

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Religious titles for 2025 offered to recipient venerable monks and nuns

A ceremony to offer religious titles for 2025 was held in conjunction with the rice-offering ceremony in the precinct of Maravijaya Buddha Park in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon, attended by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla.

The ceremony was also attended by religious title recipient Sayadaws and nuns at home and abroad led by State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Chairman Aggamaha Pandita Aggamaha Saddhammajotikadhaja Thanlyin Minkyaung Monastery Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Candima Bhivamsa, SSMNC Secretary Presiding Patron of Mandalay's Masoeyin Taikthit Monastery Sayadaw of Dhamma Thameikdi Monastery Aggamahapandita Aggamaha Saddhammajotikadhaja Mahadhammakathika Bahujanahitadhara Bhaddanta Vasettha Bhivamsa.

Moreover, SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win and his wife Daw Than Than Nwe, Council Secretary General Aung Lin Dwe and his wife, Joint Secretary General Ye Win Oo and his wife, council members and their wives, union-level dignitaries, union ministers and their wives, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, officials and Sasana Nuggaha title recipient laypersons.

Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Aye Tun opened the ceremony with supplicating the opening paper.

The Chairman Sayadaw administered the Eight Precepts.

SEE PAGE 3

The State Administration Council presented religious titles to 120 members of the Sangha, two nuns and 10 laypersons this year.



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla offer alms donations to title recipient Sayadaws and nuns in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

NATIONAL

PAGE 5



Nay Pyi Taw pagodas swell with visitors on Taboung full moon day

BUSINESS

PAGE 7



DUHD to issue temporary residence permits for Thilawa Housing

OPINION

Eradicate illegal trade for interest of consumers

PAGE 8

NATIONAL

Empowering Agro-Based Industries for Enhanced Value-Added Production

- It is necessary to operate agro-based industries to be able to manufacture value-added products.
- If existing sound foundations and human resources are utilized for the development of agriculture and livestock, production will change.

(Excerpt from the speech given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the State Administration Council meeting 2/2024 on 29 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.



၂၀၂၅ ခုနှစ် ကမ္ဘာ့စားသုံးသူအခွင့်အရေးများနေ့
World Consumer Rights Day 2025



လူနေမှုဘဝအစဉ်တည်တံ့ဖို့မျှတအသွင်ကူးပြောင်းဖို့
A Just Transition to Sustainable Lifestyles

၂၀၂၅ ခုနှစ်၊ မတ်လ ၁၅ ရက်

Pilgrims flock to Mann Shwesettaw Pagoda on Taboung full moon day



An aerial drone photo captures Mann Shwesettaw Pagoda and its surroundings, with visitors enjoying the scenic area and exploring festival stalls.



ACCORDING to the pagoda board of trustees, pilgrims from across the country flocked to Mann Shwesettaw Pagoda in Minbu (Sagu) Township, Minbu District, Magway Region, on the full moon day of Taboung.

The full moon day of Taboung is the busiest day of the year during the Mann Shwesettaw Pagoda Festival. This year was no exception, as the festival saw large crowds, with pilgrims from all over Myan-

mar making donations, performing good deeds, feeding monkeys, and bathing in Mann Creek.

“This year, the full moon day of Taboung coincided with five public holidays, attracting many pilgrims from across the country. Since the festival began, more than 10,000 visitors have visited the pagoda,” said Chairman U Aye Ko of the Mann Shwesettaw Pagoda Trustees. — Maung Maung (Minbu)/MKKS

Top websites and web portals to access Military Service Rules

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

Gold Market Rate as of 13 March 2025

THE price of one tical (16.329325 grammes) of gold with density of 19.25 grammes per cubic centimetre and above is K5,480,000 as established by the Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee.

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)

Religious titles for 2025 offered to recipient venerable monks and nuns

FROM PAGE 1

Rector of the State Pariyatti Sasana University of Mayangon Township Abhidhaja Maharathaguru Dr Bhaddanta Kumara gave a Sammodaniya Ovadakatha and Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Tin Oo Lwin supplicated religious affairs.

At the ceremony, the Senior General offered the Abhidhaja Maharathaguru title to Mahahatupayon Buddhism Learning Centre Sayadaw Bhaddanta Paññobhasa in Thonze, Bago Region.

The Vice-Senior General also offered the Abhidhaja Maharathaguru title to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kesava, Head of Abbot Training School in Aungmyayathazan Township, Mandalay.

The SAC Secretary and the Joint Secretary presented the Abhidhaja Maharathaguru title to Maha Withokdayon (Pali) Tekkatho Shwegyin Taikthit Sayadaw Tipitakadhara Dhamabhandagarika Yaw Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sirinda Bhivamsa

of Bahan Township in Yangon Region and Sayadaw Bhaddanta Candavara Bhivamsa of Khemathiwun Buddhism Learning Centre in Myitkyina of Kachin State.

Council members, Union-level dignitaries, union ministers and, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and officials offered Abhidhaja Maharathaguru, Abhidhaja Aggamaha Saddhammajotika, Aggamaha Pandita, Aggamaha Saddhammajotikadhaja, Aggamaha Ganthavacakapandita and Aggamaha Kammathanacariya titles to recipient Sayadaws respectively.

The wife of the Senior General presented the Aggamaha Ganthavacakapandita title to Nun Dr Candasingi, Presiding Nun of Thameikdawdaya Pyapon Nunnery from Bahan Township in Yangon Region and Nun Daw Visingi, Presiding Nun of Zeyatheingi Corner Nunnery of Sagaing from Sagaing Region.

The Senior General also conferred the Aggamaha Thirithud-



State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win presents the Abhidhaja Maharathaguru title to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kesava.

hama Manijotadhara title on U Kyaw Pe, U Kyaw Zeya and U Bran Mai, respectively.

The Vice-Senior General presented the Thirithudhamma Manijotadhara title to U Myint Soe Tun.

The wife of the Senior General gave Thirithudhamma Theingi titles to Daw Than Than Nwe, Daw Kin Aye Myint, Daw Htwe Htwe Nyunt, Daw Aye Myint and Daw Myint Myint Yi respectively while the wife of the Vice-Senior General handed Thirithudhamma Theingi title to Daw Hla Win, Daw Mu Mu San, Daw Wah Wah Hlaing and Daw Chaw Su Myat respectively.

The SSMNC Secretary Sayadaw delivered a sermon, and the congregation shared the

merits gained.

This year, the State Administration Council offered religious titles to 120 members of the Sangha, two nuns and 10 laypersons. At the ceremony, the Abhidhaja Maharathaguru title and offertories were offered to eight members of the Sangha, the Abhidhaja Aggamaha Saddhammajotika title to five members of the Sangha, the Aggamaha Pandita title to 20 members of the Sangha, Aggamaha Saddhammajotika title to 52 members of the Sangha, Aggamaha Ganthavacaka Pandita title to 25 members of the Sangha, Aggamaha Kammathanacariya title to 10 members of the Sangha and Aggamaha Ganthavacaka Pandita title to two nuns.

Chief Ministers and officials from the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, regions and states also presented relevant titles to the remaining title recipient Sayadaws, nuns and laypersons.

The rice offering ceremony followed. At the ceremony, the Senior General and his wife, the Vice-Senior General and his wife, the Council Secretary and his wife, the Joint Secretary and his wife, council members and their wives, union-level dignitaries, union ministers and their wives, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, departmental staff and well-wishers donated rice and alms to title recipient Sayadaws and nuns at home and abroad. — MNA/TTA

Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanmar Alinn, the Kyemon and The Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit www.moi.gov.mm/mal, www.moi.gov.mm/km, www.moi.gov.mm/nlm and www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper.

News and Periodicals Enterprise

NATIONAL

Yangon pagodas overflow with pilgrims on Taboung full moon day

THE full moon day of Taboung is one of the significant religious days for Buddhist people, and the Shwedagon Pagoda and other pagodas in Yangon were also crowded with visitors on the full moon day of Taboung.

The pagoda board of trustees of the Shwedagon Pagoda organized alms donations and the 2,613th anniversary Buddha Pujaniya Taboung festival for the successful completion of the Maha Pathana recitation event at the Shwedagon pagoda.

First, the Sayadaws and attendees offered alms meals to the pagoda on the victory ground at the northwest corner of the pagoda.

During the event to mark the successful completion of Maha Pathana recitation, Ovadacariya Sayadaw Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Dhamma Bhandagarika Soonloon Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sunada delivered the Nine Precepts to the congregation, comprising Yangon Region Chief Minister



Images show devotees on pilgrimage to Shwedagon and other pagodas in Yangon yesterday.



U Soe Thein, regional ministers and other devotees.

The officials donated offerings to Sayadaws and monks and shared the merit gained. They also offered day meals to Sayadaws.

Similarly, the religious events marking the full moon day of Taboung took place at Botahtaung Pagoda, Maha Wizaya Pagoda, Sule Pagoda, Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Pagoda, Sacred Buddha Tooth

Relic Pagoda (Yangon), Lokachantha Abhaya Labhamuni Buddha Image on Mindhamma Hill, Shwephonepawint Pagoda, Kyaikkasan Pagoda, Meilamu Pagoda and Kohtetkyee Pagoda. — Ko Ko Zaw (MNA)/KTZH

Merit-makers throng Mandalay pagodas on Taboung full moon day



Photos capture the vibrant scenes of merit-makers and devotees flocking to pagodas in Mandalay on Taboung Full Moon Day.

