

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing views round the Kangyi livestock zone in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area yesterday.

State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, accompanied by Joint Secretary General Ye Win Oo, council members, Union ministers, the chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command and officials, yesterday morning, inspected the progress of agriculture and livestock farms in Zeyathiri and Tatkon townships in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

On arrival at the mechanized farming reclamation project site near Pinlaung junction of Zeyathiri Township, the Senior General heard reports on the implementation of the project, facts about the project, plans to build the production roads and dredging of drains, and potentials for cultivation of three crops per

Ensuring regional and national food security: A top priority

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects the progress of agriculture and livestock farming tasks in Zeyathiri and Tatkon townships, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

year thanks to the mechanized farming farmlands presented by Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Min Naung and officials.

In his response to the reports, the

Senior General noted that the reclamation of mechanized farms has large capital but can gain enormous profit, benefiting individuals as well as the State. Hence, it is necessary to continue similar projects

across the nation.

He instructed officials to manage the reclaimed mechanized farmlands as model ones by recording the cultivation and production. **SEE PAGE 3**

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The merit of the new curriculum and teaching styles being introduced into Teacher Education in Myanmar

By Myint Ko Ko (MMEDC)

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2025 Thingyan to showcase water-splashing, entertainment at Inlay Lake

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Ata pots in high demand ahead of Thingyan, Myanmar New Year

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Six Peace Principles Key to Ongoing Peacemaking Efforts

THE Six Peace Principles are not only aligned with the essence of the NCA but also stem from the “Knowledge” gained through continuous peace efforts over successive periods, and they represent the “reality” that must be pursued to strengthen ongoing peacemaking efforts.

(Excerpt from the speech given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the 79th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day parade on 27 March 2024)

Objectives of 80th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day 2025

- (a) To actively participate in serving three main functions of Tatmadaw national defence duty, training duty and public benefit duty upholding Our Three Main National Causes;
- (b) To steadfastly carry out measures for State development and genuine, eternal peace by ending the armed conflicts under the Constitution (2008) and NCA;
- (c) To protect the State and its citizens from dangers and provide sector-wise assistance for the safety and socioeconomic development of the people;
- (d) To provide necessary assistance to hold a free and fair multiparty democratic general election by Tatmadaw for the emergence of a Union based on democratic and federal systems after carrying out measures per the stipulations of the State of Emergency.



Forum on Myanmar Beyond 2025: Navigating challenges, opportunities in multipolar world – 21 Mar

THE Myanmar Narrative Think Tank, under the lead of the Ministry of Information, will organize the Forum on Myanmar Beyond 2025: Challenges and Opportunities in a Multipolar World at MICC I in Nay Pyi Taw on 21 March.

The forum will discuss three main topics – “Myanmar and Asia’s Role in Changing Multipolar World”, “Challenges and Opportunities of Myanmar

in the Multipolar World Beyond 2025” and “Geopolitical Challenges and Promising Opportunities of Myanmar in the Multipolar World Beyond 2025” by the experts in geoeconomics and geopolitics from China, Russia, India, Japan, Thai, Italy and Nepal including local experts and international observers.

The forum intends to raise international awareness about

the current situation of the country together with political changes, fostering collaboration towards Myanmar with understanding and empathy, counter the baseless accusations to promote the country’s image, understand the challenges and opportunities emerging in the changing global landscape in 2025, specifically in a multipolar world, and identify ways to prepare in advance. — MNA/KTZH



President of the Republic of Belarus Mr Alexander Grigoryevich Lukashenko shakes hands with Myanmar Ambassador U Thit Linn Ohn during the Credentials Acceptance Ceremony in Minsk on 11 March 2025.

U Thit Linn Ohn presents Credentials to President of Republic of Belarus

U Thit Linn Ohn, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Belarus, presented his Credentials to Mr Alexander Grigoryevich Lukashenko, President of the Republic of Belarus, on 11 March 2025, at the Palace of Independence in Minsk. — MNA

BE Falls honours 2-millionth visitor with special gifts

THE BE Falls Relaxation Centre (Pwe Kauk Waterfall), located near the PyinOoLwin-Lashio Highway, was upgraded to an international standard relaxation facility. It was officially opened in December 2021 and has since attracted many visitors from various regions. Today, the centre has reached a milestone of welcoming two million guests.

To commemorate this achievement, the management of BE Falls Relaxation Centre presented a special gift to the two millionth visitor from Thanbyuzayat Township in



Mon State. The guest received a bouquet, a commemorative trophy, a Gold Card offering free entry to the relaxation centre for one year, and other souvenir gifts. The manage-

ment also provided free access to the relaxation centre, the Glass Bridge, a Sky Cable Car ride, and a Buggy ride for the guest and their family members. — MNA/MKKS

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World Consumer Rights Day 2025

လူနေမှုဘဝအစဉ်တည်တံ့ဖို့ မျှတအသွင်ကူးပြောင်းဖို့
A Just Transition to Sustainable Lifestyles

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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)

Ensuring regional and national food security: A top priority



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing observes the Myanmar-Korea modern rice mill in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

FROM PAGE 1

The Senior General inspected the cultivation of paddy in the reclaimed farmlands in the project area and gave necessary guidance to the officials.

At the Myanmar-Korea modern rice mill in Seinsapin Village, in-charge U Aung Zaw Oo reported to the Senior General on milling of domestic rice species. The director-general of the Agriculture Department presented reports on the storage of domestic paddy strains, the distribution of milled rice, efforts to operate the mill through collaborative efforts of cooperative societies, and the strong points and difficulties of those societies.

The Senior General stressed the need to produce quality rice for public consumption and as well as for the market. He noted that it is necessary to produce high-quality in order to capture market share, adding efforts must be

made for Myanmar's Pawsanhmwe rice to penetrate the international market.

Arriving at Nawin Creek Bridge (Ah-son), the Senior General inspected reconstruction of the four-lane road instead of the old bridge which collapsed in heavy rain in September 2024, straightening the river course and construction of retaining walls near the bridge approach area, dredging of sandbanks near the bridge and left necessary guidance to the Union Minister for Construction and officials.

In Shaukkon Village of Tatkon Township, the Senior General viewed the cultivation of cold season crops and summer paddy in the farmlands of the village damaged by Typhoon Yagi in last September and thriving Yezin hybrid sunflower-1 plantations in 80-acre croplands.

In his response, the Senior General emphasized that as the country has to import cooking oil every year, efforts must

be made to achieve success in growing oil crops. If farmers meet the target cultivation of oil crops including sunflower, prices of cooking oil will decline. He stressed the need to increase per-acre yield of crops.

At the Kangyi livestock zone in Kangyi Village of Tatkon Township, the Senior General heard reports by Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Than Tun Oo on the implementation of Kangyi, Shwemyo and Pyaunggaunggyi livestock zones, undertaking of livestock breeding tasks at relevant zones and future plans for the development of livestock breeding.

In his speech, the Senior General highlighted that agriculture and livestock zones are being established in the country to ensure sufficiency of livestock, fish, eggs and vegetables in relevant regions. Priority must be given to local food security and then to the food security of

the country. As 30 per cent of the people are residing in urban areas, they must have food security. Regions and states, including the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, have to implement systematic livestock farms with systematic calculations of food security of the people. To do so, livestock zones must be established in relevant regions with the aid of the State to ensure the livestock security of the country.

The Senior General underscored that surplus from domestic consumption in relevant livestock zones must be exported as fresh meat, whereas MSME industries need to produce processed meat for export purposes.

At the Kangyi livestock zone, the Senior General inspected pig farms, broiler and layer farms, and dairy cow and cattle farms of local livestock businesspersons and gave necessary guidance to them.

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NATIONAL

Ensuring regional and national food ...

FROM PAGE 3

With regard to implementation of the project to reclaim the mechanized farms near Pinlaung Junction in Zeyathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, an official and a farmer express their experiences as follows: -

1. Employees from the systematic farmland reclamation team (Upper Myanmar) under the Agricultural Mechanization Department in Lewe are taking responsibility for the reclamation of the mechanized farmlands with the use of machinery owned by the department. The project started on 17 December 2024 and it was completed on 28 February 2025. At



An official and a farmer share their unique perspectives and experience.

present, farmers are preparing to grow paddy on the systematic farmlands we reclaimed. So far, some 100 acres of farmlands have been placed under paddy. Ploughing and land preparations are being undertaken on 170 remaining acres of land. Agricultural

machinery are being used to harvest crops at any time and then transported to produce quality crops. As farmlands are vast and even, these farmlands can reduce volume of the agricultural water less than in the past. Agricultural machinery can be operat-

ed in the wide farmlands at full capacity and it can reduce consumption of fuel. Moreover, as these areas are facilitated with production roads, agricultural machinery can be placed there at times to expand sown acreage as double and triple crops from the single crop per year. As agricultural machinery can be used in transforming the manual to mechanized farming, number of farming labourers can be reduced. So, the surplus farming labourers can be deployed at other development undertakings of the State.

