

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



State Administration Council Vice-Chair Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win views round the Tatmadaw Hospital in Aungban to encourage patients and provide foodstuffs.

State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, accompanied by senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, the Eastern Command commander and officials, yesterday morning visited the Tatmadaw hospital in Aungban of Shan State (South). He comforted Tatmadaw members and people's militia (local) troops who were receiving medical treatment.

At the meeting hall of the hospital, the commandant of the hospital reported to the Vice-Senior General on healthcare services being provided to Tatmadaw

Vice-Senior General Soe Win offers support to patients at Tatmadaw Hospital in Aungban

members and people's militia (local) troops as well as residents and fulfilled the requirements of the hospital. The Vice-Senior General gave necessary instructions and attended to the needs.

The Vice-Senior General cordially conversed with Tatmadaw members and

people's militia (local) troops who sustained injuries in serving defence and security duties of the State and asked them about the progress of their health conditions. He then presented foodstuffs to the patients. Likewise, Daw Than Than Nwe, wife of the Vice-Senior General,

comforted patients receiving medical treatment at the maternity and child medical wards and presented foodstuffs.

The Vice-Senior General also presented gifts and cash awards to health staff serving at the hospital through officials. — MNA/TTA

Article

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By Yin Nwe Ko

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124 more Myanmar EPS workers depart for S Korea

BUSINESS

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CBM injects US\$2.2M daily into edible oil and commodity imports

NATIONAL

Guiding Youths: Fostering Exploration, Creativity, and Patriotism with Ethical Responsibilities

Youths must be guided to foster a spirit of exploration, creativity, and rational thinking, along with national pride and patriotism, while upholding ethics and social responsibilities.

(Excerpt from the speech given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting to provide guidance to outstanding students for the 2023-2024 academic year on 26 April 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.



Global experts arrive in Yangon for Myanmar Beyond 2025 Forum



Ms Suzuka Yoshida from Japan.



Mr Sihasak Phuangk from Thailand.



Mr Madhav Kumar from Nepal and Mr Lorenzo Pacini from Italy arrive at Yangon International Airport.

INTERNATIONAL experts in regional economics and politics and analysts arrived in Yangon yesterday to attend the “Forum on Myanmar Beyond 2025: Challenges and Opportunities in the Multipolar World”.

This forum is being organized by the Ministry of Information in collaboration with the Myanmar Narrative Think Tank. Upon arrival, the delegates were welcomed by officials from the Ministry of Information’s Department of Information and Public Relations and the Myanmar Narrative Think Tank at Yangon International Airport. In the evening, the group visited the Shwedagon Pagoda.

The forum will be held on 21 March at the Myanmar International Convention Centre I (MICC I) in Nay Pyi Taw. Experts and analysts from China, Russia, India, Japan, Thailand, Italy and Nepal will join domestic scholars to discuss the challenges and opportunities Myanmar may face in a rapidly evolving multipolar world. — MNA/KZL

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 19 January 2025

THE price of one tical (16.329325 grammes) of gold with density of 19.25 grammes per cubic centimetre and above is K5,560,000, as established by the Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee.

NATIONAL

Residents Urged to Prioritize Public Safety Amid Armed Terrorist Threats

ARMED terrorists have been launching attacks by using residential homes and administrative buildings in towns and villages as cover, where they have forcibly settled. They aim to shield themselves from Tatmadaw counterattacks while also persuading temporarily displaced persons to return to their native areas and recruiting new members. That enables terrorists to use civilians as human shields. Tatmadaw is committed to safeguarding the sovereignty of the State and will respond to these threats based on intelligence and prevailing conditions. Therefore, residents in areas where terrorists have taken control must prioritize their safety and protect themselves from being exploited by these groups.

(Excerpt from guidance given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to Shan State cabinet members and state-level departmental officials on 3 September 2024)

51st Mon State Day celebrated in Mawlamyine with SAC Secretary's presence

STATE Administration Council Secretary General Aung Lin Dwe attended the 51st Anniversary Mon State Day and state honorary titles giving ceremony in Mawlamyine yesterday.

The SAC Secretary attended the message reading section for the 51st Mon State Day held at the Thamainbayan Ground. Also present at the event were SAC Members Porel Aung Thein, Mahn Nyein Maung, Dr Hmuh Thang, Khun San Lwin, Union Ministers U Min Naung, U Hla Moe, Khun Thant Zaw Htoo, Mon State Chief Minister U Aung Kyi Thein, Kayin State Chief Minister U Saw Myint Oo, the South-East Command commander, departmental officials and invitees.

They all saluted the State Flag and fallen heroes and soldiers. Then, the SAC Secretary read out the message sent by SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudamma Min Aung Hlaing to the occasion.

The Mon State chief min-



State Administration Council Secretary General Aung Lin Dwe reads the SAC Chair and PM's message at the 51st Anniversary Mon State Day and State honorary titles giving ceremony in Mawlamyine yesterday.



ister remarked and concluded the event.

The SAC Secretary and party also attended the State honorary titles-giving ceremony to mark the 51st Mon State Day at the City Hall of Mawlamyine.

The State chief minister began the occasion with a remark.

The SAC Secretary and Members presented excellent awards in the economy, agriculture, livestock, industry, management, service and social sectors, and posed for doc-

umentary photos together with the awardees.

The SAC Secretary and party proceeded to Baeyan Village in Mudon Township, heard the reports made by the Agriculture Department official, and inspected the 100-acre model field in the village.

On arrival at the M Rubber factory in Kyaungthan Setyonzu, Mawlamyine, they heard the reports on rubber raw materials, storage, production processes, access to water and electrici-

ty, occupational safety and job opportunities for locals. Then, they observed the factory compound and rubber production processes.

At noon, they inaugurated the five-storey Grand Mawlamyine Shopping Mall in Ward Phet-tan, Mawlamyine.

They also headed to Ywalut Village in Chaungzon Township and inspected the sales of local products, MSME products and handicrafts. They presented cash prizes to the craftsmen.

In the evening, the SAC Secretary and Members attended the dinner event at Thamainbayan ground.

The Mon cultural troupes performed before the dinner, and the SAC Secretary presented awards to winners of the Thana-ka Beauty Queen Contest marking the Mon State Day.

The SAC Secretary had dinner together with attendees and gave cash prizes and flower bouquets to the performers. — MNA/KTZH

Union Auditor-General receives Nepali Ambassador to Myanmar

UNION Auditor-General Dr Khin Naing Oo received Mr Harishchandra Ghimire, Ambassador of Nepal to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, on 18 March at the Office of the Auditor-General of the Union, Nay Pyi Taw.

