Pena met with International Olympic Committee President (IOC) Thomas Bach in Lausanne, Switzerland on Friday to discuss Paraguay's ambitious bid to host the 2030 Youth Olympic Games (YOG).

Accompanied by Paraguayan Olympic Committee President Camilo Moreira and Minister of Sport Cesar Ramirez, Pena reaffirmed his full support for the bid during his visit to the IOC headquarters.

"We are determined to build on our extensive experience in

hosting impactful and sustainable events. Paraguay is proud to be one of the host nations for an opening match of the 2030 FIFA World Cup, and adding the Youth Olympic Games would serve as a powerful catalyst for our national development," Pena said.

During the meeting, Pena reaffirmed Paraguay's strong belief in the power of sport to build stronger and more united communities, as well as the country's determination to contribute to the Olympic Movement, which, "under President Bach's leadership, has strengthened its global



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PHOTO: IOC

social impact as a force for peace and unity."

"We are committed to building a better future for our young people, and hosting the Youth Olympic Games would align with our mission. We want the Games to be more than just a sporting event," he added.

"We aim to create a purposeful festival that integrates sport, cultural exchange, education and Olympic Values, while also serving as a platform to advance the careers of young athletes both within and beyond sport," said Pena. — Xinhua

## Argentina down Ruud's Norway in Davis Cup qualifying

ARGENTINA edged Casper Ruud's Norway 3-2 to seal their passage into the second round of Davis Cup qualifying on Friday.

In a tense tie in Oslo which had begun on Thursday world number five Ruud won both his singles matches but Mariano Navone's 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 defeat of Nicolai Budkov Kjaer late into the night knocked Norway out of the competition. Over in Stockholm world number eight Alex de Minaur helped Australia to a 2-0 lead over Sweden.

De Minaur, a beaten quarter-finalist in the Australian Open, felled Mikael Ymer 7-5, 6-1 before Aleksandar Vukic got the better of Leo Borg, son of 11-time Grand Slam winner Bjorn Borg, 6-4, 6-4. In Chinese Taipei, the United States claimed both the opening day singles thanks to wins from Marcos Giron and Alex Michelson. Britain and Japan are all square at 1-1 after day one in Miki. Davis Cup debutant Jacob Fearnley

defeated former world number four Kei Nishikori 6-3 6-3 to level the tie after the home side's Yoshihito Nishioka's 7-5 6-1 victory against Billy Harris.

Germany are on target for the next round, leading Israel 2-0 in their match which is being played in Vilnius, Lithuania, and Austria go into day two in control over Finland by the same margin. Serbia, missing injured Novak Djokovic, are 2-0 up against Denmark, and the Czech Republic are also sitting pretty 2-0 in South Korea. Croatia are also 2-0 up against Slovakia. The ties between Brazil versus France, Chile versus Belgium, Switzerland versus Spain, and Canada versus Hungary, begin on Saturday.

Jannick Sinner's Italy are the two-time defending champions having won the eight-team men's event in Spain in 2023 and last year. — AFP



Alex de Minaur gets Australia's first point on the board in Stockholm. PHOTO: TT NEWS AGENCY/AFP

## Shan United maintain unbeaten record after draw with Dagon Star



Dagon Star United and Shan United in action at the Thuwunna Youth Training Centre. PHOTO: MNL

SHAN United and Dagon Star United battled to a goalless draw yesterday at Thuwunna Youth Training Centre in Yangon on Fixture 18 of the 2024-2025 Myanmar National League season.

Shan United, the defending champions, dropped points but kept their unbeaten streak alive while staying at the top of the table. Dagon Star secured a crucial point, keeping the pressure on Hanthawady United and Yangon United in the race for a top-three finish.

With an ASEAN Club Championship away match against a Cambodian side coming up, Shan United rotated their squad and played all five foreign players. Dagon Star lined up with key players including Thein Than Win and Kyaw Zin Lwin.

Both teams attacked aggressively

from the start. Kyaw Zin Lwin tested Shan United early, but goalkeeper Kyaw Zin Phyto blocked his effort. Shan United created chances through Barkayoko and Rintaro but failed to find the net.