2. Now, we enjoy the benefits of farmland reclamations. In the past, these areas

were formed with 14 plots of farmlands for farmers. Now, the area is combined with four plots only. We are convenient in supplying water to the farmlands. In the past, these farmland plots had fewer agricultural water sources. Thanks to the supply of agricultural water by the State, we can take water from the drain to our farmlands directly. Moreover, the project benefits all farmers due to the facility of the water pumping system. On behalf of farmers, I would like to express my thanks to the State for the development of our farmlands free of charge. — MNA/TTA

Myanmar Photography Exhibition held in Yangon



The 58th Myanmar National Photography Art Exhibition in progress yesterday.

THE 75th-anniversary commemoration of the Myanmar Photographers Association and the opening ceremony of the 58th Myanmar National Photography Art Exhibition took place yesterday morning at Sule Square Mall, located on Sule Pagoda Road in Yangon.

The ceremony was officially

opened by the association's leaders, including the president and officials, who cut the ribbon. The president of the Myanmar Photographers Association, lifetime achievement award recipient in Myanmar cinema, and renowned director U Pachi Soe Moe gave a welcoming speech. Senior pho-

tographers, including U Tin Myint (Sit Pan Nyein), U Pe Myint Oo and U Htin Lin (Golden Arrow), also delivered speeches. In the afternoon, Director Di Pa delivered a lecture on various aspects of photography.

The 58th Myanmar National Photography Art Exhibition will be open from 12 to 16 March, offering a five-day exhibition. During this period, various photography-related discussions and lectures will be held daily. Those interested are welcome to attend free of charge.

The competition includes categories such as Black and White, Colour Photography, Portraits, Creative Digital Photography, Photo Essay and Mobile Phone Photography. A total of 56 participants have submitted 714 photographs for the competition. The winners will be honoured on 16 March. — Ko Htet/KZL

29 political parties issue congratulatory statements

THE high-level delegation, led by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, embarked on an official goodwill trip from 3 to 9 March 2025, at the invitation of President Mr Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin of the Russian Federation and President Mr Alexander Gregoryevich Lukashenko of Belarus.

All the 29 political parties, including the Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP), the New Democracy Party (Kachin), the Myanmar People's Democratic Party (MPD) and the National Unity Party (UNP), have expressed their congratulations and satisfaction with the efforts made by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing during these goodwill visits, which focused on promoting the development of various sectors for the prosperity of the nation and the people. — MNA/KZL



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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.

NATIONAL

Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun, SAC Information Team Leader, delivers key statement



Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun.



Indian media reports highlight a Mizoram MP's meeting with CNF, CNA, and Chin PDFs, alongside concerns about up to 2,000 foreigners using Mizoram as a transit route to Myanmar.

Myanmar government does not want groups opposing Myanmar to use Indian territory, nor does it accept the groups opposing the Indian government with the use of Myanmar's territory. The two countries have bilateral cooperation for border security of the two countries. The Indian government has already known that there have been many achieve-

ments in this collaboration. Myanmar continues to hold the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence as usual like India. It stands as a good friend. Concerning the Myanmar-India border area, the Myanmar-India border stretches over 1,010 miles (1,626 kilometres). Over 907 miles (over 1,460 kilometres) were measured. Most of them have been measured already. The Kabaw Valley was also finished measuring. For the Myanmar-India border demarcation, there is a MoU on Border Cooperation between Myanmar and India made on 8 May 2014. When it comes to the Kabaw Valley, the opposition party of India BJP campaigned in 2013 with a promise to reclaim the Kabaw Valley comprising of Tamu-Kalay-Minkin townships. The locals in Kalay and Minkin townships opposed. Therefore, what I want to say is that Myanmar is always a good neighbour of India. Some of the politicians in India should not jeopardize bilateral relations between the two countries solely for their political ambitions. They should respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Myanmar. Myanmar will continue with what should be informed and said regarding this issue. Thank you all.

Today, I will reply to the questions raised by the media regarding India and Myanmar border areas Manipur and Kabaw Valley and the matters that the Mizoram MPs talked about. The Hindu News Agency stated on its website that Mizoram MP K Vanlalvena visited the regions in the northwest of Myanmar bordering India. It said K Vanlalvena visited Myanmar passing through border areas from Mizoram. The governor of Mizoram and the border guard forces were informed regarding this visit, the Hindu News Agency said. Then, we also found that he met CNF, CNA and Chin PDFs. Moreover, regarding the India-Myanmar border areas, Tamu-Kabaw Valley, an MP of Manipur hinted that these areas

are the territory of India according to the history at the meeting of the Upper House of India. Moreover, on 10 March, Chief Minister of Mizoram Lalduhoma talked about the arrivals of foreigners to Myanmar via Mizoram at Mizoram Parliament. We also found that The Times of India stated that nearly 2,000 foreigners visited Aizawl between June and December last year, they were never seen in the streets, and their main intention was to cross into Myanmar to interfere in its internal affairs. Regarding these cases, what I want to reply to the media is that Myanmar and India are good friendly nations. Myanmar has been cooperating with India under the Act East Policy. As previously said, the



The Myanmar-India border.

Thai employer delivers compensation to family of deceased Myanmar worker



THE employer has paid initial compensation and wages of THB107,536 to the family of a Myanmar migrant worker who died in an accident at a construction site in Thailand, the Labour Attache Office announced.

Maung Naing Lin Aung, who worked at a construction site of

Bellcon Co Ltd in Bangkok through the Myanmar agency Success Family Co Ltd under the MoU system, died in a work accident on 29 February 2024. The deceased's family came to the Labour Attache Office on 2 December 2024 to request assistance.

The Labour Office liaised with the relevant Social Security Office in Thailand (Pakan Sankul) and helped bring the deceased's mother

to Thailand as soon as possible to receive the lump sum benefit under the Thai Social Security Law.

The employer provided the deceased's family with a first lump sum benefit of THB100,000, the remaining wages of THB7,536, and a total of THB107,536. The deceased's family will be provided with the THB743,454.74 that will be paid in pursuit of the law, the office said. — MT/ZN

This photo shows the employer providing the initial compensation to the deceased's mother.

NATIONAL

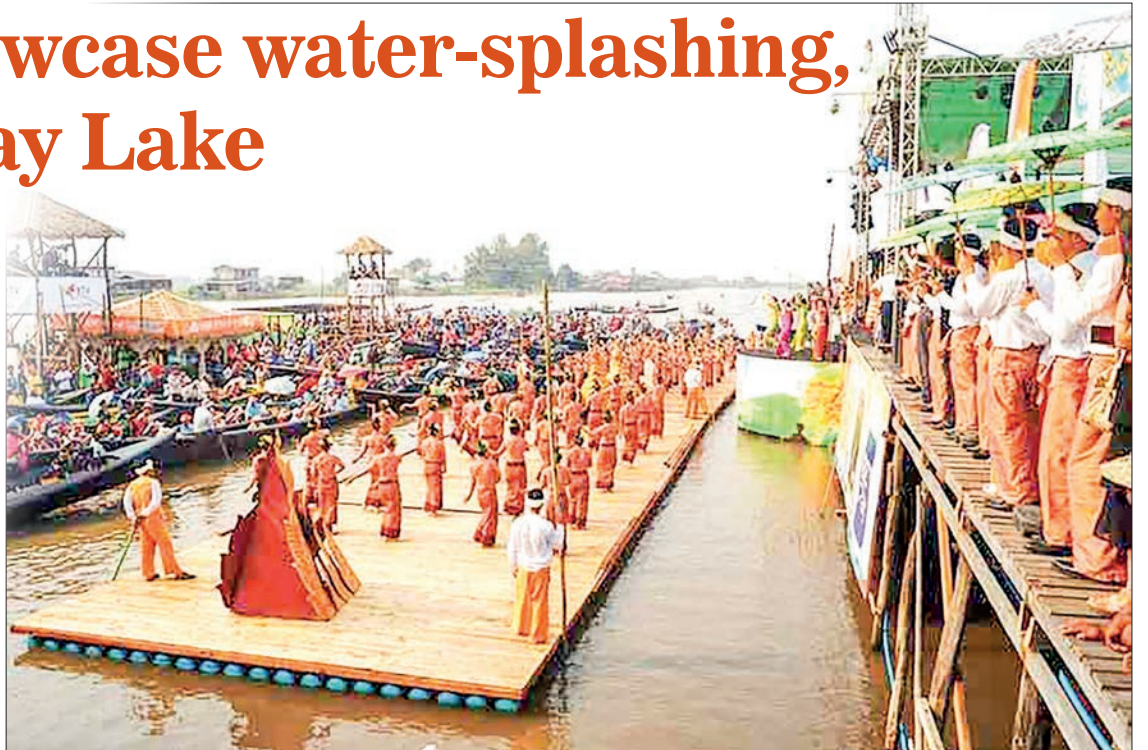
2025 Thingyan to showcase water-splashing, entertainment at Inlay Lake

THE 2025 Thingyan Festival (Water Festival) will be celebrated at Inlay Lake in Shan State (South), according to the Shan State Directorate of Hotels and Tourism.

Cities across southern and eastern Shan State will set up pavilions for water splashing and entertainment while prepa-

rations are underway for the floating Thingyan Festival at Inlay Lake.