They frankly discussed the transition from manual to digitalized systems, the application of software and the implemen-

tation of Information Technology Audits.

The deputy auditor-general, the permanent secretary, and other responsible persons were also at the meeting. — GNLM

Union Auditor-General Dr Khin Naing Oo receives Nepali Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Harishchandra Ghimire in Nay Pyi Taw on 18 March.



NATIONAL

Union Info Minister reviews forum prep: Myanmar Beyond 2025 in Multipolar World

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn yesterday inspected the preparations for the Forum on Myanmar Beyond 2025: Challenges and Opportunities in the Multipolar World to be held by Myanmar Narrative Think Tank under the lead of the Ministry of Information at MICC I in Nay Pyi Taw.

The Union minister first visited the Jade Hall, where the “Challenges and Opportunities of Myanmar in the Multipolar World Beyond 2025” discussion will be held, to inspect the agenda for the opening ceremony, rehearsal of dance troupes, lighting and sound system, video clip, filming, Live Box and detailed plans.

He then instructed the officials to be ready for the accommodation of international experts in geoeconomics and geopolitics and other local and foreign experts, and an excursion tour to Maravijaya Buddha Image.

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



Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn inspects the preparations for the Forum on Myanmar Beyond 2025: Challenges and Opportunities in the Multipolar World at MICC I in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

2025, specifically in a multipolar world, and identify ways to prepare for them in advance. The opening ceremony of the forum will be broadcast live on MRTV. — MNA/KTZH

208,000+ students tackle Math on Matric Exam Day 3



Putao District, Kachin State.



Hlaingbwe, Kayin State.



Loikaw, Kayah State.

A total of 208,580 students sat for the mathematics exam on the third day of the 2025 academic year matriculation examination (Grade 12) yesterday.

This year, 817 examination centres were set up, including 13 overseas centres and 804 domestic centres – a total of 220,843 students registered for the examination. On the third day, 208,580 students took the mathematics exam, while 12,263 were absent. According to the Ministry of Education, the attendance rate for the exam was 94.45 per cent. — MNA/MKKS



Katha, Sagaing Region.



Nyaungshwe, Shan State.

NATIONAL

Golden Phoenix Journal launches story contest celebrating 75 years of China-Myanmar ties

THE Chinese Embassy in Myanmar stated that Golden Phoenix Journal hosted a story competition to mark the 75th Anniversary of the Myanmar-China diplomatic ties.

The event aims to deepen ties between the two countries, pass down cultural traditions from generation to generation, showcase remarkable success in bilateral collaboration, and jointly draft development plans.

The stories must portray people-to-people interactions, the long-lasting Pauk-Phaw friendship between Myanmar and China, and economic, trade and cultural exchanges.

There is no age restriction on writing the stories. Whoever can join the competition and stories in Chinese or Myanmar must be sent to gphoenix.05@gmail.com, chinaembpk.mm@gmail.com or [\[media@qq.com\]\(mailto:media@qq.com\) by 21 April, with the subject stating collection of story competition on 75th anniversary.](mailto:mmgp-</p></div>
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The panel of judges for the competition comprises experts from the literary and related industries. One award for first place, three for second place, ten for third place and other outstanding awards will be included. — ASH/KK



Myanmar deports 380 Chinese telecom fraud suspects, detains 256 more



Immigration and officials processing the transfer of 380 Chinese telecom fraud suspects and undocumented entrants.

THE government is strictly cracking down on telecom fraud and criminal activities by cooperating with foreign countries including neighbouring countries, and systematically transferring the foreigners involved in these illegal operations.

The authorities transported 380 Chinese nationals, who entered the country via border routes illegally and committed online gambling, telecom fraud and crimes in Myawady-Maetawthlay of Kayin State, via the Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge II on humanitarian grounds and for bilateral

relations yesterday.

Minister of Security and Border Affairs of Kayin State Government, Colonel Min Thu Kyaw, and officials monitored the processes.

The handover ceremony was attended by Kayin State Security and Border Affairs Minister Colonel Min Thu Kyaw, Deputy Director General Mr Liu Ning from China's Ministry of Public Security's Criminal Investigation Department and representatives from Thailand's Tak Province Immigration Bureau, and Myanmar officials transferred the documents to the authorities of relevant countries.

In addition, Myanmar authorities detained 256 foreign nationals who entered Maetawthlay in Myawady via illegal routes on the same day, and the officials checked the personal information and records of these detainees to repatriate them to their respective countries.

From 30 January to 19 March, a total of 7,363 foreign nationals who entered Myanmar illegally were identified and detained. Of them, 4,571 were systematically handed over to the relevant countries via Thailand as per legal procedures, and the remaining 2,792 foreign nationals are ready for repatriation and are being well cared for.

The government uncovers the foreigners and those involved in the operations of Online Scam Centres to take effective actions and actively makes efforts to transfer the foreigners who face hardships for various reasons and foreign nationals who are the victims of human trafficking. — MNA/KTZH

Human Rights awareness raising talk conducted in Yangon

UNDER Section 22 (a) of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Law, the Commission is dedicated to raising public awareness about human rights through the dissemination of information and public education. To implement the 2025 Framework for Action and the Annual Work Plan, to further enhance the understanding of human rights among the office staff members of Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) and Red Cross volunteers to increase knowledge of human rights, MNHRC conducted a human rights awareness raising talk from 1 pm to 4 pm on 18 March 2025 at the community centre hall in Bahan Township, Yangon.

The talk was attended by Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Chairman U Paw Lwin Sein and members of the commission, Chairman Professor Dr Myo Nyunt of

the Myanmar Red Cross Society and executive members, the chairman of the Yangon Region Red Cross Society, secretary and committee members — a total of 150 including MRCS office personnel and Red Cross volunteers – attended.

At the opening ceremony of the talk, the chairman of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission gave an opening speech, and the chairman of the Myanmar Red Cross Society expressed his gratitude for organizing the talk on human

rights. Next, U Zaw Lwin Htoo, Director of Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Office, explained the broad and deep interpretations of human rights, the basic concept of human rights, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Afterwards, Deputy Director Daw Mi Mi Khaing presented the interrelation between Red Cross activities and the human rights concept. Moreover, the participants asked and discussed, and the talk was concluded at 4 pm. — MNHRC



Human rights awareness raising talk organized by MNHRC in progress at the community centre hall in Bahan Township, Yangon, on 18 March 2025.

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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



Artistes shine at Mann Shwesettaw Pagoda Festival

Photos capture the vibrant energy of devotees and pilgrims at the Mann Shwesettaw Pagoda Festival.