ON the full moon day of Taboung, the famous pagodas in Mandalay were packed with merit-doers, food donors and pilgrims to Buddha Pujaniya pagoda festivals.

Since early morning, Mahamuni Buddha Image has been crowded with visitors who offered flowers, water, oil lamps and gold foils, and the Shwekyimyin pagoda, Kyauktawgyi at the foot of Mandalay Hill, Kuthodaw, Candamuni, Aungdawmu and Phayani were also packed with merit-doers and people who practise meditation.

Similarly, the religious festivals took place at the Mandalay Hill Su Taung Pyae pagoda and other pagodas in the vicinity of Mandalay Hill.

Mandalay local Ko Min Soe said, "This month, we have five holidays, including the full moon day of Taboung, and so we, government employees, get enough time for recreation. We visited famous pagodas in Mandalay on the full moon day of Taboung. At noon, we will go to Shwesaryan pagoda festival. We will take a boat ride in the Dokhtawady

River and play water".

The 77th Buddha Pujaniya festival of Shwesaryan pagoda in Patheingyi township also took place, and the pilgrims from Mandalay and across the nation, including the Shan ethnic people from Shan Hill, participated in the festival.

The pagoda festivals featured local products, Myanmar textile and garment, fruits and vegetables, herbal plants, commodities, Myanmar traditional snacks and souvenirs. — Maung Aye Chan/ KTZH



NATIONAL



Images highlight a significant pilgrimage to the Maravijaya Buddha Image, Uppatasanti Pagoda, and other pagodas in Nay Pyi Taw.

Nay Pyi Taw pagodas swell with visitors on Taboung full moon day



THE pagodas in Nay Pyi Taw were bustling with those who did good deeds on the full moon day of Taboung.

The pagodas in Nay Pyi Taw Council Maravijaya Buddha Image, Uppatasanti

Pagoda, Bodh Gaya (Nay Pyi Taw), Mahathetkya Yanthi Standing Buddha Statue, Yanaungmyin Shwelathla Pagoda, Dhatuzaya Dhatpaungsu Pagoda, Nyeinchanyay Zedi, Hlaykhwin Hill Pa-

goda, Koenawin Pagoda, Sutaungpyae Lawkamarazein Pagoda, Sansara Nyeinaye Pagoda, Phayakoesu, Koekhangyi Pagoda, Loka Yanhnein Zedi, Phaungtawchekma Zedi, Latloke Hill and other reli-

gious places were crowded with religious groups, locals, government employees and pilgrims.

In the evening, the pilgrims flocked to the Maravijaya Buddha Image in the precinct of Buddha Park. The pilgrims offered flowers, water and oil lamps to the Buddha image, and the religious groups recited Dhamma Cakka Sutta.

Visitors observed the Buddha Park, stone plaque chamber pagodas on which Tri Pitaka treatises were carved in Pali and Romanized languages with the use of modern machinery and other religious buildings. Similarly, Paritta, Dhamma Cakka Sutta and Maha Pathana reciting events and 3,000 oil lamps donation ceremony were held at Uppatasanti Pagoda. The white elephant camp, religious item stalls and souvenir shops were also crowded with visitors.

The 17th Buddha Pujaniya Festival at Uppatasanti Pagoda was held from 7 to 13 March in Taboung Ground, and visitors enjoyed the free entertainment programmes. — MNA/KTZH

Shwesayan hosts 77th Buddha Pujaniya Festival

THE 77th Buddha Pujaniya Festival at the Shwesayan Pagoda in Patheingyi Township, Mandalay Region, is celebrated as usual, according to a member of the pagoda's board of trustees.

The festival begins annually on the full moon day of Taboung and lasts until the 9th waning of Taboung, lasting for ten days.

"During the Shwesayan Pagoda Festival, arrangements are made to allow pilgrims to freely release fish into the

Dokhtawady River as a meritorious act. As in previous years, Shan and Myanmar shops have been open, and the area has been bustling with pilgrims since early March," said a member of the board of trustees.

The market fair is a destination for festival-goers, offering a wide array of local products from Shan State, along with traditional Myanmar handicrafts like palm leaf fish figurines, palm leaf beads, clothing,

and a variety of foods.

According to legend, large river fish swim upstream in the Dokhtawady River to pay a visit to the pagoda during the festival. Pilgrims honour the fish by feeding them or gilding their heads.

Located to the north of the river along the waterway flowing from the Namtu-Hsipaw region in northern Shan State, the pagoda was commissioned by Mongmaw Empress Saw Mon Hla, also known as Sao

Mom La in Shan.

Myanmar is home to two pagodas named Shwesayan: one in Thaton, Mon State, and the other in Patheingyi, Mandalay. According to the pagoda's history, a flock of sparrows – referred to as 'sa' in Myanmar – circled the sacred relics at the start of its construction, inspiring the name Shwesayan, which roughly translates to 'surrounded by golden sparrows'. — ASH/TH

NATIONAL

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council

Notification 48 / 2025

Full Moon of Taboung, 1386 ME
(13 March 2025)

THE State Administration Council Chairman has conferred honorary titles and medals upon the following individuals in recognition of their outstanding performances in national defence and security duties.

Tatmadaw Gallantry Title

Thura Title

- | | | |
|------------|---------------|---------------------|
| 1. Colonel | Yan Naung Soe | Ministry of Defence |
| 2. Major | Aung Thu | Ministry of Defence |

Tatmadaw Gallantry Title Gallantry Medal

- | | | |
|-----------------|---|---------------------|
| 1. Lt-Col | Myo Swe Latt | Ministry of Defence |
| 2. Major | Aung Bo Bo | Ministry of Defence |
| 3. Major | Pyae Phyo Kyaw | Ministry of Defence |
| 4. Major | Kyaw Zaw Thu | Ministry of Defence |
| 5. Captain | Naing Oo | Ministry of Defence |
| 6. Captain | Yan Naing Soe | Ministry of Defence |
| 7. Captain | Kyaw Wai Pyoe | Ministry of Defence |
| 8. Captain | Zwe Maung Maung Oo | Ministry of Defence |
| 9. Captain | Aung Myo Ko | Ministry of Defence |
| 10. 797797 | Company Quartermaster
Sergeant San Myint | Ministry of Defence |
| 11. Ta-244649 | Sergeant Myo Kyaw Naing | Ministry of Defence |
| 12. Ta-331177 | Sergeant Ohn Khaing | Ministry of Defence |
| 13. Ta-351060 | Corporal Aung Phyo Win | Ministry of Defence |
| 14. TaTa-135403 | Corporal Toe Tet Aung | Ministry of Defence |
| 15. Ta-526474 | Lance Corporal Min Maung | Ministry of Defence |
| 16. PaSa-100326 | Lance Corporal Thant Zin Oo | Ministry of Defence |

Police Gallantry Medal Ye Bala Medal

- | | | |
|---|------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Ma-4207 | Sergeant/Midwife Hnin Nwe Yi | Ministry of Defence |
| 2. Ta-522328 | Private Nay Lin Tun (Rtd) | Ministry of Defence |
| 3. Daw Zin Mar Tun | | Ministry of Defence |
| 4. Daw Su Myat Moe | | Ministry of Defence |
| 5. Maung Htet Shein | | Ministry of Defence |
| 6. Maung Htet Aung | | Ministry of Defence |
| 7. Maung Kyaw Aye Chan | | Ministry of Defence |
| 8. Maung Kyaw Thein | | Ministry of Defence |
| 9. Daw Thida Soe Than | | Ministry of Defence |
| 10. Maung Pyae Sone Aung | | Ministry of Defence |
| 11. Daw Aye Aye Khaing | | Ministry of Defence |
| 12. Maung Than Zaw Htike (aka)
Maung Zaw Win Maung | | Ministry of Defence |
| 13. Daw Than Than Oo | | Ministry of Defence |
| 14. Maung Sai Win Zaw | | Ministry of Defence |
| 15. U Nay Lin Tun | | Ministry of Defence |
| 16. Maung Thet Min Naing | | Ministry of Defence |
| 17. Daw Mar Mar Lwin | | Ministry of Defence |
| 18. Maung Hein Htet Aung | | Ministry of Defence |
| 19. Daw Khin Than Htwe | | Ministry of Defence |
| 20. Daw Lei Lei Win | | Ministry of Defence |
| 21. Daw Thein Kyi | | Ministry of Defence |
| 22. Maung Phyo Ngwe Soe | | Ministry of Defence |
| 23. Daw Than Than Nyein | | Ministry of Defence |
| 24. Daw Hla Hla Aye | | Ministry of Defence |
| 25. Daw Moh Moh Wai | | Ministry of Defence |
| 26. Maung Win Myat Thu | | Ministry of Defence |
| 27. Maung Phoe La Pyae | | Ministry of Defence |
| 28. Maung Yan Aung | | Ministry of Defence |
| 29. Maung Kyaw Aye Tun | | Ministry of Defence |