“Shan State is a popular tourist destination throughout the year. For this reason, this year’s Thingyan celebrations will take place in Taunggyi, Kalaw, Inlay, Aungban, Pindaya, Tachilek, and Kengtung,



The Inlay floating water festival in the Inlay Lake in the previous year.



featuring both water pavilions and entertainment pavilions. Similarly, the renowned Floating Thingyan Festival in the Inlay region will be held with traditional dance performances, delicious food, and various entertainment activities. A co-

ordination meeting was held in early March to ensure the successful organization of the 2025 Inlay Floating Thingyan Festival,” said an official from the Shan State Directorate of Hotels and Tourism.

The festival will run from

the eve of Maha Thingyan until Myanmar New Year’s Day.

The Inlay Floating Water Festival was first held in 2019 but was suspended from 2020 to 2022. It was resumed in 2023 and will continue in 2025. — ASH/MKKS

OWIC re-issuance begins 20 Mar

THE Ministry of Labour will begin verifying and reissuing Overseas Workers Identification Cards (OWIC) for individuals intending to work abroad starting on 20 March.

This decision follows updates to various processes, including verifying the list of workers leaving for foreign employment, upgrading software on OWIC card issuance machines, consolidating OWIC centres and streamlining employer-employee contract procedures. As a result of these efforts, the process of issuing OWIC cards was temporarily halted.

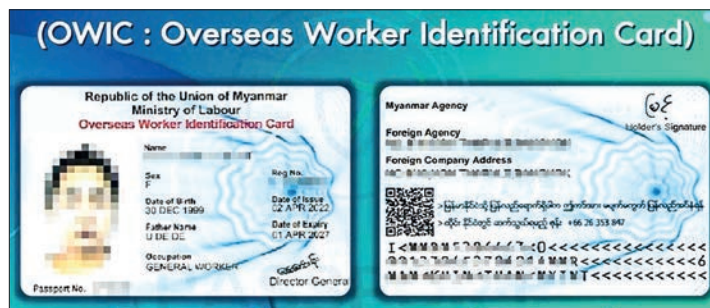
Individuals who wish to apply for a new OWIC card will need to submit their applications to the Ministry of Labour, including verified job offer letters. Only those who have received approval to

work abroad will be eligible for a reissued card. The ministry will also verify workers who are leaving based on their own or agency-arranged employment. Once the OWIC card is issued, workers will be informed that they can proceed with purchasing flight tickets.

The ministry has stated that these workers must apply for a work permit and submit the necessary documents, including (PJ) passport for job copies and OWIC card

details via online application for those who are re-entering the country or returning after an extended stay abroad. This process will ensure that only those approved for overseas work will be granted clearance.

Following the review process, the ministry will announce the list of approved workers on the Safe Migration Telegram Channel and send the updates to relevant airports. — ASH/KZL



OWIC card for overseas workers.

Quintet show set to shine in Mandalay

THE 5 Ladies Show, featuring singers Tun Eindra Bo, Chaw Su Khin, Wyne Su Khine Thein, Jewel, and Mayla Thansin, is set to take place on 21 March at the Pool Side of Mingalar Mandalay Hotel in Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay Region.

Organized by S&S Entertainment, the event will showcase performances by the five singers accompanied by the S&S Entertainment band, which will provide musical support.

Regarding the concert, singer Mayla Thansin shared on social media, “I want to meet all the Mandalay lovebirds on the 21st of this month,” inviting her fans to the event.

The 5 Ladies Show will commence at 6:00 pm on 21 March at the Pool Side of Mingalar Mandalay Hotel. — ASH/MKKS



This image displays an advert for the Five Ladies Show music concert.

Daily newspapers available online

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News and Periodicals Enterprise



MGMA invites members to join Fashion in Style 2025, Hong Kong

THE Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association (MGMA) notified on 11 March that member companies and factories can participate in Fashion in Style 2025, which will be held on 27-30 April 2025 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre.

This fashion trade show is organized by the Hong Kong Trade Development

Council (HKTDC), acting as a platform to foster business connections with business people in the fashion industry, designers, and brand companies, explore new services and sourcing of fabric and accessories and discover ideas and networks with professionals.

The Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) invited exhibitions,

buyers and industry professionals, and MGMA invited members to join the buyer delegation. Shuttle services and three-night stays will be provided for representatives of member factories. Business delegates can participate in business matchings as well. However, air tickets and other costs will not be covered.

Interested individuals from MGMA's

member companies and factories can contact Ma Khin Thandar Aung, Event & PR officer, via 09 758451158 by 18 March 2025. Two people from each factory are eligible to attend Fashion in Style 2025. Those who fail to contact before the deadline will not be considered anyhow as they need to apply eVisa one month in advance, MGMA notified. — NN/KK



CBM sells US\$33.5M, THB156M on 11 Mar

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold \$33.5 million and 156 million baht on 11 March after it had announced on 10 March to inject them into the fuel oil sector.

CBM sold \$197,032.72 on 10 March, \$335,000 and 1.98 million baht on 7 March, and over \$130,000 on 6 March.

CBM announced on 5 March that it would soon sell 50 million baht to importers. Later, it sold over eight million baht on that day.

CBM announced to the sale of \$23 million and 150 million baht on 3 March for fuel oil importers. It injected that amount of foreign currencies into the fuel oil sector on 4 March. It sold \$550,000, 400,000 yuan and 638,550 baht on 3 March.

CBM pumped over \$88 million, 7.5 million yuan and 161 million baht in February and over \$124 million, over 13.8 million baht, and over 4.8 million yuan in January. 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 collaborating 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

67 Four regional rice exporters negotiate trade deals



The discussions between MRF officials and counterparts from Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam, and SS Rice News Network in progress in Vietnam on 5-6 March 2025.

THE Myanmar Rice Federation stated that it coordinated rice export matters, including falling rice prices with counterparts from Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam and participated in SS Rice News Network discussions in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, on 5-6 March 2025.

A delegation led by MRF President U Ye Min Aung, accompanied by 23

representatives, attended the events. Participants elaborated on falling rice prices and cooperation to regain momentum in the market with competitive pricing and to cope with the financial stress of farmers in the four rice exporting countries, reducing input cost and getting access to adequate irrigation water, loans and pedigree seeds. They

decided to accelerate collaborative efforts.

Representatives from Thai Rice Exporters Association, Cambodia Rice Federation, Vietnam Food Association and Myanmar Rice Federation, and SS Rice, officials concerned and international media outlets participated in this. — NN/KK

DOF calls on fish farms to report abnormal phenomena

IF abnormal phenomena happen in fish farms during this summer, the Department of Fisheries said farm owners can contact their nearby officials.

DOF, under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, has urged fish farms to take preventive measures against the heat hazard this summer.

"In order not to face loss, DOF has urged fish farms, and we want them to follow our directions and take precautions," said DOF director Dr Aung

Naing Oo.

DOF says the extreme heat may lead to water pollution that causes disease in fish farms and in an attempt to avoid it, the input of fertilizer and overfeeding should be reduced, should promote the dissolved oxygen level, clean water should be refilled when the water dries or the pollution of farmed fish should be reduced if they have difficulty to refill water and fishes shouldn't be moved at noon when the temperature is too high.

The water clarity is required to be maintained within 25-40 centimetres, feeding should be balanced to maintain the water clarity, regular check on leftover food, water should be stored in reservoirs for refilling and regular check on water quality change at 6 am daily, it added.

In Myanmar, fish farms sometimes get dry, and a mass of fish die from disease due to extreme summer heat. — Htun Htun/ZS

OPINION

Honour outstanding students for their future contributions

THE long-term progress and sustainability of a nation depend on the dedication of each generation to its advancement. To secure the future, the youth must be continually nurtured to inherit the nation's responsibilities. For a country to remain competitive globally, it is essential that the younger generation possesses the capabilities and contributions necessary for national development. Thus, fostering the comprehensive growth and full potential of youth is crucial.

The State Administrative Council's social objective is "to nurture youth to become physically strong, intellectually capable, morally upright, socially adept and economically empowered young individuals poised to lead the nation's development efforts". The government is committed to cultivating well-rounded individuals

who excel in all areas – physical, intellectual, ethical, social, and cultural – to ensure their significant role in the country's progress.

It is important for youth not only to excel academically but also to grow into well-rounded individuals. They must develop a strong sense of patriotism, love for their country, and a deep understanding of the importance of safeguarding national sovereignty and cultural heritage. Additionally, fostering qualities like curiosity, creativity, critical thinking, and the motivation to positively influence society and the environment is essential.

Myanmar's initiatives to nurture talented young individuals began in 1964 and continued until 1988. After a hiatus starting in 1989, the "Outstanding Youth" programme was revived in 2013, and in 2018, it was rebranded

as the "Outstanding Student" programme. However, the project was temporarily halted in the 2019-2020 academic year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It resumed in the 2022-2023 academic year, and the selection of talented students is now underway for the 2024-2025 academic year, with lists being announced by the Higher Education Department and Basic Education Department under the Ministry of Education.

The selection of outstanding students is not solely based on academic performance but also considers their physical health, mental attitude, discipline, knowledge, and overall excellence. This thorough evaluation process takes place across various levels, including school, township, and district, to ensure that only the most exceptional students are chosen.

Being recognized as an outstanding student is a lifelong source of pride. When these distinguished students from different regions meet at prestigious camps, they have the opportunity to build friendships, share knowledge, and learn from each other's regional experiences. This fosters a greater appreciation of traditional cultures, instils a sense of pride and patriotism, and strengthens their commitment to the nation.