THE Mann Shwesettaw Pagoda Festival in Minbu (Sagu) Township, Minbu District, Magway Region, featured performances by renowned artistes, including traditional Myanmar opera and music shows.

Artistes entertained the audience with cultural performances, drawing a large crowd of devotees and locals on the night of 18 March, according to the festival's organizing committee.

The performances took place on a special stage near the bridge entrance to the pagoda platform. As part of the festival,

the first-night event featured a Myanmar opera show led by the "Min Htway" troupe. Famous

opera actors and singers, along with renowned artistes presented musical performances for

devotees, visitors and locals.

The festival will continue with traditional opera and music

performances on the nights of 18 and 19 March, starting at 8 pm. The shows are free for all visitors. The organizing committee reported that a large number of devotees and visitors attended and enjoyed the entertainment in a calm and joyful atmosphere on the first night.

The pagoda festival is being held from 2 February to 17 April, including the Maha Thingyan water festival holidays. The festival spans 75 days, from the 5th waxing of Tabodwe to the 1st waxing of the Myanmar New Year. The event offers 484 accommodation rooms and 421 market stalls to facilitate pilgrims.

Since the festival's opening, a total of 16,546 pilgrims and 3,319 vehicles have arrived at the pagoda. The number of visitors continues to increase, with devotees from various regions coming to pay homage and relax at the site. — Maung Maung (Minbu)/KZL



Health Ministry warns: Avoid sun exposure from 10 am to 4 pm

THE Ministry of Health has issued a warning to people to avoid direct sun exposure between 10 am and 4 pm when UV rays are at their peak.

There can be health effects of UV exposure during times of high ultraviolet index, so the ministry advised ways to protect from it.

If people need to go outside, they should wear protective umbrellas, hats, and clothing to protect their face, neck, and shoulders from direct sunlight.

Exposure to ultraviolet rays can cause sunburn, skin darkening, and over time, cataracts, premature ageing of the skin, decreased immunity and skin cancer.

Children and the elderly need to be especially careful because they are more susceptible to the dangers of ultraviolet rays. The statement also described that infants under one year old should not be taken out into the sun and that children should only be allowed to play in the shade. — Htun Htun/ZN




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WORLD WATER DAY 2025

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NATIONAL

Tourists flock to Wa Ale Resort for its unspoiled beauty



A glimpse of a bungalow at the Wa Ale Resort.



These drone photos capture the Myeik Archipelago which attracts foreign tourists.

WA Ale Resort, located in Bokpyin township, Kawthoung district, the southernmost part of Myanmar, just about 60 nautical miles from Kawthoung, attracts foreign travellers with its rich in terrestrial and marine resources, as well as its unspoiled natural beauty.

It is located near the Lampi Marine National Park. Although the number of travellers to Wa Ale Resort, which boasts evergreen and mangrove forests, declined compared to the previous year,

it contributes to human beings and environmental conservation as the home for biodiversity with abundant amphibians and mangroves. And, such natural beauty attracts local and foreign travellers as tourist destinations every year.

The Wa Ale Resort opens from October to June every year, and the site is packed with travellers during the Thingyan period. This year, the temporary shutdown will be postponed based on the number of travellers, and

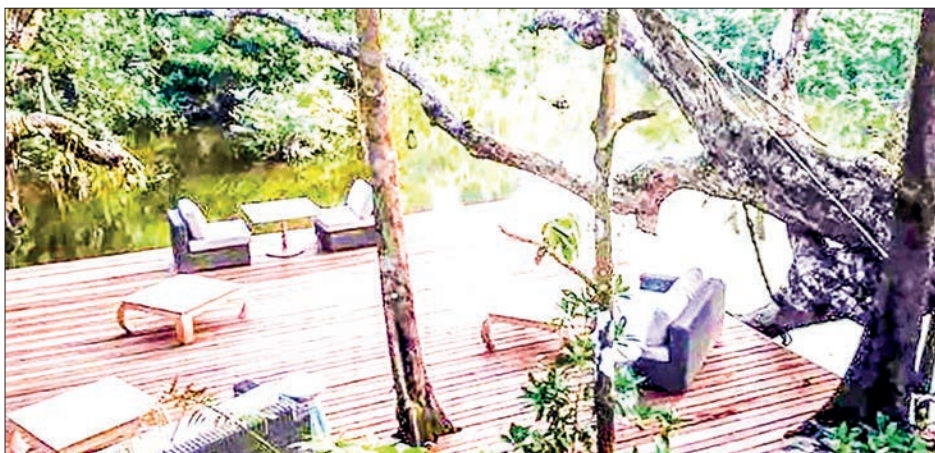
the hotels in Myeik Archipelago receive visitors.

“The Wa Ale Resort hosted over 200 visitors last year. Some retreated because we did not have enough rooms. Although we see a decline in travellers this year, there are still visitors here. Travellers from the US, Russia, Britain, Italy, Thailand, the Philippines and other foreigners from Yangon and Thailand come there. Wa Ale Resort is rich in terrestrial resources and unspoiled

beauty, so tourists like visiting it,” said U Kyi Oo, head of Lampi Marine National Park.

Travellers to the resort can enjoy watching the coral reef of underwater, mangroves, evergreen forests, amphibians, rare plants and sea turtles, surfing, canoeing and walking on the sand enjoying the beauty of sea and sunset.

The Lampi Marine National Park is over 48,000 acres in size, and the Wa Ale Island is over 1,000 acres in size. The resort is established on 100.15 acres of land. The Wa Ale Resort tour, which is one of the seaside vacation trips of ecotourism of Myanmar, is famous among ASEAN countries. — Thitsa (MNA)/KTZH



These photos show Wa Ale Resort which supports nature-based tourism.

124 more Myanmar EPS workers depart for S Korea

THROUGH the Public Overseas Employment Agency (POEA), 124 Myanmar EPS workers were sent to the Republic of Korea on 19 March, according to the Myanmar Embassy.

Of them, 58 are manufacturing workers, 25 are forestry workers, 19 are construction workers,

seven are service sector workers, including a woman worker, and 15 are agriculture and livestock workers.

They arrived at Incheon on 19 March on Myanmar National Airlines' charter flight UB 8301. The labour attaché from the Myanmar Embassy welcomed them,

advised them what they should follow and provided the assistance they needed.

The previous worker dispatch on 12 February included a total of 147 Myanmar EPS workers: 139 manufacturing workers, 19 forestry workers and eight construction workers. — MT/ZS



Myanmar EPS workers.