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| 30. Daw Htay | Ministry of Defence |
| 31. Maung Chit Yin Htoo | Ministry of Defence |
| 32. Daw San San Htay | Ministry of Defence |
| 33. Daw Nyein Nyein Ei | Ministry of Defence |
| 34. Daw Sint Sint Lin | Ministry of Defence |
| 35. Daw Moe Thuza | Ministry of Defence |
| 36. Maung Lin Myat Thaw | Ministry of Defence |
| 37. Daw Mar Mar Lwin | Ministry of Defence |
| 38. Maung Yan Naing Tun | Ministry of Defence |
| 39. Maung Aung Thet Paing | Ministry of Defence |
| 40. Daw Chuu Ei Lwin | Ministry of Defence |
| 41. Daw Thet Thet Swe | Ministry of Defence |
| 42. Daw Ei Thinza Mon | Ministry of Defence |
| 43. Daw Myat Moe Khaing | Ministry of Defence |
| 44. Daw Khin Aye | Ministry of Defence |
| 45. Maung La Pyae | Ministry of Defence |
| 46. Daw Khin Thet Mar | Ministry of Defence |
| 47. Daw Zar Zar Tun | Ministry of Defence |
| 48. Daw Aye Thuza | Ministry of Defence |
| 49. U Aung Ko Win | Ministry of Defence |
| 50. U Hlaing Win Htet | Ministry of Defence |
| 51. U Nay Lin Htoo | Ministry of Defence |
| 52. U Kyaw Saw Win | Ministry of Defence |
| 53. U Zin Min Thant | Ministry of Defence |
| 54. U Khaing Myint Thu | Ministry of Defence |
| 55. U Ae Kyaw | Sagaing Region |
| 56. U Hein Ko San | Sagaing Region |
| 57. U Thaing Tun | Sagaing Region |
| 58. U Aung Kyi Than | Sagaing Region |
| 59. U Myint Htwe | Magway Region |
| 60. U Win Min Naing | Magway Region |
| 61. U Aung Aung Oo | Shan State |

Excellence in Performance Medals

Excellent Performance in Administration Field Medal (First Class)

- | | | |
|-------------|---------------|---------------------|
| 1. Brig-Gen | Thein Tun Tin | Ministry of Defence |
|-------------|---------------|---------------------|

Excellent Performance in Administration Field Medal (Third Class)

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1. Brig-Gen | Nay Myo Tun | Ministry of Defence |
| 2. Captain | Hlaing Myo Chit | Ministry of Defence |
| 3. Captain | Hlu Maw Tun | Ministry of Defence |
| 4. U Thiha | | Ministry of Defence |

Academic Excellence Medals

Excellent Performance in Technological Field Medal (First Class)

- | | | |
|-------------|-------------|---------------------|
| 1. Brig-Gen | Htay Aung | Ministry of Defence |
| 2. Brig-Gen | Myat Min Oo | Ministry of Defence |

Excellent Performance in Technological Field Medal (Third Class)

- | | | |
|------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1. Colonel | Thein Lwin | Ministry of Defence |
| 2. Lt-Col | Aung Naing | Ministry of Defence |
| 3. Lt-Col | Kyaw Lin Tun | Ministry of Defence |
| 4. Major | Win Ko Ko Naing | Ministry of Defence |
| 5. Captain | Aung Kyi Min | Ministry of Defence |

Sd/ Min Aung Hlaing
Senior General
Chairman
State Administration Council

Research & Innovation Dept seeks trainees for advanced ICT engineering

THE Department of Research and Innovation under the Ministry of Science and Technology has been accepting trainees to become Advanced ICT Engineering professionals.

India-Myanmar Centre for Enhancement of IT Skills (IMCEITS), located at the Information and Communication Technology Research Centre under the ministry, will conduct a Professional Diploma in Java Programming Course (DJP) (Batch 29) from 9 am to 4 pm during the period from 4 April to 2 October 2025 during the weekdays.

Those who have earned a degree in IT with a basic knowledge of C++, Python or Java Programming are eligible to join the Diploma course.

They must be naturalized citizens and pass the entrance exam. IT lecturers and instructors of schools, colleges and universities under the ministry can attend the course with endorsement letters from the head of the faculty without taking an entrance exam. Civil servants need a recommendation letter from the head of the related department. Criminal clearance certificates issued within the last three months must be presented as well.

The course fee is K300,000 and the number of maximum trainees is 30. The entrance exam will be held on 8 April at the Information and Communication Technology Research Centre on Parami Road, Hlaing Campus, Yangon. Application forms must be submitted to the centre personally or to email: training.ictrc@gmail.com, researchict.edu@gmail.com by 7 April 2025. Individuals can enquire about details of the diploma course through the aforementioned email address or contact numbers 01 8652529, 01 8652542, 09 259799565, and 09 971348785. — NN/KK

DUHD to issue temporary residence permits for Thilawa Housing



The picture shows apartments in Thilawa Housing on sale.

THE Department of Urban and Housing Development under the Ministry of Construction will issue residence permits for units of Thilawa affordable housings to those who have registered with the DUHD to purchase them.

The temporary residence permit will be issued starting from 20 March 2025 at the DUHD located at 228/234, Bogyoke Aung San Road, Botahtaung Township, Yangon Region.

The Construction, Housing and Infrastructure Development Bank (CHID) has been processing home loans for those housing units sold under the home loan development project on 28 January 2025. Those who have been allowed to purchase the units can seek temporary residence permits by providing a citizenship scrutiny card, household registration and authorization letter for those who cannot come themselves. — NN/KK

DUHD alerts home buyers to real estate scams

THE Department of Urban and Housing Development warned home buyers to be on alert for possible real estate fraud.

Unscrupulous fraudsters are attempting to scam the public with fraudulent listings by providing fake property purchase permit notification letters issued by the Department of Urban and Housing Development. The

department warned home buyers of fraudulent real estate transactions.

Under the supervision of the Yangon Region government, 874 apartment units of Yoma Low-cost Housing developed by the DUHD under the Ministry of Construction were put up for sale for low-income people facing difficulty in owning a house, retirees and low-ranking civil servants, an-

nounced in state-run newspapers. Over 30,000 applications were sold between 13 and 21 February 2025 and over 28,000 of them were submitted before the deadline. A housing committee will screen applications and qualified applicants will be selected under the drawing lot system. The department will send a notification letter to those selected. — NN/KK

MMFA to offer online Credit Analysis Training on Individual Loans



MYANMAR Microfinance Association (MMFA) will conduct Credit Analysis Training on Individual Loans (Batch 17) online from 9 am to noon on 27-30 March at the MMFA office in Yangon Region. The training is tailored to loan officers, credit officers, and those who are interested in exploring a career in the microfinance sector. The online training will focus on an Introduction to Individual Lending, an

Overview of IL Loan product and its process, Marketing, Promotion, and Custom Service Loan Assessment, Loan Appraisal, Loan Disbursement, Loan Recovery, Loan Utilization, Loan Monitoring, and Delinquency Management, with Certified Trainer U Thet Zaw Aung of Frankfurt School of Finance & Management.

The fee is K80,000 for non-members. Members can enjoy a K20,000 discount.

Trainees will receive a completion certificate. Those enthusiastic can enrol in the course by 20 March. The first will get a five per cent Early Bird Enrollment Discount, which is five per cent off for five registrations. Group Buy Discount is 10 per cent off for a group of at least five. Individuals can enquire about details through <https://shorturl.at/IEKPb> and contact number 09 965209010 during office hours. — NN/KK

OPINION

Eradicate illegal trade for interest of consumers

ILLEGAL trade primarily aims to evade deserved tax on exported and imported goods and is considered selfishness to secure all profits from trading. As such, the State misses the chance to obtain taxes while consumers face high prices for products. The aim is to completely eradicate illegal trade, which does not benefit the nation or its people, by working together to eradicate it.

From December 2024 to January 2025, the Customs Department recorded the highest number of illegal trade arrests. Among the regions, Sagaing Region had the most arrests, followed by Mandalay Region and Yangon Region. In terms of goods, the most confiscated items were unlicensed vehicles and illegal cargo trucks, followed by industrial raw materials and investment-related goods.

State and regional chief ministers have been instructed to take strict action. This includes not only arresting those caught with unlicensed vehicles but also investigating and holding accountable any administrative or security officials involved. The illegal import and export of goods significantly harm the nation, so authorities must effectively identify and seize such activities.

The government is intensifying efforts to crack down on illegal goods to promote exports and ensure the long-term stability of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprise-MSMEs. Illegal imports not only reduce state tax revenue but also introduce low-quality consumer goods, medicines, and food products that pose risks to public health. Therefore, consumer safety must be ensured.

Illegal trade fosters corruption, which must be carefully monitored. Due to the country's long borders, controlling unauthorized entry and exit points is challenging. Moreover, illegal trade routes continue to be used. However, those responsible for border control must act with integrity, honesty, and national economic interest in mind. By doing so, authorities can increase arrests and prevent unauthorized trade more effectively.

Accurate intelligence, security of information, and the protection of informants are crucial in combatting illegal

trade. The gathered intelligence must be systematically organized and securely handled for collective action. Informants and law enforcement personnel involved in seizing illegal goods have already received financial rewards. To encourage more whistleblowing, the public should be made aware of this initiative through state-owned and private media. Additionally, measures should be taken to prevent traffic congestion at security checkpoints.

The government is intensifying efforts to crack down on illegal goods to promote exports and ensure the long-term stability of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprise-MSMEs. Illegal imports not only reduce state tax revenue but also introduce low-quality consumer goods, medicines, and food products that pose risks to public health. Therefore, consumer safety must be ensured.

To ensure the sustainability of MSMEs, protect consumers, and safeguard national revenue, efforts must be strengthened to apprehend illegal traders. The ultimate goal is to eliminate illegal trade, benefiting both the nation and its people through collaborative action.

CONNECTING ON THE UNIVERSAL DANCE OF WORDS

Myanmar proverbs, with their beautiful and vivid imagery, enrich everyday conversations.