THE Myanmar Education System has changed because the 25 education Colleges will be upgraded with four-year education degree colleges, and training courses for pre-service teachers. Our education curriculum is also new and both the approach to teaching learning has been modernized. With the help of foreign experts and local CCT members with the help of STEM Project and UNESCO. It started on 26 November 2019 and it is based on the new curriculum for the four-year degree colleges. It is very important for our education sector because it improves the teaching skills of teachers at the Primary and Middle school levels.

The National Education Strategic Plan (2016-21) aims at improving teaching quality by developing teachers' aptitudes. The plan is to increase teacher qualification before entering the workplace. The Ministry of Education will arrange the curriculum and any issues regarding human resources. The new curriculum promotes gender equality, soft

The merit of the new curriculum and teaching styles being introduced into Teacher Education in Myanmar

skills, social skills, life skills and inclusive education for all ethnic groups in Myanmar. Education Degree colleges have been opened in all the States and Regions in our country allowing everyone to learn. One result of the new curriculum seeks to introduce the option of specialization tracks at the Primary and Middle school level. There will be

-to better prepare students and teachers to manage classes of any size and students with different needs.

-an increased amount of supervised practical classroom experiences that student teachers will have will allow them to develop these skills.

For example, after attending the course, they will get a BA or BSc (Education) degree and they will be Primary and Middle school

teachers with high qualifications. Average Myanmar class sizes are huge and students will learn how to reduce class size and manage the classroom well. All student teachers will be experts in the local curriculum. They are very professional about their co-curriculum subjects such as PE, Local Curriculum (Home economics, Agriculture), Fine Arts, Morals & Civics and Life skills which are connected with the Primary and Middle School curriculum in The Basic Education Sector. All are so sophisticated and modern for fostering teaching and learning strategies. Why? Our products will be the best pioneer teachers for future generations.

We never forget to teach the Practicum and Reflective Practice and Essential Skills are so master keys in our Degree College Cur-

riculum. They are essential needs for student teachers who know how to teach what to teach on the ground level and how to reflect their teaching-learning style.

The second point is that teacher educators in our degree colleges are trained by foreign teacher trainers on STEM projects with funding through UNESCO. STEM addresses four fundamentally important aspects of pre-service teacher education. The best outcomes are formulating a policy framework for pre-service teacher education and providing technical advice on developing teacher policies and a teacher competency standard framework (TCSF).

-improving the system and operations of Education Colleges (EDC) by restructuring and developing the curriculum and building networks amongst them for knowl-

edge and experience sharing.

-developing institutional and human resource management capacities of EDC and

-mainstreaming inclusion and equality issues in teacher education.

For example, the teacher can gain communication skills and the knowledge of how to draw up lesson designs with inclusion ideas incorporated. The traditional teaching methods have been replaced the new strategies and teaching styles. The other positive change is that of the assessment method. Our course is based on assessment of learning, assessment for learning and assessment as learning. Construction of how to assess our students is needed. For example (formative or summative assessments are given).

In this course, learning through

By Myint Ko Ko (MMEDC)

assessment is so efficient for the four-year degree. The student teachers are submitted by term papers and mini papers. Projects, home assignments, creating one-act plays, poster creation, portfolios and other latest assessments for their semester of courses respectively.

Secondly, in my opinion, the curriculums are all based heavily on methodology. They have to learn ICT skills to cater for lesson design with technology. For third-year students, they have to learn Chemistry, Physics and Biology for Science Students. For Arts students, they must learn History, Geography and Economics. The subjects are linked with teaching methodology.

The impact is that the student teachers are already known for creating blended learning and flipped classrooms. So, our MOE supports teaching materials and resources such as books, solar systems etc. We must change to a flipped classroom, which is an instructional strategy and a type of blended learning focused on ensuring students' engagement and active learning. It is the best result for using flipped classrooms.

The students are going to learn new teaching technology as digital learning systems and other ways of learning on the internet, mass media and so on.

In the last part, our Department of Teacher Education plans to run drawing PPTT courses

(Pre-service Primary Teacher Training Course) two times a year. It is the way of solving the teacher shortage at the Primary level and they do not need to learn Academic content but they learn to focus on pedagogy only because they have only degree holders from Arts and Science University. Our student teachers should have to learn Academic skills because they should be experts in both Academic knowledge and Methodology. In the flipped classroom, the focus is on depth-teaching methods, skill development activities and developing problem-solving skills. Moreover, the student teacher's collaboration in the flipped classroom becomes more personalized and this enables the students to show interest and effectively involve themselves in learning.

References

Year1 semester1 Teacher Educators Training Manual
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Researchers create gel that can self-heal like human skin: Study

GELS are commonly used products that are soft and sticky. They can be applied to hair or to the jelly-like components in various foodstuffs. While human skin shares gel-like characteristics, it has unique qualities that are very hard to replicate. It combines high stiffness with flexibility, and it has remarkable self-healing capabilities, often healing completely within 24 hours after injury.

Until now, artificial gels have either replicated this high stiffness or natural skin's self-healing properties, but not both. Now, a team of researchers from Aalto University and the University of Bayreuth is the first to develop a hydrogel with a unique structure that overcomes earlier limitations, opening the door to applications such as drug delivery, wound healing, soft robotics sensors,

KEY POINTS:

- Researchers from Aalto University and the University of Bayreuth have developed a groundbreaking hydrogel that combines high stiffness and self-healing properties, mimicking the unique characteristics of human skin.
- The innovative hydrogel is created by incorporating exceptionally large and ultra-thin clay nanosheets into a polymer matrix, resulting in a highly ordered structure that enhances mechanical properties and enables self-healing.
- The production process involves mixing monomers with water containing nanosheets and exposing the mixture to UV light, which causes the molecules to bond and form an elastic gel.
- This new material can self-heal significantly within four hours after being cut, achieving 80-90% recovery, and typically fully repairing within 24 hours.
- The discovery opens up potential applications in drug delivery, wound healing, soft robotics, and artificial skin, representing a significant advancement in the design of synthetic materials inspired by biological properties.

and artificial skin.

In the breakthrough study, the researchers added exceptionally large and ultra-thin specific clay nanosheets to hydrogels, which are typically soft and squishy. The result is a highly ordered structure with densely

entangled polymers between nanosheets, improving the hydrogel's mechanical properties and allowing it to self-heal.

The secret of the material lies not only in the organized arrangement of the nanosheets, but also in the polymers that are

entangled between them – and a process that's as simple as baking. Postdoctoral researcher Chen Liang mixed a powder of monomers with water that contains nanosheets. The mixture was then placed under a UV lamp – similar to that used

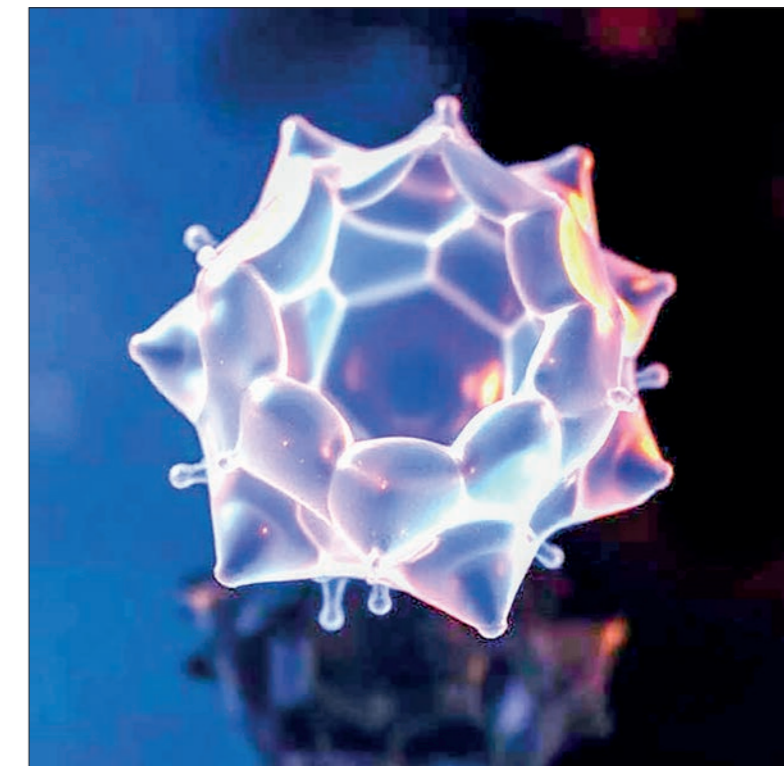
to set gel nail polish. 'The UV-radiation from the lamp causes the individual molecules to bond together so that everything becomes an elastic solid – a gel,' Liang explains.

'Entanglement means that the thin polymer layers start

to twist around each other like tiny wool yarns, but in a random order,' adds Hang Zhang, from Aalto University. 'When the polymers are fully entangled, they are indistinguishable from each

other. They are very dynamic and mobile at the molecular level, and when you cut them, they start to intertwine again.'