OPINION

Eliminate racial discrimination in society

A HOUSEHOLD is formed with parents even though it does not have children. If the family is set up with parents and children, they all have different thoughts to shape themselves. So also, a society, a community or a country is sure to have different ideologies to shape their futures as these are formed with varieties of national races.

A household can consist of parents, even without children. When a family includes both parents and children, each member brings unique perspectives that shape the family dynamic. Similarly, a society, community, or country is shaped by diverse ideologies, as these

groups consist of people from various national races, each contributing to the shaping of their collective future.

Everyone must resolve issues through dialogue, avoiding armed conflict and discrimination. Different thoughts are not guilty, and different races are not the root causes of discrimination against them. Reciprocally, racism must benefit relevant races for the development of their lives but not harm society as well as the country. Racial rights and thoughts must be acceptable for all.

Hence, no one should feel pressured to shape their thoughts about the future. Individuals must refrain from all forms of racial discrimination. To address this, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) through Resolution 2106 (XX) on 21 December 1965, marking a groundbreaking step in the global effort to eradicate racism.

The theme for the 2025 International Day is the '60th Anniversary of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD).' This milestone calls for reflection on the progress made in combating racial discrimination, while also highlighting the ongoing challenges. It is a time to reaffirm our commitment to equality and to continue efforts toward eliminating racism, ensuring equal treatment for all individuals.

As the first of the UN's core international human rights treaties, ICERD set the stage for future human rights advancements. Its commitment to eliminating racial discrimination and promoting equality underpins the ongoing fight against racist ideas and practices, aiming to foster global understanding and unity free from racial segregation.

People around the world must focus on eliminating racial discrimination. Likewise, those who suffer from its impacts should work to overcome them and avoid perpetuating similar actions against others. In doing so, society will become more harmonious and prosperous, free from hostility, depression, and conflict.

Everyone must resolve issues through dialogue, avoiding armed conflict and discrimination. Different thoughts are not guilty, and different races are not the root causes of discrimination against them. Reciprocally, racism must benefit relevant races for the development of their lives but not harm society as well as the country. Racial rights and thoughts must be acceptable for all.

IN 1977, a unique group of students from the Zoology major came together to form a badminton team that would leave a lasting mark on our lives. A photograph from that year captures a moment brimming with youth, vitality, and collective ambition. We were more than just teammates; we were a tight-knit family bound by our passion for badminton. This image serves as a timeless reminder of the deep connections and vibrant team spirit that defined us — a spirit that transcended the court and shaped the course of our lives.

The Faces in the Frame: The Back Row

In the back row of the photograph stand three young men, each radiating determination and promise. On the far left is Ko Kyin Hoke, a figure whose disciplined nature was evident even in his youth. His commitment to practice and his unrelenting effort during matches hinted at the path he would later take as a police officer. That same discipline honed on the badminton court became the foundation of his career in law enforcement. After retiring, he often reflected on how those early days of teamwork and rigour had prepared him for the challenges of his profession.

Beside him stands Ko Khin Maung Kyaw, whose sharp mind and resilient spirit made him a standout player. His strategic approach to the game — analyzing opponents and adapting quickly — foreshadowed his eventual rise as a respected Army officer. On the court, he led with quiet confidence, never shying away from a challenge. The lessons

of perseverance and collaboration he absorbed as part of our team became invaluable in his military career, where teamwork and clear-headed decision-making were paramount.

Between these two steadfast individuals stand I, the author of this reflection. My journey took me into the world of education as a private teacher. The badminton court was my first classroom, teaching me patience, diligence, and the power of working together. These qualities have been the bedrock of my teaching career, where I strive to instill the same values in my students that I learned alongside my teammates.

The Front Row: Pillars of Grace and Strength

The front row of the photograph features three remarkable women who brought vibrancy and balance to our team. On the left is Ma Ni Ni Shein, a player whose energy and grace were infectious. She approached every match with a bright smile and an unwavering love for the game, lifting our spirits even on the toughest days. Her enthusiasm was a driving force behind our successes, and her presence reminded us that joy and dedication could coexist.

The other two women in the front row, whose names have faded from my memory over the years, were no less vital to our team's dynamic. Each brought her unique strengths — whether it was agility, precision, or sheer determination — creating a harmonious blend of talents. Their contributions were felt in every practice and match, and their commitment strengthened the fabric of our group. Together,

The Enduring Legacy of Unity: The 1977 Zoology Badminton Team

By Yin Nwe Ko



these women exemplified the diversity and unity that made our team so special.

The Heart of Our Team Spirit

Our team spirit was far more than a quest for victories; it was

a profound sense of camaraderie and mutual growth. We were a collective that thrived on support, learning, and resilience. Practices were rigorous, victories were sweet, and losses were opportunities to reflect and improve. What held us together was not just our shared love for badminton, but the trust and respect we had for one another.

Every training session was a chance to sharpen our skills and deepen our bonds. We challenged each other to reach new heights, but we also offered a hand when one of us stumbled. This balance of encouragement and accountability built a support system that gave us the courage to face any obstacle. The values we embraced — teamwork, discipline, and perseverance — became guiding lights, not just in badminton, but in every facet of our lives.

A Lasting Impact

Looking back, it's clear that our time on the 1977 Zoology badminton team was a defining chapter. The spirit we cultivated together left an indelible mark, equipping us with lessons that extended far beyond the court. For

Ko Kyin Hoke, the discipline and order he practised in badminton translated into a distinguished career in policing. For Ko Khin Maung Kyaw, the strategic thinking and tenacity he displayed in matches paved the way for his success in the military. And for me, the patience and teamwork I learned have fueled my dedication as a teacher.

Each of us carried forward the principles of unity and mutual support, applying them in our unique ways. The badminton court was our training ground, not just for sport, but for life. It taught us those individual strengths, when combined, create something far greater than the sum of its parts — a lesson that has guided us through personal and professional challenges alike.

Cherished Memories and Timeless Lessons

When we gaze at that 1977 photograph today, we see more than a group of young athletes. We see a circle of friends who dared to dream together, who laughed and struggled and triumphed as one. The memories of those days — the sound of the shuttlecock,

the sweat of practice, the thrill of a well-earned win — remain vivid. They are a testament to the joy we found in each other's company and the strength we drew from our shared purpose.

The lessons we learned went beyond the mechanics of badminton. We discovered how to collaborate effectively, how to rise after setbacks, and how to lean on one another in times of need. These insights have proven invaluable, shaping our careers, our relationships, and our approach to life's uncertainties. The team spirit we forged in 1977 has been a constant companion, a source of inspiration as we've navigated the years.