ကလေးရှက်တော့ငို လူကြီးရှက်တော့ရယ် /khalay shet dau ngo, luji shet dau yi /

ဒီစကားပုံရဲ့ ဆိုလိုရင်းက “ကလေးတွေက ရှက်ရင် ငိုတယ်၊ လူကြီးတွေက ရှက်ရင် ရယ်တယ်” ဆိုပါ။ လူတွေ အနေရခက်တဲ့ အခါမှာ ဘယ်လိုပုံစံတွေ ပြတတ်သလဲဆိုတာကို ပြောပြပါတယ်။

ကလေးတွေက သူတို့ခံစားချက်တွေကို ဘယ်လိုထိန်းရမလဲဆိုတာ မသိသေးတော့ ရှက်စရာတစ်ခုခုဖြစ်ရင် ငိုတာပေါ့။ လူကြီးတွေ ကျတော့ရှက်ရင် ရယ်တတ်ကြတယ်။ အဲဒီလိုရယ်လိုက်တာက ကိုယ့်ကိုယ်ကိုယ် စိတ်သက်သာရာရစေပြီး အခြေအနေကိုလည်း သိပ်မဆိုးတော့ဘူးလို့ ထင်စေတဲ့အတွက် စိတ်ပေါ့ပါးသွားစေတတ်တယ်။

လူကြီးတွေ ရယ်လိုက်တဲ့အခါ ဘေးကလူတွေလည်း သက်သောင့်သက်သာဖြစ်သွားတယ်။ လူတိုင်း အမှားလုပ်မိတတ်တယ်။ ရှက်စရာတွေလည်း ကြုံရတတ်တာပဲ။ ဒါပေမဲ့ ရှက်တာပဲဖြစ်ဖြစ်၊ အနေရခက်တာပဲဖြစ်ဖြစ် အဲဒီအခြေအနေကို ဟာသာတစ်ခုလို မြင်လိုက်ရင် စိတ်မိစီးမှုတွေ ပြေလျော့သွားတာပေါ့။ အကောင်းမြင်ပြီး ရယ်မောလိုက်တာက ခက်ခဲတဲ့အချိန်တွေကို ဖြတ်ကျော်ဖို့ ကူညီပေးနိုင်တယ်ဆိုတာကို သတိရဖို့ ဒီစကားပုံက ပြောပြပါတယ်။

ဒီစကားပုံလေးက လူတွေရဲ့ စိတ်ခံစားချက်တွေကို ဘယ်လိုကိုင်တွယ်ဖြေရှင်းလဲဆိုတာကို အသက်အရွယ်အလိုက် နှိုင်းယှဉ်ပြထားပါတယ်။ ရယ်မောခြင်းရဲ့ အပြုသဘောဆောင်တဲ့ အကျိုးစီးပွားတွေကိုလည်း ဖော်ပြပေးထားပါတယ်။ ဒါကြောင့် ရှက်စရာတွေ အနေရခက်တဲ့ အခြေအနေတွေ ကြုံလာရင် ရယ်မောခြင်းနဲ့ ဖြေရှင်းဖို့ အားပေးတဲ့ စကားပုံဖြစ်ပါတယ်။

This saying means “When kids feel embarrassed, they cry, and when adults feel embarrassed, they laugh.” It shows how different people react when they feel awkward. Kids are still learning how to handle their feelings, so they might cry when something embarrassing happens. Adults, on the other hand, often laugh when they feel embarrassed. This laughter helps them feel better and makes the situation less serious.

When adults laugh, it can also help everyone feel more comfortable. It reminds us that everyone makes mistakes and has embarrassing moments. Laughing together can bring people closer and make them feel connected. This saying teaches us that even when we feel shy or embarrassed, it's okay to find humour in the situation. It encourages us to stay positive and remember that laughter can help us get through tough times.

USAGES:
 “Laugh it off.”
 • Definition: To treat something embarrassing or upsetting as a joke in order to minimize its importance.
 • Example Sentence: “When he tripped and spilt his drink, he just laughed it off and pretended it didn't bother him.”
 “Save face.”
 • Definition: To avoid embarrassment or humiliation.
 • Example Sentence: “She tried to save face by pretending she hadn't noticed the mistake, even though everyone else had.”
 “Brush it under the rug.”
 • Definition: To ignore or hide an embarrassing or problematic situation.
 • Example Sentence: “Rather than deal with the awkward situation, he just tried to brush it under the rug.”

“Put on a brave face.”
 • Definition: To pretend to be confident and happy when you are feeling embarrassed or upset.
 • Example Sentence: “Even though she was mortified, she put on a brave face and continued with her presentation.”
 “Sweat it out.”
 • Definition: To endure a period of anxiety or embarrassment until it passes.
 • Example Sentence: “The comedian had to sweat it out through a few awkward jokes before the audience warmed up.”

ကံထမ်းလာတာမမြင်ရ၊ လုံ့ထမ်းလာတာသမမြင်ရ /kun htan la da ma-myin ya, hlun htan la da dtha myin ya /

ဒီစကားပုံရဲ့ ဆိုလိုရင်းက “ပုခုံးပေါ်ထမ်းလာတဲ့ လုံ့ထမ်းလာတဲ့ မြင်ရနိုင်တယ်၊ ပုခုံးပေါ်ထမ်းလာတဲ့ ကံကံတွေ မမြင်ရဘူး” ဆိုပါ။ ထမ်းထားတဲ့ လုံ့ထမ်း များတော့မှာ မျက်စိနဲ့ အထင်းသား မြင်ရတာပေါ့။ ဒါပေမဲ့ ကိုယ့်ကံကြမ္မာ ဒါမှမဟုတ် နောင်ဘာဖြစ်လာမလဲဆိုတာကိုတော့ ဘယ်သူမှ ကြိုမသိနိုင်ဘူးလို့ ဆိုလိုတာပါ။

တချို့လူတွေက ဘဝမှာ အရာအားလုံးကို ကံကပ် ဆုံးဖြတ်တယ်လို့ ထင်ကြတယ်။ ဒါပေမဲ့ ဒီစကားပုံက ကိုယ့်ဘဝကို ကိုယ်တိုင်ထိန်းချုပ်ဖို့ ပြောတယ်။ အရာအားလုံးကို ကိုယ်တိုင် ထိန်းချုပ်ဖို့ မရပေမဲ့ ကိုယ့်အနာဂတ်ကို သက်ရောက်စေမယ့် ရွေးချယ်မှုတွေကို တော့ လုပ်နိုင်တာပေါ့။ နောင်ဘာဖြစ်မလဲဆိုတာကို ငုတ်တုတ်ထိုင်စောင့်နေမယ့်အစား ကိုယ့်ရဲ့ ရည်မှန်းချက်တွေကို အောင်မြင်အောင် လုပ်သင့်တာတွေ လုပ်ရမှာပေါ့။

ဒီစကားပုံက ကိုယ့်ဘဝကို ပုံဖော်နိုင်တဲ့ စွမ်းအားတွေ ကိုယ့်မှာရှိတယ်၊ ကံကပ် အားကိုးမနေသင့်ဘူးဆိုတာကို ပြောပြတယ်။ ကြိုးစားပြီး လုပ်မယ်၊ ကောင်းတဲ့ ရွေးချယ်မှုတွေ လုပ်မယ်ဆိုရင် ကိုယ်လိုချင်တဲ့ အနာဂတ်ကို ဖန်တီးနိုင်တယ်လို့ မှတ်သားရမှာပါ။ တနည်းအားဖြင့် ဘာတွေဖြစ်လာမလဲဆိုတာကို မသိနိုင်ပေမယ့် ကိုယ်လုပ်နိုင်တာတွေကို အကောင်းဆုံးလုပ်ပြီး ကိုယ့်အနာဂတ်ကို ကိုယ်တိုင် တည်ဆောက်ပါလို့ တိုက်တွန်းတာပါ။

“You see a spear, not fate.” This proverb highlights the contrast between visible burdens and unseen destiny. We perceive tangible challenges, like a spear, but future outcomes remain obscure. While some attribute life to fate, it urges proactive control. Though we can't dictate all events, choices influence our path. Action, not passive waiting, shapes our goals. This teaches self-empowerment; diligent effort and wise decisions



ကလေးရှက်တော့ငို၊ လူကြီးရှက်တော့ရယ် /khalay shet dau ngo, luji shet dau yi /

forge our desired future.
 The proverb, “You see a spear, not fate,” underscores the distinction between tangible burdens and the intangible nature of destiny. Perceptible challenges, symbolized by the spear, are readily observed, whereas future outcomes remain veiled. While some individuals ascribe all life events to predetermined fate, this adage advocates for proactive agency. Although complete control over circumstances is unattainable, deliberate choices significantly influence one's trajectory. Active engagement, rather than passive anticipation, is essential for achieving personal objectives. This principle emphasizes self-determination, positing that diligent effort and judicious decisions are instrumental in shaping a desired future.

USAGES:
 “Take the bull by the horns.”
 • Definition: To confront a difficult situation with courage and determination.
 • Example Sentence: “He decided to take the bull by the horns and address the company's financial problems directly.”
 “Row your own boat.”
 • Definition: To be independent and take responsibility for your own actions and progress.
 • Example Sentence: “If you want to succeed, you need to learn to row your own boat and not rely on others to do it for you.”
 “Forge your own path.”
 • Definition: To create your own opportunities and follow a course of action that is unique to you.
 • Example Sentence: “She didn't want to follow the traditional career path; she wanted to forge her own path in the art world.”
 “A rolling stone gathers no moss.”
 • Definition: A person who is always moving and changing will not stagnate. (In this context, it promotes action over passivity)
 • Example Sentence: “By constantly learning new skills and embracing new challenges, he proved that a rolling stone gathers no moss.”