Four hours after cutting it with a knife, the material is



This innovative hydrogel can self-heal 80-90 per cent within four hours of being cut and is fully repaired within 24 hours, making it as stiff and flexible as human skin, with potential applications in drug delivery, wound healing, soft robotics, and artificial skin. **ILLUSTRATION: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/CONCEPT ART**

to twist around each other like tiny wool yarns, but in a random order,' adds Hang Zhang, from Aalto University. 'When the polymers are fully entangled, they are indistinguishable from each

other. They are very dynamic and mobile at the molecular level, and when you cut them, they start to intertwine again.'

Four hours after cutting it with a knife, the material is

already 80 or 90 per cent self-healed. After 24 hours, it is typically completely repaired. Furthermore, a one-millimetre-thick hydrogel contains 10,000 layers of nanosheets, which makes the material as stiff as human skin, and gives it a comparable degree of stretch and flexibility.

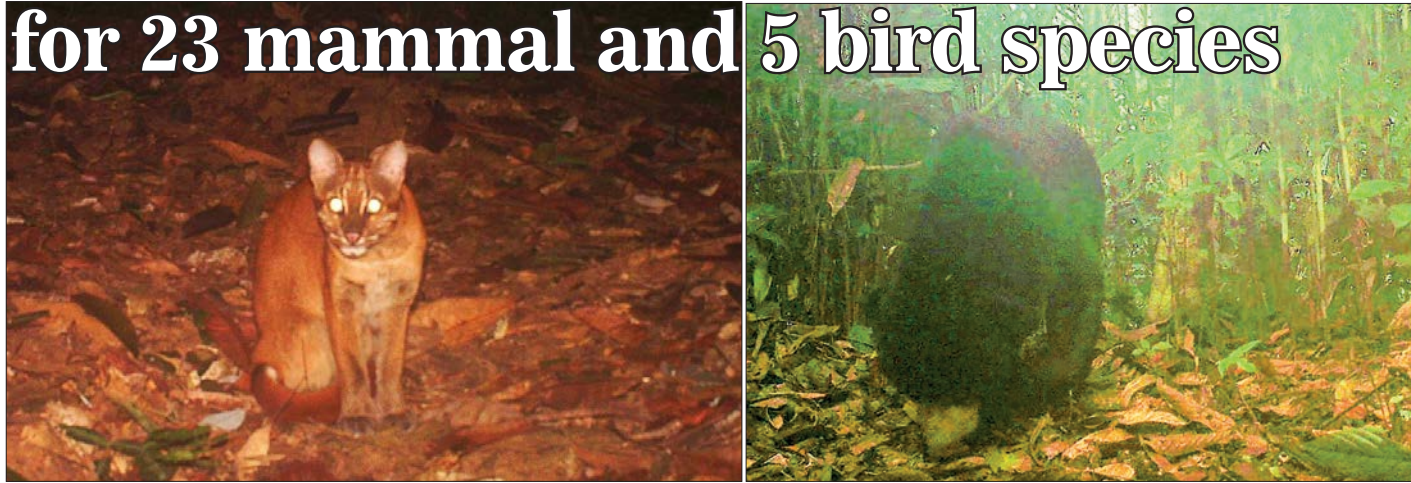
"Stiff, strong and self-healing hydrogels have long been a challenge. We have discovered a mechanism to strengthen the conventionally soft hydrogels. This could revolutionize the development of new materials with bio-inspired properties," says Zhang.

"This work is an exciting example of how biological materials inspire us to look for new combinations of properties for synthetic materials. Imagine robots with robust, self-healing skins or synthetic tissues that autonomously repair," says Olli Ikkala, from Aalto University. And even though there may be some way to go before real-world application, the current results represent a pivotal leap. 'It's the kind of fundamental discovery that could renew the rules of material design.'

SOURCE: ANI

NATIONAL

Htamathi Wildlife Sanctuary: Haven for 23 mammal and 5 bird species



Photos show Catopuma temminckii, bear, Clouded Leopard (Neofelis nebulosa), gaur and tiger captured by camera traps from Htamathi Wildlife Sanctuary. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF HTAMANTHI WILDLIFE SANCTUARY.**

THE Htamathi Wildlife Sanctuary is as beautiful as the Amazon rainforest, boasting diverse biodiversity and wild animals. The analysis and research conducted with camera traps in the 2024-2025 financial year recorded 32 mammal and five bird species, according to the warden office of Htamathi Wildlife Sanctuary.

A total of 24 cameras were installed in Naneisuu areas in the second week of

December 2024, and they were kept back in the second week of February 2025. The camera traps recorded the world's rare endangered species, the Bengal tiger and Malayan sun bear, including Pardofelis temminckii and clouded leopard and totally-protected wild animals and bird species.

The camera traps captured completely-protected tiger, bear, Clouded Leopard (Neofelis nebulosa), Catopuma temminck-

ii, marbled cat, large Indian civet, Asian small-clawed otter, dhole, gaur, capped langur, stump-tailed macaque, Macaca leonine, Chinese Pangolin, and the normally-protected Prionailurus bengalensis, Asian palm civet and so on, and the seasonally-protected 23 mammal species and completely protected five bird species, totalling 28 species – 307 mammals and 142 birds.

“This year, we are satisfied to see the rare wild animals captured by the camera traps. The cameras recorded 23 mammal and five bird species, totalling 28 species. They include rare species like the Bengal tiger, Sun bear, Pardofelis temminckii and Clouded leopard, and such existences are signs of abundant biodiversity in the wildlife sanctuary. Only a sustainable existence can ensure the benefits of wildlife sanctuaries for new generations. Therefore, all should preserve it,” said U Win Hlaing, warden of the wildlife sanctuary.

The Htamathi Wildlife Sanctuary is one of the world's natural protected areas for rare species. It covers 830 square miles and is rich in creeks, waterfalls, and biodiversity.

The Htamathi Wildlife Sanctuary, located between the Chindwin River and Uyu River, is about over 700 miles, and benefits for the water resource in watershed area of Chindwin River. The survey groups make efforts to see an increase in terrestrial species and bird species by installing camera traps every year. Such efforts record the population of the world's rare species. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/KTZH



Mudon durians fetch higher prices

DURIANS produced from Mon State's Mudon Township have been offered better prices, according to durian farmers.

Durians grown in Mudon are called No 2, and the fruits were purchased for K30,000 per kilogramme at farms for transporting to Yangon, where consumers enjoy the fruit a lot.

“Durians are available now. Some of the first batches are also nearing being picked. It is not the species from Ye but a Myanmar species, and we call it No 2 durian. Now, it is being offered at K30,000 for a kilogramme to transport to

the Yangon market. Last year, the per kilogramme price was K15,000, so now is better. Durian is a marketable fruit, so the trade is good,” said a durian farmer in Mudon Township.

There are different durian varieties such as Monthong durian, Chani durian, Musang King durian, Black Thorn durian and No 2 durian, and the production is highest in May, June and July in Myanmar. This year's production is large.

Thai durians Monthong and Chani, which have thick flesh, sold well last month. — Thit Taw/ZS



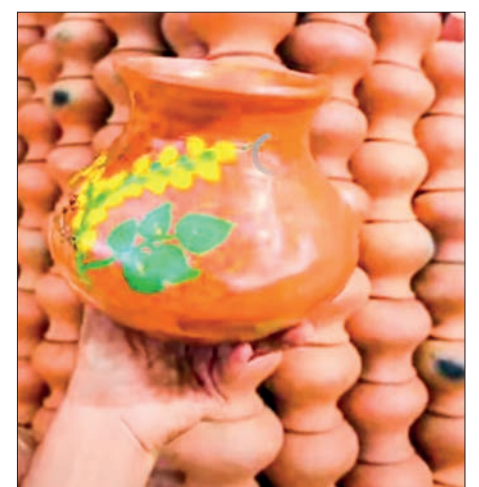
This photo displays the durians that Mudon produces.

Ata pots in high demand ahead of Thingyan, Myanmar New Year

AS the Thingyan festival approaches, Ata pots, a traditional Myanmar craft to welcome a new year with flowers, are selling well, according to a local market.

In addition to its uses in the whole Thingyan period and on the New Year, Ata pots are used in religious ceremonies, such as for chanting prayers, for auspicious vessels, and for pouring water into Bodhi trees.

“Now that Thingyan is approaching, the sale of Ata pots is booming. The closer it gets to Thingyan, the more it sells. The price is good. With flower painting and covering with a curtain, the price is better than last year. Ata pots are used throughout Thingyan. It is used for prayers and other rituals during the New Year. There are two types of Ata pots. The one with a circular bottom frame is used all year round, including its uses in religious ceremonies for blessing, praying and pouring



This image features Ata pots, a traditional Myanmar handicraft, often used during the Thingyan Festival.

water,” said a local handicrafts trader in Mandalay.

Besides Ata pots, natural sand water pots are also selling well as summer has arrived. — Thit Taw/ZN

NATIONAL

3-day illegal trade crackdown seizes goods worth K1,115M

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

On 9 and 10 March, the combined teams impounded four trucks and six tractor heads with six trailers (worth approximately K525 million) carrying industrial materials, consumer goods and foodstuffs (valued at K248.777 million) without official documents near Hpa-an Industrial Zone of Hpa-an Township, and an unregistered vehicle and an unregistered motorbike (estimated value of K6 million) in Taungdwingyi and Magway Townships. The action was taken under the Export-Import Law and Customs procedures.