The Core of Our Unity

At its essence, our team spirit was rooted in the belief that we were stronger together. Each member brought distinct talents to the table — Ko Kyin Hoke's discipline, Ko Khin Maung Kyaw's strategy, Ma Ni Ni Shein's exuberance, and the quiet resolve of our unnamed teammates. When woven together, these qualities transformed us into a formidable and cohesive unit. Unity was our strength, and mutual support was our foundation.

This sense of togetherness carried us through long practices and tough matches. It taught us that success is not just about individual effort, but about lifting each other. The values we held dear — teamwork, resilience, and dedication — became the threads that connected us, both then and now.

A Legacy That Endures

The 1977 Zoology badminton team was more than a fleeting

moment in our lives; it was a crucible that forged lifelong bonds and principles. The experiences we shared and the lessons we absorbed have endured, influence who we became and how we've lived. That team spirit, born in the sweat and laughter of our youth, continues to resonate, a quiet force guiding us through the decades.

Today, that photograph is a window into a time when we were a family — a group united by a common goal and an unshakable belief in one another. The legacy of the 1977 team lives on in the way we approach challenges, the way we value collaboration and the way we cherish the friendships that began on that badminton court.

A Final Reflection

The story of the Zoology major badminton team of 1977 is one of unity, perseverance, and the transformative power of collective effort. It reminds us that when people come together with a shared vision and mutual respect, they can achieve extraordinary things. The team spirit we nurtured has been a compass for our lives, steering us toward success and fulfillment.

We were a remarkable group — not because of our wins, but because of the way we supported and uplifted each other. The photograph from that year is more than a memory; it's a symbol of what we built together and a tribute to the enduring power of unity. The legacy of the 1977 team lives on, a quiet but profound influence that continues to shape us, inspire us, and remind us of the strength found in togetherness.

Study finds how to treat aggressive cancers

This discovery opens the door to potential therapeutic strategies that could slow or shrink these hard-to-treat tumours.

ALTERNATIVE RNA splicing is similar to a movie editor cutting and rearranging scenes from the same video to produce distinct versions of a film. By deciding which sequences to keep and which to cut, the editor can create a drama, a comedy, or even a thriller from the same raw material.

Similarly, cells splice RNA in various ways to make a wide range of proteins from a single gene, fine-tuning their activity to meet specific needs. However, when cancer rewrites the script, this process is disrupted,

promoting tumor growth and survival.

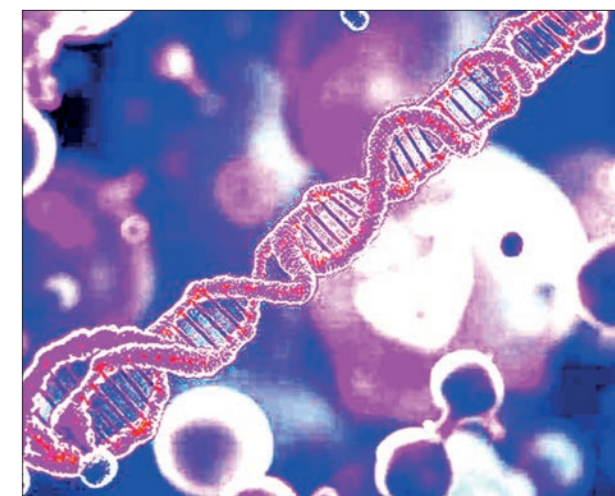
In a recent study, scientists from The Jackson Laboratory (JAX) and UConn Health not only show how cancer hijacks this tightly regulated splicing and rearranging of RNA but also introduce a potential therapeutic strategy that could slow or even shrink aggressive and hard-to-treat tumors. This discovery could transform how we treat aggressive cancers, such as triple-negative breast cancer and certain brain tumors, where current treatment options are limited.

At the heart of this work, led by Olga Anczukow, an associate professor at JAX and co-programme leader at the NCI-designated JAX Cancer Center, are tiny genetic elements called poison exons, nature's own "off switch" for protein production. When these exons are included in an RNA message, they trigger its destruction before a protein can be made — preventing harmful cellular activity. In healthy cells, poison exons regulate the levels of key proteins, keeping the genetic machinery in check. But in cancer, this safety mechanism often fails.

Anczukow and her team, including Nathan Leclair, an MD/PhD graduate student at UConn Health and The Jackson Laboratory who spearheaded the research, and Mattia Brugiolo, a staff researcher who contributed his expertise, discovered that cancer cells suppress poison exon activity in a critical gene called TRA2b. As such, levels of TRA2b protein increase inside cancer cells, causing tumor proliferation.

Furthermore, the team found a correlation between levels of poison exons and patient outcomes. "We've shown for the first time that low levels of poison exon inclusion in the TRA2b gene are associated with poor outcomes in many different cancer types, and especially in aggressive and difficult-to-treat cancers," said Anczukow. These include breast cancer, brain tumors, ovarian cancers, skin cancers, leukemias, and colorectal cancers, Anczukow explained.

SOURCE: ANI



Alternative RNA splicing is akin to a movie editor rearranging scenes to create different film genres, allowing cells to produce various proteins from a single gene. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE/CONCEPT ART

NATIONAL

2-day illegal trade crackdown seizes goods worth K4,289M

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

On 17 and 18 March, the combined teams impounded 28 vehicles with 27 trailers (worth approximately K2,615 million) carrying industrial materials, consumer goods and foodstuffs (valued at K727.364 million) near Hpa-an Industrial Zone of Hpa-an Township, two vehicles (worth approximately K38 million) carrying foodstuffs and consumer goods (valued at K4.029 million) without official documents at the combined checkpoint of the Milepost 4 on the outskirts of Taunggyi, and smuggled industrial materials (worth K13.5 million) piled up by the side of road the

Kengtung detour. The action was conducted as per Customs procedures.

Similarly, on 18 March, the combined on-duty teams seized two vehicles (estimated value of K172.9 million) carrying 17.178 tonnes of illegal teak (valued at K15.116 million) in Magway Township, two unregistered vehicles and five unregistered motorbikes (estimated value of K14 million) in Magway, Minbu and Thayat districts, a Mitsubishi Fuso truck (worth approximately K30 million) carrying industrial materials (worth K9.652 million) without official documents at the Myitnge combined checkpoint, a Golden Dragon express bus (estimated value of K50 million) carrying foodstuffs (valued at K275 million) without official



Confiscated illegal Pulley Driven Pump in Kayin State.

documents at the Yadanabon bridge (Mandalay) checkpoint, and two vehicles (estimated value of K98 million) carrying consumer goods and industrial materials (worth K40.1 million) without official documents in

Paleik Township. The action was taken under the Forest Law, the Export-Import Law and Customs procedures.