ကံထမ်းလာတာမမြင်ရ၊ လုံ့ထမ်းလာတာသမမြင်ရ / kun htan la da ma-myin ya, hlun htan la da dtha myin ya /

By AUGUSTIN

“Strike while the iron is hot.”
 • Definition: To take advantage of an opportunity immediately when it exists.
 • Example Sentence: “When they saw the demand for their product, they decided to strike while the iron was hot and expand their production.”
 “Take the initiative.”
 • Definition: To be the first to take action or make a move.
 • Example Sentence: “Instead of waiting for instructions, she decided to take the initiative and solve the problem herself.”

ကုသိုလ်တစ်ပဲ ငရဲတစ်ဝိသ္ဿာ
 ကုသိုလ်ရအောင်လို့ လုပ်တာတောင် လုပ်ပုံကိုပုံ မမှန်ရင် အကုသိုလ်တွေ အများကြီးဖြစ်တတ်တယ်။ ကောင်းစေချင်လို့ လုပ်တာတောင် လုပ်ပုံလုပ်နည်း မတည့်ရင် အကျိုးထက် အပြစ်က ပိုများသွားတတ်တယ်။ အဲဒီသဘောတရားအယူအဆကို ဒီစကားပုံက ပြောပြနေပါတယ်။

ဒီစကားပုံက ပြောချင်တာက ရည်ရွယ်ချက်ကောင်းတစ်ခု တည်းနဲ့ အရာအားလုံး အဆင်ပြေမယ်လို့ မထင်နဲ့ပေါ့။ အကြောင်းအကျိုးနဲ့ ကျင့်ဝတ်အကြောင်း ပြောတဲ့ အတွေးအခေါ်တွေမှာ ဒီသဘောတရားအယူအဆကို အများကြီး တွေ့ရတယ်။ အကြောင်းအကျိုးက လုပ်လိုက်တဲ့ ရလဒ်ပေါ်မှာ မူတည်ပြီး ကောင်းမကောင်း ဆုံးဖြတ်တာပေါ့။ ဒါကြောင့် ရည်ရွယ်ချက်ကောင်းပေမဲ့ လုပ်ပုံလုပ်နည်း မမှန်ရင် ဆိုးကျိုးတွေ ဖြစ်လာနိုင်တယ်။ ကျင့်ဝတ်ကတော့ ကိုယ့်ဘဝနဲ့နဲ့ စည်းမျဉ်းတွေကို လိုက်နာဖို့ အရေးကြီးတယ်လို့ ပြောတာပေါ့။ ဒါကြောင့် လုပ်တဲ့ရည်ရွယ်ချက်ကောင်း မကောင်း၊ လုပ်ပုံလုပ်နည်းကလည်း အရေးကြီးတာပေါ့။

ဥပမာအားဖြင့်၊ အကူအညီပေးဖို့ ရည်ရွယ်ပြီး အလှူတစ်ခု လုပ်တယ်ဆိုပါစို့။ ဒါပေမဲ့ ပို့တဲ့နည်းလမ်းတွေ မထိရောက်ဘူး၊ အကတ်လိုက်စားမှုတွေ ရှိတယ်။ ဒါမှမဟုတ် အကူအညီရတဲ့သူတွေ ရဲ့ ဝတ်ဆင်မှုက မလေးစားဘူးဆိုရင် အပြစ်ဖြစ်သွားနိုင်တယ်။

ဒါကြောင့် ဘယ်လိုရည်ရွယ်ချက်နဲ့ လုပ်လုပ်၊ သေချာစီစဉ် ကျင့်ဝတ်ကို ထည့်စဉ်းစားတာနဲ့ တတ်ကျွမ်းမှုတွေက မဖြစ်မနေ လိုအပ်တယ်ဆိုတာကို ဒီစကားပုံက အလေးပေးပြောတာပါ။ တိုက်ပြောရင် “ကုသိုလ်တစ်ပဲ ငရဲတစ်ဝိသ္ဿာ” ဆိုတဲ့ သတိပေးချက်ပါပဲ။

“တစ်ပဲ” နဲ့ “တစ်ဝိသ္ဿာ” ဆိုတာ မြန်မာတိုင်းတာတဲ့ အလေးချိန် အတိုင်းအတာတွေပါ။ ဒီစကားပုံထဲမှာတော့ အလေးချိန်ကို တိတိကျကျ ပြောတာထက် အနည်းအများ နှိုင်းယှဉ်ပြတာပါ။



ကုသိုလ်တစ်ပဲ ငရဲတစ်ဝိသ္ဿာ

တစ်ပဲ: “ပဲ” ဆိုတာ မြန်မာ့ရွှေ ငွေ အလေးချိန် တိုင်းတာတဲ့ စနစ်ထဲက အလေးဆုံး အတိုင်းအတာတွေထဲက တစ်ခုပါ။ နည်းနည်းလေးပဲ ဆိုတဲ့ သဘောကိုဆောင်ပါတယ်။ တစ်ဝိသ္ဿာ: “ဝိသ္ဿာ” ကတော့ အလေးချိန် တိုင်းတာတဲ့ အတိုင်းအတာထဲက အတော်လေး ကြီးတဲ့ အတိုင်းအတာ တစ်ခုပါ။ အများကြီးပဲ ဆိုတဲ့ သဘောကိုဆောင်ပါတယ်။ ဒါကြောင့် “ကုသိုလ်တစ်ပဲ ငရဲတစ်ဝိသ္ဿာ” ဆိုတဲ့ စကားပုံက ကုသိုလ် လုပ်တာ နည်းနည်းလေးပဲရှိပြီး အကုသိုလ် လုပ်တာ အများကြီး ဖြစ်သွားတယ်ဆိုတဲ့ သဘောကို ပြောချင်တာပါ။ အလေးချိန်ကို နှိုင်းယှဉ်ပြီး အကျိုးနဲ့ အပြစ်ကို နှိုင်းယှဉ်ပြတာပါ။

The saying reflects the principle that good intentions alone do not guarantee positive outcomes. In ethical philosophy, this concept is often related to consequentialism and deontology. Consequentialism evaluates actions based on their outcomes, highlighting how even well-intended actions can lead to negative consequences if poorly executed. Deontology, on the other hand, emphasizes the importance of adhering to moral duties and rules, suggesting that the means by which an action is carried out is as significant as the intention behind it.

For example, a charitable endeavour aimed at providing aid can become harmful if the delivery process is inefficient, corrupt, or disrespectful of the recipients' dignity. Similarly, in fields like medicine, a young doctor with good intentions may cause harm if he prescribes incorrect treatment due to a lack of knowledge or negligence.

Therefore, this idea underscores the necessity for careful planning, ethical considerations, and competence in any undertaking, regardless of the initial intent. In essence, it serves as a cautionary reminder that “the road to hell is paved with good intentions.”

USAGES:
 “The road to hell is paved with good intentions.”
 • Definition: Good intentions do not always lead to good outcomes; in fact, they can sometimes lead to disastrous results.
 • Example Sentence: “He meant to help by reorganizing the files, but his plan backfired and created a bigger mess, proving that the road to hell is paved with good intentions.”
 “Actions speak louder than words.”
 • Definition: What someone does is more important than what they say they will do.
 • Example Sentence: “She claimed to be a good friend, but her actions spoke louder than words when she didn't show up when I needed her.”
 “It's not enough to mean well; you must do well.”
 • Definition: Having good intentions is not sufficient; one must also achieve positive results.
 • Example Sentence: “The project failed despite their good intentions, reminding them that it's not enough to mean well; you must do well.”
 “The proof of the pudding is in the eating.”
 • Definition: The true value of something can only be judged after it has been tried or used.
 • Example Sentence: “They had great plans for the new marketing strategy, but the proof of the pudding is in the eating; we'll have to wait and see if it actually works.”

NATIONAL

Offenders arrested for online gambling, scams in Shan State

THE government is actively cracking down on telecom fraud and online gambling in addition to destructive elements by cooperating with international organizations.

Moreover, officials of regions and states expose online gambling, telecom fraud and destructive elements and take action decisively and the combined team including security forces also examine strictly.

On 12 March, the security forces inspected the Narhote village-tract in Tangyan Township, Shan State (North), and arrested 165 illegal foreigners and one Myanmar national who operate on-



This photo captures foreigners arrested for telecom fraud and online scams in Shan State (North).

line gambling and telecom fraud together with one 200 feet by 60 feet hall, five temporary housing with seven rooms attached, furniture, two StarLink devices, 30 sorts of mobile phones and five all-in-one computers.

Offenders will be taken action under the law, and the foreigners will be transferred to their respective countries on humanitarian grounds and for bilateral relations.

The government is accelerating the efforts to crack down on online scams and online gambling by cooperating with international countries, including neighbouring countries. — MNA/KTZH

3-day illegal trade crackdown seizes goods worth K1,861M

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

On 11 and 12 March, the combined teams impounded six trucks and 14 tractor heads with 14 trailers (estimated value of K1,170 million) carrying industrial materials, consumer goods and foodstuffs (valued at K571.289 million) without official documents near Hpa-an Industrial Zone of Hpa-an Township, and industrial materials (worth K49 million) without official documents from a warehouse in Innlaymyaing Industrial zone in Myeik Township. The action was carried out in line with Customs procedures.