On 11 March, the combined on-duty teams seized two unregistered vehicles and an unregistered motorbike (estimated value of K31.5 million) in Sagaing and Shwebo Townships, a wooden boat (estimated value of K18 million) that was used in illegal fishing in Kawthoung Township and an unregistered motorbike (estimated value of K4 million) in Dawei Township. The action was conducted under the Export-Import Law and the Myanmar Marine Fisheries Law. Additionally, the on-duty

teams confiscated 1.866 tonnes of illegal hardwood (worth K570,070) in Taikkyi Township, four unregistered motorbikes (valued at K20 million) in North Okkalapa, Thingangyun, Insein and North Dagon Townships, four unregistered vehicles (worth approximately K42 million) in Belin, Kyaikto, Mudon and Mawlamyine Townships, and 71 barrels of illegal diesel (worth about K41.4 million) that were piled up by the side of Inya Road in Mawlamyine. The action was taken under the Forest Law, the Export-Import Law and the Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law.

Similarly, the joint on-duty teams nabbed a Hino Profia truck (estimated value of K50 million) carrying industrial materials (worth K15.077 million) without official documents in Waw Township and industrial materials (worth K113.1 million) without official documents from two containers at the Myanmar Industrial Port. The action was conducted under the Customs procedure.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported 50 arrests on three consecutive days from 9 to 11 March, with illegal goods worth approximately K1,115 million. — MNA/MKKS

299 foreign nationals detained for illegal entry, online scams



Myanmar Immigration and officials processing undocumented foreign entrants.

THE government has continued its efforts to crack down on illegal activities by foreign nationals who are entering Myanmar, particularly in the border regions and involving online gambling and fraud.

Among those identified, 299 foreign nationals who entered Myanmar via border routes, including through neighbouring countries such as Thailand, and engaged in online gambling and telecom fraud in Myawady, Maetawthale area in Kayin State have

been apprehended. Efforts are underway to promptly repatriate them to their respective countries. The Kayin State government's Security and Border Affairs Minister Colonel Min Thu Kyaw is working with relevant authorities to gather necessary personal data and records for repatriation.

A total of 5,745 foreign nationals who had illegally entered Myanmar were detained and investigated from 30 January to 12 March 2025. Of these, 2,763 were repatriated to their countries via Thailand following due legal process. The remaining 2,982 foreign nationals are ready for repatriation to their respective countries and they are being securely managed.

The government continues to tackle telecom fraud operations by coordinating with international organizations from neighbouring countries to prevent online gambling and telecom fraud operations at Myanmar's borders. — MNA/KZL

Counter-argument to false information

False reports read 200 locals fled Paukhaung after attack

MISINFORMATION is spreading online, saying that over 200 locals in Paukhaung Township, Bago Region, were forced to flee their villages after heavy weapon attacks by the Tatmadaw on 10 March.

A security official from Paukhaung Township said there were no such attacks on innocent villagers. Security forces are working with locals to protect the area, especially where insurgents are active. False reports are circulated by misleading media. — MNA/KZL



This screenshot discloses misinformation.

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.



Images show confiscated illegal items across the country.

ECONOMY WORLD

Revenue growth of Indian IT services companies projected at 4-6% in FY2026: ICRA

Indian IT services companies are projected to experience a moderate 4-6 per cent revenue expansion in USD terms during Financial Year 2026 (FY26), according to ICRA's projections



Attrition levels are expected to stabilize around 12-13 per cent over the near term, while hiring is likely to remain low until growth momentum picks up by the end of FY2026. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ANI**

INDIAN IT services companies will witness a moderate 4-6 per cent revenue expansion in USD terms in Financial Year 2026 (FY26), the ICRA said in its projection on Wednesday.

Further, ICRA anticipates attrition levels to stabilize around the long-term average of 12-13 per cent over the near term.

Moreover, the credit rating agency added that the hiring is likely to remain low until the growth momentum picks up by the end of FY2026.

The operating profit margins (OPM) for the sample set are expected to sustain at 22.5-23.0 per cent over the next three to four quarters.

Commenting on the near-term expectations on industry performance, Deepak Jotwani, Vice-President & Sector Head, ICRA, said, "The growth momentum for ICRA's sample set of IT services companies is likely to remain muted over the near term, owing to the looming uncertainty related to the imposition of US trade tariffs and macroeconomic headwinds across the key markets of the US and Europe."

As per the firm, its sample set 1 recorded a YoY revenue growth of 3.6 per cent in USD terms in 9M FY2025, witnessing gradual recovery over the past three quarters. — ANI

NEWS IN BRIEF

Nigeria projects 4.6% GDP growth for 2025

THE Nigerian government on Tuesday expressed optimism that the country's economy would expand by at least 4.6 per cent in 2025, up from 3.19 per cent in 2024.

Unveiling a comprehensive economic plan for sustainable development in the capital of Abuja, Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy Wale Edun said macroeconomic stability remains a priority, with exchange rate stability, trade surplus, and increased oil production positioning the country as a stronger global player. The National Bureau of Statistics earlier reported that the gross domestic product (GDP) expanded by 3.84 per cent year-on-year in the fourth quarter of 2024, up from 3.46 per cent in the previous quarter.

"The government has projected GDP growth of 4.6 per cent for 2025, with a long-term ambition of seven per cent annually, a crucial target for poverty reduction and sustainable development," Edun noted. — Xinhua

Sheikh Hasina's family's properties seized, 124 bank accounts frozen

A court in Dhaka has ordered the seizure of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Dhanmondi residence, 'Sudhasadhan', and some other properties owned by her family members, who are in exile in India.

At the same time, the court ordered the seizure of 124 bank accounts belonging to her family, an official said.

Dhaka Metropolitan Senior Special Judge Zakir Hossain Ghalib issued the order on Tuesday following an application by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC). Sheikh Hasina's husband, the late nuclear scientist MA Wazed Miah, was nicknamed Sudha Miah. The house, 'Sudhasadhan', was named after him. — ANI

US reverses extra 25% tariffs on Canadian steel, aluminium

THE United States on Tuesday reversed its plan to impose extra 25 per cent tariffs on Canadian steel and aluminium, after the Canadian province of Ontario dropped tariffs on electricity exports to three US states.

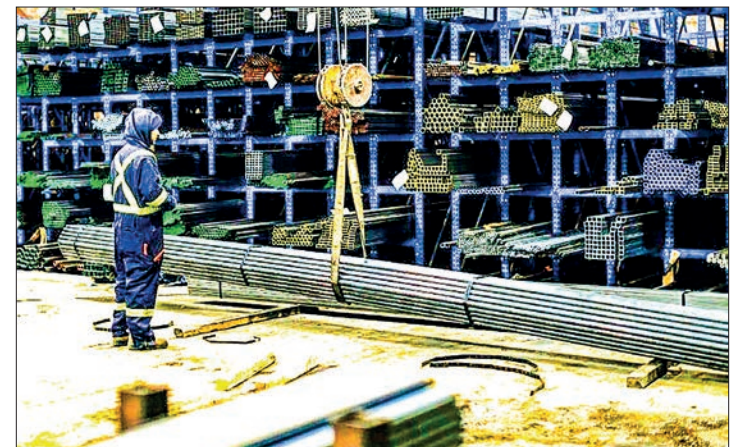
"After President Trump threatened to use his executive powers to retaliate with a colossal 50 per cent tariff against Canada, Ontario Premier Doug Ford spoke with (Commerce) Secretary (Howard) Lutnick to convey that he is backing down on implementing a 25 per cent charge on electricity exports to the United States," White House spokesman Kush Desai said in a statement.

Earlier on Tuesday, US President Donald Trump said on social media that he would impose an additional 25 per cent tariff on steel and aluminium from Canada, raising the total tariff to 50 per cent, in response to tariffs on electricity exports from the Canadian province of Ontario.

Shortly after, Ontario agreed to suspend its 25 per cent surcharge on electricity exports to three US states.

According to a joint statement from Ontario Premier Doug Ford and US Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick, Ford will travel to Washington on Thursday to meet with Lutnick and discuss "a renewed USMCA ahead of the 2 April reciprocal tariff deadline."

Previously, Trump announced the imposition of a broad 25 per cent tariff on Canada and Mexico, which took effect on 4 March. However, just two days later, Trump reversed his position and adjusted the tariff measures, exempting goods that meet the "United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement" (USMCA) preferential conditions from the tariffs, effective until 2 April. — Xinhua



A worker moves steel product at North York Iron, a supplier in Toronto, where people have expressed concern over US President Donald Trump's plans to slap import tariffs on Canadian steel. **PHOTO: AFP**

Chinese airline to launch regular charter flights to Nepal's Pokhara

Nepal Visit Year coincides with the 70th anniversary, marked by celebrations and promotional events to encourage tourism.

SICHUAN Airlines of China will launch regular commercial charter flights on 18 March to Pokhara, a popular tourist attraction and the second-largest city in Nepal.

The first flight from Chengdu, capital of southwest China's Sichuan Province, will land at the Pokhara International Air-

port on 18 March, and the airport shall have the first regular charter flight after it came into operation in January 2023, Wang Xin, a counsellor at the Chinese Embassy in Nepal, said on Wednesday at a press conference in Pokhara.

The charter flight shall be operated once a week on Tuesdays.