In the second half, both teams made substitutions to push for a goal. Despite increasing the tempo, neither side could break the deadlock and the match ended 0-0. Dagon Star goalkeeper Zin Nyi Nyi Aung delivered a standout performance and claimed the Man of the Match award.

After this result, Shan United led the table with 50 points from 18 matches, while Dagon Star sat on 37 points.

The Fixture 18 action continues today at 4 pm at Thuwunna Youth Training Centre, where Dagon Port will face Ayeyawady United. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



Huge generators which once powered a Cold War hotline between Washington and Moscow now lie gathering dust. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Data centres chase water, energy savings as AI race ramps up

*Data centres in Marseille are using water-saving cooling methods from an old coal mine to address AI's environmental impact. This effort aims to reduce energy consumption and manage resources.*

THREE data centres in the French port of Marseille are testing water-saving cooling methods by pumping water from an old coal mine. This is part of broader efforts to address the growing environmental impact of generative AI, which consumes significant amounts of water. The data centres use "river cooling" systems,



A photograph taken on 8 July 2020 shows generators of the new MRS3 Interxion data centre, settled in a former submarine base built by the Germans during the Second World War, in Marseille harbour, southern France. **PHOTO: CLEMENT MAHOUDEAU / AFP / FILE**

pumping water at 3,000 cubic metres per hour to keep servers at an optimal temperature. This method has reduced energy consumption by 20 per cent, eliminating the need for traditional air conditioning. As AI's power demands increase, data centres face a challenge in managing energy and water consumption. AI chips are more powerful and generate more heat than traditional processors, requiring innovative cooling solutions. — AFP

## Ghosts of past spies haunt London underground tunnels

Tucked beneath London's busy streets lies a hidden network of tunnels, once used by British spies and for secret long-distance communications. Located 30 metres underground, these tunnels, built during World War II to defend against Nazi attacks, are now being transformed into a tourist attraction. Purchased by Angus Murray's private equity firm in September 2023, the Kingsway Exchange Tunnels stretch over a mile and will be open to the public by 2028.

Originally built as an air-raid shelter during the Blitz, the site became the headquarters for the

*Australian-born entrepreneur Angus Murray is hoping to develop the site into the UK capital's next tourist attraction "The London Tunnels"*

Special Operations Executive (SOE) in 1944-45, which played a key role in supporting European resistance movements. The SOE's work is thought to have inspired the fictional "Q Branch" in the James Bond franchise. After the war, the tunnels were used for secure communications, including the first transatlantic telephone cable. In the 1950s, the site

expanded to host a long-distance telephone exchange, integral to the Cold War communications, including the Moscow-Washington hotline. The complex, decommissioned in the late 1980s, had been forgotten until Murray's purchase, with plans to spend over £200 million transforming it into an immersive historical experience. — AFP

## Ghibli Park begins exhibit of director Hayao Miyazaki's beloved car

A theme park in central Japan featuring characters and scenes from Studio Ghibli's animation films such as "My Neighbour Totoro" and "Spirited Away" on Wednesday started displaying a beloved car of director Hayao Miyazaki.

The French classic car, a Citroen 2CV, was bought by Miyazaki, 84, to take his child to nursery and is displayed in Ghibli's Grand Warehouse, one of the five areas of the Ghibli Park in Nagakute, Aichi Prefecture.

An original manga depicting how Miyazaki, co-founder of Studio Ghibli Inc., fell in love with

*Ghibli Park in Japan displays Hayao Miyazaki's beloved Citroen 2CV. This car, used for family trips, is now exhibited alongside an original manga depicting Miyazaki's fondness for it.*

the car is exhibited near the vehicle.

A Citroen 2CV was also portrayed in "Lupin III: The Castle of Cagliostro," the animation film in which Miyazaki debuted as a feature film director in 1979. — Kyodo



Animation director Hayao Miyazaki's beloved car, a Citroen 2CV, is displayed at Ghibli Park in Nagakute, Aichi Prefecture, on 29 January 2025. **PHOTO: KYODO**