Similarly, the combined on-duty teams seized a Yutong bus (estimated value of K40 million) carrying foodstuffs (worth K3.2 million) without official documents near the Shwethanlwin tollgate in Phayagyi. The action was conducted per Customs procedures.

On 13 March, the on-duty teams confiscated two unregistered vehicles (valued at K28 million) in Monywa and Kalay Townships. The action was taken under the Export-Import Law.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported 46 arrests on three consecutive days from 11 to 13 March, seizing illegal goods worth approximately K1,861 million. — MNA/MKKS

Myanmar extradites 450 Chinese nationals, detains 270 more illegal entrants



Immigration and officials processing deportation for foreign undocumented migrants.

THE government is actively cracking down on telecom fraud and online gambling, in addition to destructive elements, especially in border areas, by cooperating with international organizations, including neighbouring countries.

The authority yesterday deported 450 Chinese nationals who illegally entered the country passing through some neighbouring countries, including Thailand, to operate online gambling and

scams in Myawady-Shwe Kokko areas of Kayin State, via the Myanmar-Thai Friendship Bridge II on humanitarian grounds and for bilateral relations.

Kayin State Security and Border Affairs Minister Colonel Min Thu Kyaw and officials inspected the repatriation processes.

Then, the minister and relevant officials, Deputy Director-General Mr Liu Ning Ning of the Criminal Investigation

Department under the Ministry of Public Security of China and officials of the Immigration Department of Thailand's Tak Province attended the handover ceremony, and the Myanmar officials transferred the documents to the relevant officials.

The authorities also arrested 244 Vietnamese and 26 Indians who illegally entered Myawady-Minletpan and KK Park areas yesterday, and the officials collected their data.

From 30 January to 13 March 2025, the government arrested 6,015 foreigners who illegally entered the country, and 3,213 of them were transferred to their respective countries via Thailand. The remaining 2,802 are also ready to be transferred and are being well cared for.

The government uncovers the foreigners and take drastic action against those involved in online scam operations and actively makes efforts to extradite the foreigners who face hardships and trafficked victims to their relevant countries. — MNA/KTZH

Counter-argument to false information

Subversive media accuse security forces of false arson reports

SUBVERSIVE media outlets are spreading false and misleading reports claiming that security forces set fire to and destroyed the entire Pannyo village in Myaung Township, Sagaing Region, on the evening of 12 March.

Upon enquiry with security officials regarding this claim, it was confirmed that security forces have not carried out

any acts of arson or destruction in villages within Myaung Township. Instead, it is widely known that terrorist groups have been targeting monks and civilians who do not support them. These groups have engaged in indiscriminate shootings, killings, and arson attacks on villages, as well as launching heavy artillery strikes.

These fabricated stories by un-

lawful media outlets are deliberately intended to mislead the public about security forces. These outlets are circulating propaganda, falsely alleging that security forces have set fire to villages, launched artillery attacks, and caused civilian casualties in areas where security operations have been conducted. — MNA/MKKS

NATIONAL

Traditional Lethwei Showdowns set to begin in March 2025



By Arkar Linn

long-time sponsor of the Independence Day Commemorative Traditional Lethwei Competitions held in Toungoo, supporting the event for eight consecutive years, making it a significant contributor to the development of Lethwei in Myanmar.

The new generation of Lethwei fighters now has the opportunity to showcase their skills, thanks to the continued efforts and support of the Myanmar Traditional Lethwei Federation. These competitions are held at Theinbyu Lethwei Hall, the birthplace of Lethwei, where young fighters compete and gain invaluable experience.

Exceptional competitors from these monthly events will also have the chance to participate in other events, potentially launching professional careers in the sport. The Myanmar Traditional Lethwei Federation and MMAG Company Limited are also planning to host additional traditional Lethwei competitions in various gyms across Myanmar in 2025.

International interest in Myanmar's traditional Lethwei has also increased significantly with countries such as Russia, the UK, Japan, Chinese Taipei, Morocco, Hungary, Turkiye and Thailand appointing regional representatives. A total of 15 events have been successfully held in Japan, two in Thailand and one in Chinese Taipei under the name "Traditional Lethwei".

In these international competitions, 80 male and five female Lethwei fighters from Myanmar participated. The current champions reached their sta-

tus through dedication, transitioning from the ranks of the new generation of fighters. The support of Lethwei clubs, event organizers and the Myanmar Traditional Lethwei Federation is critical for their continued growth. Since organizing these events involves significant costs, the backing of businesses and entrepreneurs remains essential.

The Myanmar Traditional Lethwei Federation, event organizers MMAG Company Limited, Myanmar Economic Holdings Public Company Limited, the Yangon Region government, SkyNet, Mon Min Lan Company Limited and Aung Pyi Hey Candle Company have all played crucial roles in making these events possible. The responsibility now lies with the new generation of Lethwei fighters, along with their coaches and clubs, to make the most of these opportunities.

An official from MMAG Co Limited shared, "We have organized 18 exclusive traditional Lethwei events in three countries. These events have given not only renowned boxers but also emerging talents the chance to compete and gain international experience. This current competition, marking a 10-year gap since its last event, will help these rising stars shine and be invited to compete abroad".

The president of the Myanmar Traditional Lethwei Federation added, "Lethwei is not only popular across Myanmar but is practised by young athletes nationwide. It is our responsibility to ensure that these fighters gain competitive experience. Although the event is free of charge, there are significant costs involved, including travel, accommodation and various other costs for hiring referees, medical teams, ring models, and Myanmar's orchestra, among others. Thanks to the generous support from Myanmar Economic Holdings Public Company Limited, the Yangon Regional Government, SkyNet, Mon Min Lan Company Limited, and Aung Pyi Hey Candle, we can successfully organize these events".

The traditional Lethwei competition, named Myanmar Fight, will begin in March and continue monthly. Traditional Lethwei fighters from the new generation are advised to intensify their training to be fully prepared for the event.

Translated by
KZL

THE Myanmar Traditional Lethwei Federation and MMAG Company Limited have jointly announced that monthly traditional Lethwei (Myanmar's boxing) competitions will commence in March 2025. These events will be supported by leading Myanmar companies, including Myanmar Economic Holdings Public Company Limited, alongside backing from the Yangon Region government, SkyNet Television, Mon Min Lan Company Limited and Aung Pyi Hey Candle Company.

The traditional Lethwei competitions were first launched on Olympic Day, 1 June 2015, under the name "Myanmar Fight", with the Myanmar Traditional Lethwei Federation and MMAG working together to host the competitions in various cities, including Yangon, Bagan, and Myaungmya. Since then, the competitions have produced well-known champions, including Kyaw Swa Win, Tun Lwin Moe, Kaung Kaung, Ko Ko, and other notable Lethwei fighters, all of whom have gained recognition in Myanmar's combat sports scene.

Despite the initial success, a period of pause followed when the event organizers requested higher fees for the continuation of the monthly competitions. However, with Myanmar's champions increasingly participating in international events, Myanmar's Lethwei community now faces a critical moment where the next generation of fighters may lack local competition opportunities.

To resolve this, officials from the Myanmar Traditional Lethwei Federation met the chairman of Myanmar Economic Holdings Public Company Limited in Nay Pyi Taw, requesting support for the monthly events. Following

this meeting, the Federation announced that these competitions would resume monthly, and for those unable to attend in person, the events will be broadcast nationwide via SkyNet TV Channels.

From March 2025 onwards, the monthly traditional Lethwei competitions will offer exciting opportunities for both competitors and fans alike. Myanmar Economic Holdings Public Company Limited, which has supported the competition organization since 2015, has also played a vital role in backing Myanmar's traditional Lethwei champions during their competitions in Japan between 2016 and 2020. During this period, Myanmar's Lethwei fighters participated in 15 events in Japan, many emerging from these monthly competitions.

Myanmar Economic Holdings Public Company Limited has also been a



NATIONAL

CBM Deputy Governor joins 29th ASEAN financial meeting

THE 29th ASEAN Senior Level Committee Meeting for Financial Integration took place yesterday in Malaysia. Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar Dr Lin Aung alongside officials participated virtually.

The meeting commenced with opening remarks from representatives of the Central Banks of Vietnam and Indonesia, who co-chaired the session. The Malaysian Central Bank, holding the ASEAN chairmanship for 2024, presented key financial integration priorities. Representatives from the International Monetary Fund and the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office provided insights into the current macroeconomic and financial developments at both global and regional levels.

The ASEAN Secretariat then outlined progress on ongoing financial integration initiatives, up-



Central Bank of Myanmar Deputy Governor Dr Lin Aung participates in the online 29th ASEAN Senior Level Committee Meeting for Financial Integration.

dates on the ASEAN Economic Community's financial sector and developments related to the AEC Blueprint 2026-2030 and financial sector strategic plans. Deputy Governors from various central banks discussed necessary recommendations.

Subsequently, the meeting covered measures to strengthen cooperation among central

banks and financial ministries, including a proposed framework for enhanced collaboration. The Malaysian Central Bank presented the draft agreement and terms of reference for the Senior Level Committee, which were then endorsed by the Deputy Governors.

Co-chairs of various financial integration task forces also provided updates on key areas such

as banking integration, financial liberalization, capital market development, inclusive finance, financial services, payment and settlement systems and regulatory oversight.

In the afternoon session, the financial committees presented risk assessment reports, followed by discussions on long-term financial stability and crisis resili-

ence strategies. The Malaysian Central Bank explained the meeting on ASEAN's cybersecurity initiatives, including measures to counter cyber threats and establish a secure information-sharing platform. The Philippine Central Bank reported on the ASEAN Currency Exchange Initiative with plans to formalize the agreement by 2025.