The move is important progress in strengthening connectivity between China and Nepal, and will certainly further strengthen personnel exchanges and cooperation in various fields, as 2025 marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries, Wang said. — Xinhua



Pokhara International Airport, Nepal's second-largest airport. PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/CMEC/FILE

Nearly 60% of electricity in Germany from renewables in 2024

IN 2024, renewable energy sources such as wind power, solar energy, biogas, and hydropower accounted for 59.4 per cent of Germany's electricity production, the Federal Statistical Office (Destatis) said on Wednesday.

Renewable electricity generation reached an all-time high of 256.4 billion kilowatt-hours (kWh), marking a 2.3 per cent year-on-year increase, according to Destatis.

Despite a slight decline in output, wind power

remained Germany's largest electricity source.



Renewable electricity generation reached an all-time high of 256.4 billion kilowatt-hours (kWh), marking a 2.3 per cent year-on-year increase. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ AFP/FILE

Generation from wind fell by 1.4 per cent compared

to 2023, totaling 136 billion kWh. However, its share of total electricity production rose from 30.8 per cent in 2023 to 31.5 per cent in 2024.

Solar energy saw a significant surge, with electricity generation from photovoltaics increasing by 10.4 per cent to 59.5 billion kWh. This brought solar power's share of Germany's total electricity supply to 13.8 per cent, the highest level recorded since data collection began in 2018. — Xinhua

India's retail inflation eases to 3.61% in Feb

INDIA'S retail inflation eased to a seven-month low of 3.61 per cent in February, the latest government data showed Wednesday.

According to the data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, the inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) in February is 3.61 per cent.

In January, the CPI was 4.26 per cent. The food inflation also declined to 3.75 per cent in February from 5.97 per

cent in January, the data showed. According to officials, the price data are collected from selected 1,114 urban markets and 1,181 villages covering all states through personal visits by National Statistical Office (NSO).

"During the month of February 2025, NSO collected prices from 100 per cent villages and 98.6 per cent urban markets while the market-wise prices reported therein were 89.8 per cent for rural and 92.6 per cent for urban," the ministry said. — Xinhua

Cathay Pacific says profits edged up in 2024

Hong Kong carrier Cathay Pacific said on Wednesday that its attributable profit rose slightly in 2024 to US\$1.27 billion, after announcing earlier this year that its flights were finally back to pre-pandemic levels.

The city's aviation sector was hit hard by Covid-era policies, which imposed strict rules on travellers that kept it internationally isolated before they were lifted in late 2022.

Chair Patrick Healy said last year marked Cathay's "second consecutive year of solid financial performance", following an attributable profit of US\$1.26 billion in 2023.

"Our solid second-half financial result was driven by elevated cargo demand, higher passenger volumes, lower fuel prices and higher cost efficiencies compared with the previous year," Healy said in an earnings release. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC JUNDE VOY.NO. (2503)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC JUNDE VOY.NO. (2503)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **13-3-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BBC KHERSON VOY.NO. (1348016)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BBC KHERSON VOY.NO. (1348016)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **13-3-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES (S'PORE) PTE LTD

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

US capital scraps Black Lives Matter mural after Trump pressure

After the George Floyd protests, Trump sought to dismantle diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives through executive orders.

WORKERS in Washington on Monday began removing a “Black Lives Matter” street mural installed during the height of 2020 racial justice protests, bowing to pressure from President Donald Trump.

Large, yellow lettering reading “Black Live Matter” has been painted on a roadway near the White House since June 2020, when protests broke out across the nation following the police killing of George Floyd, an un-

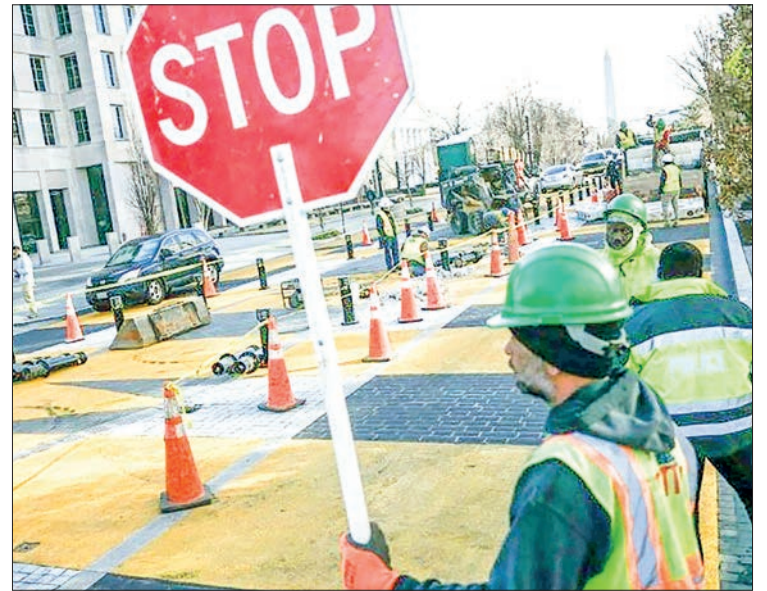
armed Black man. City officials in the US capital have credited the art installation with calming tensions near the White House, where violent clashes between protesters and security personnel had occurred in the days prior.

Trump, who was president at the time of the unrest, returned to office in January seeking to overturn so-called diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) practices which spread widely throughout the public and private sectors fol-

lowing the George Floyd protests.

Congressional Republicans and Trump aides had eyed the mural as part of their move to force changes in the administration of Washington, an overwhelmingly Democratic city.

Mayor Muriel Bowser, a Democrat, has sought to establish a good working relationship with Trump, seeking to head off Republican calls for fully overturning the city’s right to govern itself. — AFP



Crews begin work to remove the “Black Lives Matter” street mural. **PHOTO: AFP**

Laos to host national competition to boost skilled professionals

LAOS’ Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare will host the fourth National Skills Competition next month to promote skilled professions among youth and identify top-skilled workers to represent the country at the 14th WorldSkills ASEAN Compe-

tion in the Philippines later this year.

Speaking at a press conference on Tuesday, Lao Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Welfare Phongxaysack Inthalath stated that the event will take place from 28 to 30 April, under the theme “Lao

Skills Advancing to Regional and International Levels”.

The competition will feature five skill categories, including electrical installation in buildings, graphic design technology, food preparation, wood cabinet making, and website technology. — Xinhua

Pakistan security forces free 190 hostages in train siege

PAKISTANI security forces are preparing a full-scale operation to rescue hostages taken by separatist militants

who stormed a train in Balochistan, as officials confirm at least three deaths and more than 100 freed so far.

Pakistan security sources on Wednesday said the military had freed 190 train passengers taken hostage by gunmen on the second day of a siege in the mountainous southwest.

More than 450 passengers were on board when a separatist militant group captured the train in a remote frontier district, with an unknown number of hostages still being held.

“So far, 190 passengers have been rescued, and 30 terrorists have been killed. Due to the presence of women and children with suicide bombers, extreme caution is being exercised,” security sources told AFP. — AFP



Paramilitary soldiers stand guard at a railway station in Sibi district after separatists attacked a train in the mountainous region and took passengers hostage. **PHOTO: AFP**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Opposition wins Greenland vote, as nationalists surge

THE centre-right opposition has won a surprise victory in legislative elections in Greenland, the Danish territory coveted by US President Donald Trump, as support also surged for the nationalist Naleraq party seeking independence as soon as possible.

The Democratic party – which describes itself as “social liberal” and has also called for independence but in the longer term – more than tripled its score from the 2021 election to win 29.9 per cent of votes, official results showed. The nationalist Naleraq party, the most ardent pro-independence party, more than doubled its showing to 24.5 per cent. Never before has an election in Greenland garnered as much international interest, following Trump’s recently stated ambitions to take control of the vast resource-rich territory. “We respect the election result,” outgoing Prime Minister Mute Egede, who leads the left-green Inuit Ataqatigiit (IA) party, told public broadcaster KNR, while the leader of IA’s coalition partner Siumut party conceded defeat. — AFP

Singapore warns of AI-driven scams targeting businesses

Singapore’s authorities have issued a warning about scams involving artificial intelligence (AI)-powered digital manipulation, where fraudsters use synthetic media to impersonate high-ranking executives and deceive employees into transferring company funds.

In a joint statement on Wednesday, the Singapore Police Force, the Monetary Authority of Singapore, and the Cyber Security Agency of Singapore urged businesses to implement verification protocols for video calls and messages, especially those claiming to be from senior executives or key stakeholders.

According to the statement, victims typically receive messages from fraudsters posing as executives and are then invited to live-streamed video calls, where AI-driven technology alters the scammers’ appearances to resemble actual company leaders. — Xinhua

SPORTS



Albanian winger Jasir Asani scored twice as Gwangju FC reached the AFC Champions League quarter-finals. PHOTO: AFP

Asani's extra-time stunner knocks Kobe out of AFC Champions League

JASIR Asani's stunning 118th-minute strike propelled South Korea's Gwangju FC past Japan's Vissel Kobe 3-0 on Wednesday and into the quarter-finals of the AFC Champions League.

In the night's other last-16 second-leg tie, Kawasaki Frontale of Japan cruised through with a 4-0 win over China's Shanghai Shenhua for a 4-1 aggregate victory as the last two quarter-final berths were decided.