Additionally, the combined teams confiscated 10.393 tonnes of illegal hardwood and 43.054

tonnes of other timbers (valued at K11.09 million) in Myanaung and Patheingyi districts, four kinds of consumer goods (worth K132.642 million) without official documents from two containers at the Myanmar Terminal port, consumer goods (worth K36.798 million) without official documents from a container at the Asia World Port, and industrial materials (valued at K6.02 million) from two passengers on the flight from Kumin to Yangon at the Yangon International Airport. The action was conducted under the Forest Law and Customs procedures.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported 92 arrests on 17 and 18 March, confiscating illegal goods worth approximately K4,289 million. — MNA/MKKS

Counter-argument to false information

Misinformation: Security forces burn Bangbwe Village

FALSE reports stated that security forces burned houses in Bangbwe Village in Yinmabin Township, Sagaing Region, destroying 18 homes. Local officials say this is not true.

A security official explained that terrorists attacked villages and forced people into illegal activities like extortion. In some cases, terrorists burned houses in villages that did not follow their orders. They used heavy weapons to carry out these attacks.

Fabricated stories are spread by malicious news media, which aim to mislead the public and wrongly blame security forces. The official added that it was terrorists, not security forces, who caused fires and violence. — MNA/KZL



Screenshot of Mandalay Free Press validates misinformation.

MNHRC inspects Kyaikmaraw Central Prison

THE inspection team, led by U Tin Aung, Commissioner of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, conducted an inspection visit to the Kyaikmaraw Central Prison in Kyaikmaraw Township, Mon State, from 18 to 19 March 2025, under Sections 43 and 44 of the Commission Law.

They inspected various facilities within the prison including dormitories, the prison hospital, the library, family visit areas, the place where basic reading and writing courses for illiterate prisoners are taught, the kitchen, food warehouse, water purifiers, and water sanitation systems of the Kyaikmaraw Central Prison.

During the inspection, the inspection team privately interviewed 31 prisoners who wanted to report freely and privately and the inspection team met the families who visited the prisoners.

They also enquired about and checked whether the prisoners accessed their fundamental rights, in-



Prisoners participate in physical activities in Kyaikmaraw prison.

cluding an appropriate food supply, access to healthcare, and provision of sufficient purified water. Furthermore, the team enquired whether the prisoners had received items issued by the prison and items sent by their families and whether they were permitted family visits. Additionally, the team evaluated the conditions of physical activities, the right to freedom of religion, access to education

and vocational training, and whether there were instances of human rights violations and torture by prison officials and fellow prisoners. MNHRC also donated knowledgeable books for the benefit of the prisoners.

The inspection team will send its findings and recommendations to the relevant department for necessary actions under the MNHRC law. — MNHRC

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

MRCSS and ICRC lead risk awareness training in Yangon

THE Myanmar Red Cross Society, in collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross, is conducting the Risk Awareness and Safer Behaviour Instructors' Course in Yangon Region from 17 to 21 March, according to the Myanmar Red Cross Society (Yangon Region).

The training course is being held at the Central Hotel in Pabedan Township, Yangon. At the opening ceremony, Professor Dr Myo Nyunt, President of the Myanmar Red Cross Society, and Mr Rory McCann, Weap-

on Contamination Coordinator from the International Committee of the Red Cross, delivered speeches.

Officials from the Myanmar Red Cross Society and the International Committee of the Red Cross, as well as staff members of the Myanmar Red Cross Society, attended the opening ceremony. — ASH/KNN

This image depicts the group photo at the opening ceremony of the Risk Awareness and Safer Behaviour Instructors' Course.

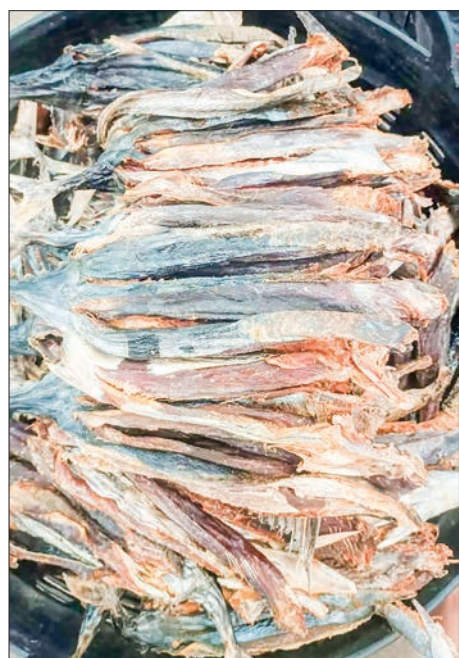


Dried Catla prices hold steady as trade thrives

AMONG Dawei's fishery products, dried Calta (Cyprinidae) which is meaty and cheap has been traded well.

"All Dawei's fishery products are marketable including Rohu and tuna. But, among them, Calta or Indian carpe is the best-seller because it is meaty fish and price is cheap. Its price has been steady at around K10,000 per viss. This year, Rohu trade has also increased," said an official from the Shwe Phyo Dawei-produced fishery products trading in Dawei Township.

In December last year, among dried saltwater fish, being a cheap product, Calta sale mounted as most-consumed item. According to dried fish traders from Dawei Township, dried anchovy and dried mudfish were mainly exported to the central Myanmar and Thailand. — Thit Taw/ZS



Dried Calta (Cyprinidae).

New TV series begins filming



The cast members of the 'Loon' movie.

A press show for Myanmar's new television series titled 'Loon' was held at the Rangoon Cineplex in the Kanthaya

Shopping Centre, North Okkalapa Township, on 21 November, according to actor Tha Nyi.

The storyline was created by Evren and Haymun Hein with Yi Mon Htet and Nyo Thway writing the script and Pyae Phyo Naing (PPN) directing the series for CANAL+ TV. The series will also be broadcast on CANAL+ TV starting from 24 March.

"This drama is an odd movie. The scenes have left me with a lot of memories. When I started filming again, it was the first drama with a large cast and numerous sequences. The narrative is excellent and the story is distinct and enigmatic. I was very careful. I remember U Kyaw (film star Kyaw Hein) doing detailed actions, especially in some scenes," remarked Tha Nyi.

The cast includes Aung Yae Chan, Tin Nay Thit Aye Aung, Tha Nyi, Lin La Pyae Htet, Lin Zarni Zaw, Academy Khin Moh Moh Aye, Tha Tha, Myat Thu Ko and others. — ASH/MKKS

Bamboo worms gain popularity as demand surges

AS there are more consumers, edible bamboo worms are selling well, according to the bamboo market.