The ASEAN Bankers Association then outlined frameworks for financial data exchange between ASEAN nations, while Deputy Governors provided guidance.

The Bank of Thailand presented a summary of a secure and inclusive digital financial framework, followed by closing remarks from the Central Banks of Vietnam and Indonesia as co-chairs of the 29th ASEAN Senior-Level Committee on Financial Integration. — MNA/KZL

Nay Pyi Taw launches emergency ambulance service with dedicated 192 hotline

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Health, nine ambulance stations have been established across seven townships in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area to provide emergency response services in the event of traffic accidents. The emergency hotline number 192 is available for immediate assistance.

These ambulance stations are in Zabuthiri, Ottarathiri, Pobathiri, Dekkhinathiri, Zeyathiri, Lewe and Pynmana townships. Residents in these areas can call 192 in case of an accident to request emergency medical transport.

The Ministry of Health has also set up ten emergency ambulance stations along the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway,

operating under the hotline 192 since 2016. Based on the experience gained from these stations, the emergency ambulance service has been expanded to the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area to respond more effectively to road accidents.

This emergency response system is a collaborative effort between the Myanmar Red Cross Society and the Ministry of Health. Of the nine ambulance stations in Nay Pyi Taw, seven are operated by the Ministry of Health, while the Myanmar Red Cross Society runs the remaining two. The service began operations on 20 February and will be further expanded to other regions and states. — ASH/MKKS



This photo shows emergency patients being transported step by step by calling the emergency number 192.

Myanmar-China Friendship Association inks MoUs with four partner groups

MYANMAR-CHINA Friendship Association (Central) and four partner associations (Myanmar-China Business Association, Yangon-Yunan Association, Myanmar-Hokkien (Fujian) Chinese National Association and Myanmar Cantonese Merchants and Entrepreneurs Association) inked a Memorandum of Understanding on 11 March 2025 at the meeting hall of the Myanmar-China Friendship Association (Central).

The MoU is aimed at deepening friendship, promoting cooperation and setting up an affiliated association. — ASH/KK



Officials from the Myanmar-China Friendship Association (Central) and its partners at the signing ceremony.

Universities roll out online payment systems

THE Ministry of Education has announced that universities across the country will begin using an online payment system for student registration, tuition and other fees.

Starting from 17 March, both regular and distance

education students can register and pay their fees using online payment services or mobile wallets of their choice. This plan was discussed in the first 2025 meeting of the committee responsible for integrating online payments into the registration system.

The system will be linked to banks operating under Myanmar's Central Bank's MMQR system. The Ministry of Education is the first ministry to adopt the MMQR payment system, which has been in operation since 27 February 2025. — ASH/KZL

Thailand's industrial confidence continues to improve in February

The Thai industries sentiment index rose to 93.4 last month from 91.6 in January as most components of the index increased.

THAILAND'S industrial confidence continued to improve in February, supported by the central bank's policy rate cut and debt relief measures, data showed on Wednesday.

The Thai industries sentiment index rose to 93.4 last month from 91.6 in January as most components of the index increased, according to the Federation of Thai Industries (FTI).

The reading was based on a survey of 1,350 entrepreneurs across 47 industry groups under the FTI.

The improved confidence

was attributed to the lower key interest rate, which helped reduce financial costs and improve liquidity for entrepreneurs, as well as stimulate consumption and investment, the FTI said in a statement. Additionally, the government's economic stimulus measures, such as tax deduction and cash handout programmes, have helped boost domestic consumption. Accelerated budget disbursement, particularly for public construction projects, also has had a positive impact on the sentiment, the statement said.

— Xinhua



Workers operate at an assembly line in Rayong province, Thailand. PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE

Business sentiment among Japan's large firms remains positive

THE business sentiment index (BSI) among Japan's large enterprises across all industries stood at plus 2.0 for the first quarter, marking the fourth consecutive quarter of positive sentiment, official data showed Wednesday.

The increase was driven by the non-manufacturing sector, which benefited from improved price pass-through, according to data from Japan's Cabinet Office and the Ministry of Finance.

The BSI for the non-manufacturing sector remained posi-

tive for the 10th straight quarter at plus 4.1, supported by rising customer numbers in the service industry and increased demand for software development and advertising revenue in the information and communications sector. — Xinhua

Swedish battery maker Northvolt files for bankruptcy



Swedish battery manufacturer Northvolt has filed for bankruptcy in Sweden, the company announced on Wednesday. PHOTO: XINHUA

SWEDISH battery manufacturer Northvolt has filed for bankruptcy in Sweden, the company announced on Wednesday, citing financial difficulties.

Once considered a flagship of Sweden's

green transition, Northvolt has faced persistent losses in recent years. According to Swedish Television (SVT), the company submitted its bankruptcy application to a Stockholm court.

"Northvolt has encountered a series of compounding challenges in recent months that have weakened its financial position, including rising capital costs, geopolitical instability, supply chain disruptions, and shifts in market demand," the company stated in a press release.

In November 2024, Northvolt sought Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in the United States. Despite these efforts, financial struggles persisted. Industry experts point to the company's difficulty in scaling up production as a key issue. "The main problem is that they have not been able to accelerate production," said SVT's business analyst, Kristina Fagerstrom. — Xinhua

Food app Deliveroo delivers first annual profit

FOOD delivery app Deliveroo announced Thursday its first annual profit as orders and revenue rose, while the 12-year old company sees further growth despite exiting Hong Kong.

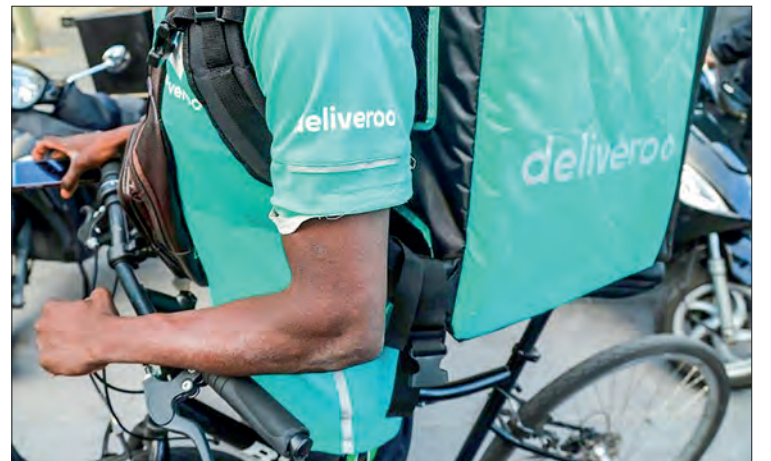
The milestone follows sizeable full-year losses owing to high investment costs since American Will Shu founded the company in 2013 and made Deliveroo's first delivery in London.

Deliveroo, which earlier this week said it was exiting Hong Kong owing to growing competition in the Chinese city, posted profit after tax of £2.9 million (\$3.8

million) last year following a loss of £31.8 million in 2023.

Revenue grew two per cent to nearly £2.1 billion, while orders also grew two per cent, according to an earnings statement.

"Whilst the consumer environment remains uncertain, I am confident that we can continue to deliver growth," Shu said in the release. Going forward, Deliveroo said its focus would include "supporting restaurant partners to meet untapped consumer demand around new occasions", while expanding grocery and retail offerings. — AFP



Food delivery app Deliveroo announced Thursday its first annual profit as orders and revenue rose. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Russian President Vladimir Putin holds meeting with forces in Kursk: Kremlin

Russian forces have entered certain areas of the Sumy Region, which is adjacent to the Kursk region, according to Army General Valery Gerasimov.



Vladimir Putin on Wednesday held a meeting at one of the command points of the Kursk group of forces, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov said. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin held a meeting at a command post of the Kursk group of forces, state agency TASS reported, citing Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov. Notably, Kursk is the only Russian province, where Ukraine has been able to gain some control, during the course of this ongoing war. As the fighting rages, Russian forces entered the Sumy Region in certain areas of the Kursk region, Army General Valery Gerasimov, chief of the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces and first deputy defense minister, reported to President Vladimir Putin, as reported by state agency TASS.

Gerasimov said that about 430 Ukrainian servicemen were captured in the Kursk Region.

“The Ukrainian military, seeing futility of further resist-

ance, started surrendering. Four hundred and thirty fighters were captured,” he said.

Gerasimov told Russian President Vladimir Putin that 24 settlements and 259 square kilometres of territory in the Kursk region have been liberated by Russian soldiers over the past five days, TASS reported.

“During five days alone, the Kursk Battlegroup retook 24 settlements and 259 square kilometres of the territory of the Kursk Region in all directions,” he said as quoted by the TASS report. Meanwhile, in a significant development, following the peace talks in Jeddah, Ukraine expressed readiness to accept the US proposal to enact an “immediate, interim 30-day ceasefire”. — TASS

BRIEF: WORLD

Belgium carries out raids in EU parliament corruption probe

BELGIAN police on Thursday raided several addresses in the country as part of a probe into alleged corruption “under the guise of commercial lobbying”, prosecutors said.

Several people were held for questioning over their “alleged involvement in active corruption within the European Parliament, as well as for forgery and use of forgeries,” the federal prosecutor’s office said.

About 100 police officers took part in the operation that saw a total of 21 searches conducted across Belgium and in Portugal, it added.