Gwangju had lost 2-0 in

Kobe last week but got off to the perfect start in the return leg when striker Park Jeong-in headed home from Park Tae-jun's free-kick after just 18 minutes.

The visitors held firm under a second-half onslaught from Gwangju and were just six minutes from the quarterfinals when Takuya Iwanami handled in the area.

Albanian winger Asani slotted home the resultant penalty for his first goal of the match and to take it to extra-time.

Asani's second settled the tie in dramatic style just as a penalty shootout was looking inevitable.

With less than two minutes remaining, Asani collected the ball outside the Kobe penalty area, shifted it onto his left foot and unleashed an unstoppable rocket.

It flew in off the underside of the bar to spark wild celebrations in the crowd and on the Gwangju bench as the home side completed a 3-2 aggregate win. — AFP

Indonesia to focus on medal prospects at 33rd Southeast Asian Games

Indonesia's National Olympic Committee Chairman, Raja Sapta Oktohari, announced that the country will only send athletes to compete in sports where it has strong medal prospects at the 33rd Southeast Asian Games in Thailand at the end of the year.

Oktohari said on Tuesday that athletes selected for the regional multi-sport event must have a high chance of securing gold, silver, or bronze medals. Additionally, he said that the chosen sports should also be featured in

major international competitions, such as the Asian Games and the Olympics.

According to Oktohari, limiting the number of sports Indonesia participates in is part of a budget efficiency strategy. The country is also preparing for other major multi-sport events, including the 2026 Asian Games and the 2028 Olympics.

"Multi-sport events are not an opportunity to try things out, so the selection process must be really strict," he said. — Xinhua

Barca books quarterfinal place in Champions League

FC Barcelona became the first team to book a place in the quarterfinals of the Champions League with a 3-1 home victory over Benfica on Tuesday night, securing a 4-1 aggregate triumph.

Lamine Yamal was the star in a high-octane first half, contributing an assist and a goal. Raphinha continued his outstanding season in a game that served as a tribute to club doctor Carles Minarro, who passed away on Saturday.

Benfica goalkeeper Anatoliy Trubin had already been called into action to deny Alejandro Balde when Raphinha opened the scoring in the ninth minute. Yamal twisted and turned on the right of the Benfica area and delivered a smart

left-footed pass for Raphinha to fire home and put Barca ahead.

That lead lasted just two minutes before Nicolas Otamendi powered home a header at the other end after being inexplicably left unmarked five metres out.

The match turned into an end-to-end affair, with Barca finding more space on the counterattack. Yamal then scored a brilliant goal, showcasing his skill by collecting the ball wide, cutting inside, and curling a left-footed shot beyond Trubin's reach.

Robert Lewandowski should have added a third after Dani Olmo set him up inside the Benfica area, but the usually reliable striker shot straight at Trubin. — Xinhua

Eubank Jr fined £100,000 for hitting boxing rival Benn in face with an egg

CHRIS Eubank Jr has been fined £100,000 (\$129,000) after hitting fellow British boxer Conor Benn in the face with an egg during a heated exchange in the build-up to next month's grudge match.

Eubank had already made a reference at last month's Manchester press conference to two drugs tests Benn failed in 2022, which led to a two-year battle with anti-doping author-

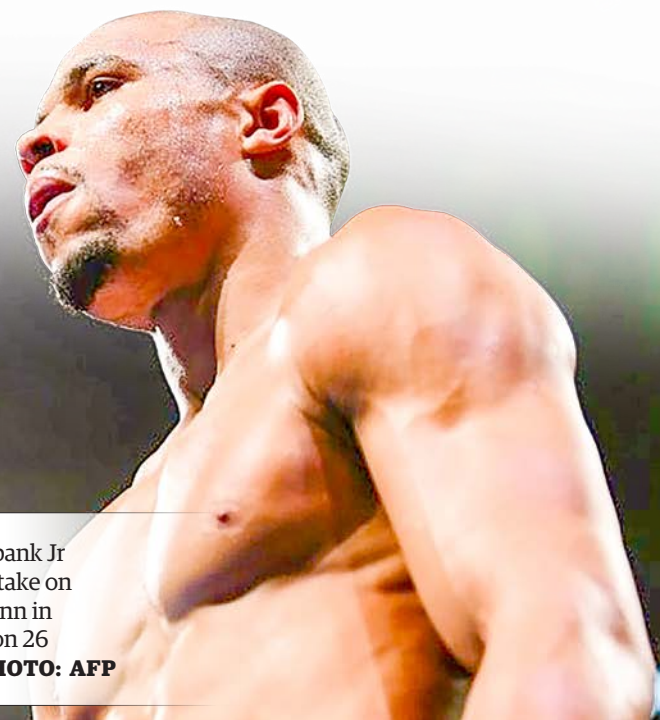
ities.

The World Boxing Council cleared Benn in 2023 of a doping offence after it ruled a "highly elevated consumption of eggs" constituted a "reasonable explanation" for his positive finding.

As the fighters faced off on stage in Manchester in February, Eubank pulled an egg from his pocket and smashed it against Benn's face, sparking a brawl as promoter Eddie Hearn

and Benn's father Nigel tried to get at Eubank and his team.

The British Boxing Board of Control said in a statement: "Following a hearing before the stewards of the British Boxing Board of Control, Chris Eubank Jnr was found to be in breach of regulation 25 (misconduct) for his conduct at the press conference in Manchester for the Chris Eubank Jnr v Conor Benn contest on 26 April 2025. — AFP



Chris Eubank Jr is due to take on Conor Benn in London on 26 April. PHOTO: AFP



P RIME Minister Narendra Modi received the Highest National Award of Mauritius, the Grand Commander of the Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean

Thousands of people gathered at the venue, braving the heavy rain to see their leader accept the award on the National Day.

"I express my heartfelt gratitude for being conferred the highest national award of Mauritius. This is not just my honour, it is the honour of 1.4 billion Indians. It is a tribute to the centuries old cultural and historical bonds of kinship between India and Mauritius. It is an acknowledgement of our said commitment to regional peace, progress, security and sustainable development. And it is a symbol of the shared hopes and aspirations of the global south," PM Modi said while receiving the award.

PM Modi further said that he was committed to enhance India Mauritius Strategic Partnership to greater heights.

"I also embrace this honour as a responsibility and reaffirm our commitment that we will continue to make every effort to enhance India Mauritius Strategic Partnership to greater heights," he said.

Earlier, PM Modi discussed with Mauritius PM Navinchandra Ramgoolam the full range of India-Mauritius friendship. They raised the partnership between both nations to to an Enhanced Strategic Partnership. — ANI

PM Modi receives Highest National Award of Mauritius

Prime Minister Narendra Modi received the Grand Commander of the Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean, the highest national award of Mauritius, during a ceremony attended by thousands despite heavy rain.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Mauritius counterpart Navin Ramgoolam during a meeting with the Indian community & friends of India at the Trianon Convention Centre in Mauritius on Tuesday. **PHOTO: ANI**

A U.S. PROPOSAL

Ukraine agrees to 30-day ceasefire during talks with US in Saudi Arabia

UKRAINE on Tuesday signalled its readiness to accept a US proposal for an "immediate, interim 30-day ceasefire" following talks with a US delegation in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, according to a joint statement.

The statement, issued after hours of consultations between senior officials from the two countries, said the truce could be extended by mutual agreement, adding that "the United States will communicate to Russia that Russian reciprocity is the key to achieving peace."

Washington has agreed to "immediately lift the pause on intelligence sharing and resume security assistance to Ukraine", the statement

said, adding that both sides discussed the importance of humanitarian relief efforts, particularly during the ceasefire period.

Negotiators also agreed to appoint teams to begin talks aimed at reaching a lasting peace. The United States reaffirmed its commitment to engaging with Russian representatives, while Ukraine emphasized the need for European partners to be involved in the process, the statement said.

Additionally, both nations' leaders agreed to finalize "as soon as possible a comprehensive agreement for developing Ukraine's critical mineral resources to expand Ukraine's economy", it added. — Xinhua

EU to respond to US tariffs with countermeasures worth 26 bln euros from 1 Apr

THE European Commission on Wednesday announced it will impose retaliatory tariffs on 26 billion euros (US\$28 billion) worth of US goods from next month in response to US tariffs of 25 per cent on steel and aluminium imports.

First, the Commission let the suspension of existing countermeasures against the United States lapse on 1 April. The move targets US products that "respond to the economic harm done on eight billion euros (US\$8.72 billion) of EU steel and aluminum exports," according to a statement released by the Commission.

Second, in response to new US tariffs affecting more than 18 billion euros (US\$19.63 billion) of EU exports, the Commission "is putting forward a package of new countermeasures", with implementation expected by mid-April.

"Our countermeasures will be introduced in two steps. Starting with 1 April and fully in place as of 13 April," European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said in the statement.

The United States imposed a 25-per-cent

tariff on all steel and aluminium imports on Wednesday. Denouncing the US move as "unjustified", Von der Leyen emphasized that the countermeasures introduced are firm yet proportionate. — Xinhua



European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen speaks during a press conference after a European Council summit in Brussels, Belgium, 19 December 2024. **PHOTO: ZHAO DINGZHE/XINHUA/FILE**