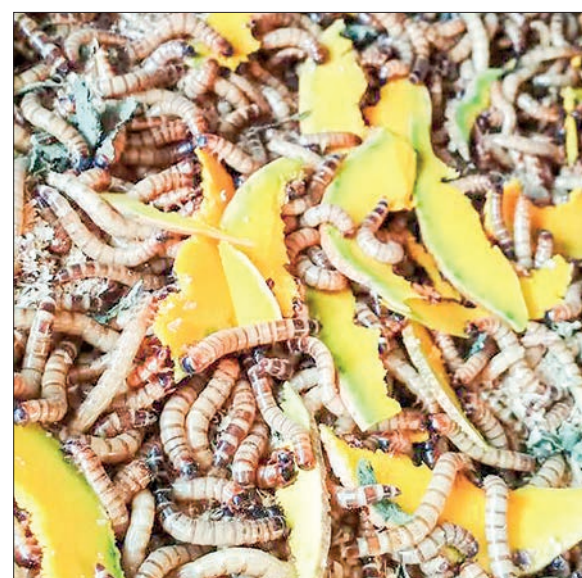
Bamboo worms are available all year round, and recently, most young people have enjoyed eating them.

"Bamboo worms are currently sold a lot in many places, including Chinatown and online. Consumers have increased. More young people have started eating it. The trade is brisk, but when crickets and other insects appear in season, its trade slows down a bit. Bamboo worms are available throughout the year," said a bamboo worm seller in Hlaing

Township.

Fried bamboo worms are very delicious and they are eaten not only by ethnic groups but also by most people in the plains, like fried crickets. Despite being available all year round, they are usually abundant at the end of the year. Rich in protein, they are in high demand in the market and sold widely in Yangon and Mandalay.

Bamboo worm-seeking jobs can be done by individuals, but there are some family businesses on small scales. Recently, there have been many people who breed bamboo worms and sell them in the market. — Thit Taw/ZN



This image displays bamboo worms that are selling actively in the market.

NATIONAL BUSINESS

Myanmar targets US\$33B in foreign trade for FY2024-2025



A bird's-eye view of the Yangon International Gateway Terminal on the Yangon River. **PHOTO: MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

MYANMAR'S foreign trade is expected to meet US\$33 billion in the current financial year 2024-2025 beginning 1 April. The external trade has amounted to over \$25.79 billion as of 12 March this FY, performing 78 per cent of the trade target so far, the vice-chair of the National Export Strategy Public-Private Export Promotion Committee said.

The committee held the 1/2025 meeting on 18 March 2025 at Office 3 of the Ministry of Commerce. The vice-chair addressed at the meeting that Myanmar's foreign trade has attained over 25.79 billion as of 12 March 2025, reaching a target of 78 per cent.

The end of the current 2024-2025 financial year is approaching so close. Therefore, he asked the related governmental and non-governmental institutions and exporters to coordinate matters to boost

exports to double.

The chair of the committee emphasized quick-win procedures while implementing a sectoral plan of action. He also highlighted the need to govern budget planning. After the 2020-2025 National Export Strategy period, he asked officials concerned to conduct plans to be adapted to current situations and amend projects for the next five-year National Export Strategy (2026-2030). Afterwards, committee members, representatives from private organizations and chairpersons of the respective committees discussed performances, plans of the various sectors, and public-private partnership plans for export promotion. Union Minister 3 at the State Administration Council Chairman's Office coordinated matters upon discussion. — NN/KK

CBM sells US\$33M on 18 Mar



The facade view of the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) in Nay Pyi Taw.

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold US\$33 million on 18 March after it announced on 17 March to inject them into the fuel oil sector.

CBM sold \$33.5 million and over 156 million baht on 11 March after it announced on 10 March to inject them into the fuel oil sector.

CBM pumped \$197,032.72 on 10 March, \$335,000 and 1.98 million baht on 7 March, and over \$130,000 on 6 March into the financial market. CBM announced on 5 March that it would sell 50 million baht to importers soon. Later, it sold over eight million baht on that day.

CBM announced 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

CBM injects US\$2.2M daily into edible oil and commodity imports

CENTRAL Bank of Myanmar announced on 17 March that it daily pumps US\$2.2 million into edible oil and other commodity import sectors.

Those hard currencies are from foreign currencies generated by CMP businesses.

The domestic palm oil consumption is estimated at one million tonnes per year. The local palm oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. About 700,000 tonnes of palm oil are yearly imported through Malaysia and Indonesia to meet domestic demands. CBM's dollar injection into the import sector cut down edible oil prices in the domestic market.

According to the Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution, the wholesale reference rate of palm oil set for the Yangon market dipped to K6,875 per viss for a week ending 23 March.

The Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has



File photo shows edible oil bottles displayed at the 32nd annual general meeting of the Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association at the UMFCCI office in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: THITSA(MNA)**

been closely observing the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia, adding transport costs, tariffs and banking services to decide the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil weekly.

Despite the reference price, the market price is way too high.

The committee notified that any person who is involved in price gouging and oil storage to attempt market manipulation will face legal action under the Essential Goods and Services Law.

The department is collaborating with the Myanmar Oil Dealers' Association and the cooking oil importing companies to offer imported palm oil at affordable rates for consumers.

The complaints for overcharging can be lodged over hotline 1,535 of the call centre of the Consumers Affairs Department or sent to the Facebook page of the department and the region and state departments concerned. — NN/KK

Ailing Nissan announces top executive positions to be cut by 20%

NISSAN Motor Co said Wednesday it will simplify its top management structure and cut positions by 20 per cent for efficient decision-making as part of its turnaround efforts. The changes, to be introduced on 1 April when its new CEO Ivan Espinosa will take over, will create “a streamlined and borderless organization,” the Japanese automaker said in a press release. Nissan said earlier this month it will replace

CEO Makoto Uchida with Chief Planning Officer Espinosa, as the ailing automaker seeks to revive its business under new leadership after the collapse of merger talks with Honda Motor Co.

The automaker has seen its profit plummet more than 90 per cent in the nine months through December due to sluggish sales in its major markets, the United States and China. — Kyodo

Apple loses German appeal, paving way for strict control

APPLE lost an appeal on Tuesday as Germany’s top court sided with competition regulators, opening the door for the US tech giant to face stricter controls in the country.

The Federal Court of Justice ruled that the regulator, the Federal Cartel Office, was correct when it decided in 2023 that Apple should be considered of “paramount significance for competition across markets”.