Belgian newspaper Le Soir and investigative website Follow the Money (FTM) said the probe was linked to Chinese tech giant Huawei and its activities in Brussels since 2021.

Huawei did not immediately respond to AFP’s request for comment. — AFP

At least 1,383 civilians killed in Syria’s coastal region violence: monitor

At least 1,383 civilians have been killed in the recent wave of violence in Syria’s coastal region, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported Wednesday. The violence erupted on 6 March, triggered by coordinated attacks by armed groups loyal to former President Bashar al-Assad on security forces in the coastal Latakia province, which killed at least 16 security personnel, according to Syria’s Defence Ministry.

The violence quickly escalated into broader sectarian clashes, predominantly targeting Alawite-majority towns and villages, UN Human Rights Spokesperson Thameen Al-Kheetan said on Tuesday.

He added that initial investigations suggest perpetrators included fighters aligned with Syria’s interim authorities as well as pro-Assad factions. — Xinhua

“No one is expelling anyone from Gaza”: Donald Trump

AMID row over his ‘Gaza Plan’, US President Donald Trump asserted that no one would be “expelled” from the strip, The Jerusalem Post reported.

He made the remarks before his meeting with Irish Prime Minister Micheal Martin at the White House on Wednesday (local time).

In his statement alongside Martin, Trump said, “No one is

expelling anyone from Gaza.”

During his meeting with Martin, he even called the US Senate’s minority leader Chuck Schumer “a Palestinian”. Trump said, “Schumer is a Palestinian as far as I’m concerned. He’s become a Palestinian. He used to be Jewish. He’s not Jewish anymore. He’s a Palestinian.” He made a similar statement regard-

ing Schumer in a post shared on his social media platform Truth Social in February.

In his remarks, Martin said aid needed to be increased into Gaza and called for a ceasefire as well as the release of hostages held by Hamas since the 7 October 2023 attacks on Israel, according to The Jerusalem Post report. — ANI



US President Donald Trump meets with Irish Prime Minister Micheal Martin in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, DC, on 12 March 2025. **PHOTO: AFP**

SPORTS

Kimmich extends Bayern contract until 2029

BAYERN Munich on Thursday announced Joshua Kimmich had signed a four-year extension to his contract that had been set to expire at the end of the season.

Germany international Kimmich said he made his decision because Bayern is "the best environment to achieve my sporting goals.

"There's currently no better package of teammates, coaching staff and club environment for me to achieve maximum success. I feel at home here and I'm not finished yet."

After Tuesday's 2-0 win at Bayer Leverkusen sent Bayern through to the Champions League quarter-finals, Kimmich told reporters he was set to prolong his stay at the club.

After speculation he could leave Bayern in previous seasons, Kimmich has rediscovered his best form in midfield under Vincent Kompany, having played every minute in the Bundesliga until picking up a minor injury in February.

Kimmich, already the national team captain, is viewed as the successor to current Bayern skipper Manuel Neuer.

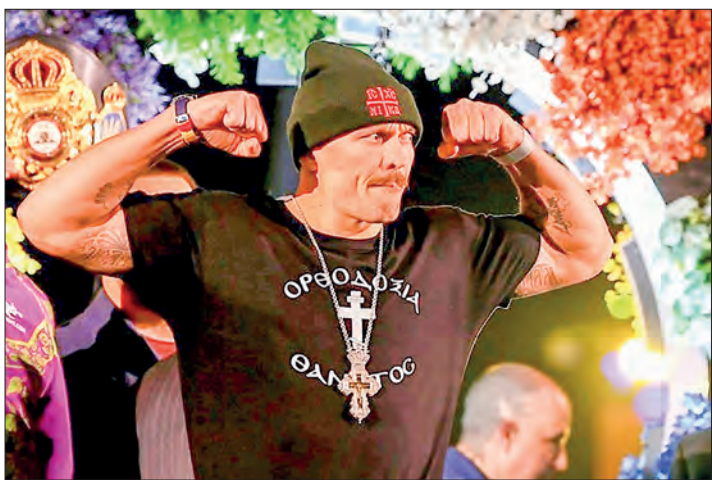
Sporting director Christoph Freund called the 30-year-old Kimmich "a driving force that will tirelessly drive Bayern forward in the future".

Kimmich's new contract is the latest in several extended deals in 2025 as Bayern seek to shore up their future, with Neuer, Jamal Musiala and Alphonso Davies all recently extending their contracts. — AFP



Bayern Munich midfielder Joshua Kimmich has extended his deal with the club until 2029. PHOTO: AFP

Heavyweight champion Usyk ordered to defend WBO title against Parker



World heavyweight boxing champion Oleksandr Usyk has been ordered to defend his WBO title. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

HEAVYWEIGHT champion Oleksandr Usyk has been ordered to start negotiations to defend his World Boxing Organization (WBO) heavyweight title against Joseph Parker.

The move that could end British fighter Daniel Dubois' hopes of a re-match with the Ukrainian. The WBO announced Thursday that Usyk, who also holds the World Boxing

Council (WBC) and World Boxing Association (WBA) belts, has 30 days to "reach terms" for a mandatory title defence against New Zealand's Parker or the governing body will call for purse bids. Parker defended his WBO interim title in Riyadh last month with a second-round stoppage of Martin Bakole, a late replacement after Dubois withdrew because of illness.

Rather than reschedule his bout against Parker, International Boxing Federation (IBF) champion Dubois had hoped for a return clash with Usyk, who defeated the Briton by ninth-round knockout in August 2023.

Dubois re-established himself in the heavyweight ranks with stoppage wins over Jarrell Miller and Filip Hrgovic before most recently knocking out compatriot Anthony Joshua, himself a former world champion, at Wembley in September to take his professional record to 22 wins, with two losses and 21 knockouts. The 27-year-old Dubois was understood to be in talks to face Usyk in a fight that would see all four major world heavyweight titles up for grabs but the WBO's announcement has complicated the picture in a sport where the lack of a single global governing body means there are often multiple world champions in the same weight class. — AFP

Brignone inches towards World Cup crown at tricky La Thuile super-G

FEDERICA Brignone took another step towards the overall World Cup crystal globe by finishing ahead of Lara Gut-Behrami in Thursday's difficult super-G at La Thuile, which was won by Germany's Emma Aicher.

Italian Brignone leads Gut-Behrami by 332 points with five races remaining in the season after finishing third, one place ahead of her Swiss rival in tricky conditions which led to several crashes, including one for skiing icon Lindsey Vonn.

The giant slalom world

champion Brignone was 0.39 seconds behind 21-year-old Aicher, who picked up her first ever super-G win and second in the World Cup overall. But Brignone was fortunate to even finish her run after smashing through a gate on her way to her 82nd podium finish in the World Cup, as snow conditions caused the athletes huge problems. "It was not easy, the snow is not, it doesn't make you confident... I felt like I was stuck right before the flat and I had no speed and I knew it," said Brignone. — AFP



Federica Brignone closed in on a second overall World Cup win. PHOTO: AFP



REVISITING RULES

US Environmental Protection Agency to roll back climate- related rules

THE US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced Wednesday that it will roll back a series of rules from the Joe Biden administration aimed at reducing pollution and mitigating climate change, stepping back from green energy and electric car policies.

In a series of statements, the EPA announced that it will reconsider the Biden administration's regulations on power plants, regulations for the oil and gas industry, mandatory greenhouse gas reporting programme, vehicle regulations that provided the foundation for "the electric vehicle mandate", and other related rules.

"We are driving a dagger straight into the heart of the climate change religion to drive down cost of living for American families, unleash American energy, bring auto jobs back to the US and more," said EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin. The EPA's latest announcement was unsurprising, given the Trump administration's prior indication of a major shift in its climate policy.

US President Donald Trump has consistently emphasized rolling back environmental regulations, and prioritizing fossil fuel industries over renewable energy initiatives. — Xinhua



A file picture shows the reactor building at the Russian-built Bushehr nuclear power plant in southern Iran. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

China to hold Beijing meeting between China, Russia, Iran on Iranian nuclear issue

The discussions aim to address the Iranian nuclear programme and other topics of shared interest, according to a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson.

CHINA will hold the Beijing meeting between China, Russia and Iran on the Iranian nuclear issue on 14 March, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson announced on Wednesday.

Vice-Foreign Minister Ma Zhaoxu will chair the meeting and Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Ryabkov Sergey Alexeevich and Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi will attend

the meeting in Beijing.

The three parties will exchange views on the Iranian nuclear issue and other issues of mutual interest, said the spokesperson. — Xinhua



An electric vehicle (EV) is seen at a charging point in London, UK, 26 October 2021. PHOTO: XINHUA

Britain accelerates charging point rollout to boost electric vehicle sales

BRITAIN is rapidly expanding its electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure to drive consumer adoption, with public charge points surpassing 75,000 as of this March, according to the Department for Transport.

The government said an additional 100,000 on-street and local chargers will be deployed in smaller towns and rural areas through the Local Electric

Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Fund, despite the 75,000 public chargers and over 680,000 domestic ones.

A new charger is added every 29 minutes, supported by over 2.3 billion pounds (US\$2.98 billion) in government funding, said Transport Secretary Heidi Alexander on Wednesday.

According to the Department for Transport, Britain's

EV owners charging at home save up to 750 pounds annually compared to petrol costs. While the overall UK new car market dipped by 1.0 per cent in February, battery electric vehicle (BEV) registrations surged by 41.7 per cent, capturing 25.3 per cent of total sales, according to the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT). — Xinhua