The classification opens a company operating in Germany up to closer surveillance for possible abuse of its market position, and has also been applied to Amazon, Microsoft and Google parent Alphabet. — AFP

BMW Group India named Luxury Mobility partner at VIP Terminal, Bengaluru International Airport

Vikram Pawah, President and CEO of BMW Group India, emphasized the company’s commitment to sustainable mobility, innovation, luxury, and responsibility.

VIP guests to be ushered in the first-ever BMW i7 and the all-electric MINI Countryman at Kempegowda International Airport. The first-ever BMW i7 and the all-electric MINI Countryman are now official choice for all VIP movements at VIP Terminal, Kempegowda International Airport – Bengaluru. The flagship BMW and MINI cars will now be used by all dignitaries, leading businesspeople and eminent personalities transiting through the VIP Terminal of Bengaluru International Airport.

Vikram Pawah, President and CEO, BMW Group India, said, “At BMW Group India, we are committed to shaping



These vehicles will be used by dignitaries, leading businessmen, and eminent personalities transiting through the VIP Terminal of Bengaluru International Airport. PHOTO: ANI

the future of sustainable mobility with innovation, luxury, and responsibility. The first-ever BMW i7 and the all-electric MINI Countryman, now the official choice for VIP movements at Kempe-

gowda International Airport’s VIP Terminal, redefine premium travel with their unmatched elegance and zero-emission performance. As dignitaries, business leaders, and eminent

personalities transit through Bengaluru, they will experience the epitome of electric luxury and cutting-edge technology, setting new benchmarks for responsible mobility in India.” — ANI

French billionaire Bollore targeted in fraud case over Africa ports



French tycoon Vincent Bollore has been accused of illegally obtaining then benefitting from port concessions in Africa. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

GROUPS from five African countries filed fraud and corruption complaints Wednesday accusing French billionaire Vincent Bollore and one of his sons of illegally obtaining and benefitting

from port concessions.

Bollore Group’s African ports and logistics business, which the tycoon sold off in 2022, employed more than 20,000 people in 20 African countries, running 16 ports as

well as warehouses and transport hubs across the continent.

Cyrille Bollore, his youngest son, became head of Bollore Africa Logistics in 2019, taking over from his father.

A collective made up of non-governmental organisations in Togo, Guinea, Ghana, Ivory Coast and Cameroon called “Restitution for Africa” are accusing the Bollore Group, Bollore and his son of unlawfully receiving favours to run ports then “laundering” money in those countries through the sale of its Africa logistics business. — AFP

Notice for change of distributor

Notice is hereby given that the official distributor – **Nawarat Myay Co.,Ltd.** to **Shwe Khit Myay Co.,Ltd.** has been changed for the following pesticide manufacture by **Apex Agrochem Pte.,Ltd.**

Nawarat Myay Co.,Ltd. invites objections to Co-secretary, Pesticide Registration Borad, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein township, Yangon from all parties within a period of fourteen (14) days from the publication of this notice. If no objections are received within the period prescribed, parties mentioned above shall proceed with the completion of formalities recorded with the Pesticide Registration Board.

| No | Brand Name | Active Ingredients | Registration No |
|----|------------|---|-----------------|
| 1 | Action | Difenoconazole 15% + Propiconazole 15% EC | P2024-6431 |
| 2 | Consis | Cypermethrin 4% + Profenofos 40% EC | P2024-6386 |
| 3 | Trojan | Pymetrozine 25% SC | P2024-6294 |
| 4 | Cozy | Copper hydrohide 77% WP | P2024-6535 |
| 5 | Maxis | Cymoxanil 8% + Mancozeb 64% WP | P2024-6536 |
| 6 | Kanter | Bensulfuron methyl 10% + Bispyribac sodium 40% WP | P2024-6496 |

Nawarat Myay Co.,Ltd. Room (609), Myaing Hay Won Condo, Tower-B, 8 mile, Mayangone Township, Yangon, Myanmar. 09-404771266

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

US releases final trove of secret Kennedy assassination files

While millions of pages of documents have been released over the years, thousands had been withheld at the request of the CIA and FBI due to national security concerns.

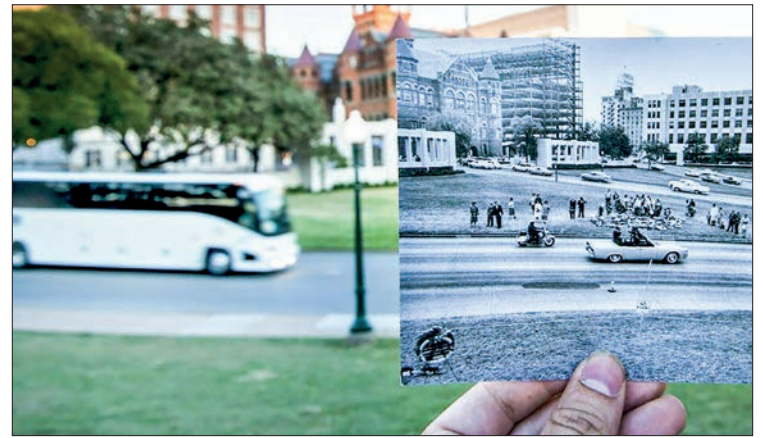
THE US National Archives on Tuesday released the final batch of files related to the assassination of president John F. Kennedy — a case that still fuels conspiracy theories more than 60 years after his death.

The move follows an executive order issued by President Donald Trump in January directing the unredacted release of the remaining files related to

the assassinations of Kennedy, his brother, former attorney-general Robert F. Kennedy, and civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

“In accordance with President Donald Trump’s directive... all records previously withheld for classification that are part of the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection are released,” the Archives

said in a statement on its website Tuesday evening. The National Archives has released millions of pages of records over the past decades relating to the assassination of then-president Kennedy in November 1963, but thousands of documents had been held back at the request of the Central Intelligence Agency and Federal Bureau of Investigation, citing national security concerns. — AFP



A historic photo from the Dallas Municipal Archives that shows investigators reconstructing the assassination of John F. Kennedy near where he received a fatal rifle shot to the head is displayed near its original location near Dealey Plaza in Dallas, Texas, 7 October 2013. PHOTO: BRENDAN SMIALOWSKI / AFP

Japan offers 380 mln yen aid to lay subsea cable to Micronesia

JAPAN pledged Tuesday to provide 380 million yen (\$2.5 million) to Micronesia for undersea cable installation, aiming to strengthen communications security in the strategically important Pacific region.

Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba and his Micronesian counterpart, Wesley

Simina, also agreed at their talks in Tokyo to cooperate to realize a “free and open Indo-Pacific” and to tackle climate change, the Japanese government said.

Japan, along with the United States and Australia, has been working on projects to connect Pacific island nations

with submarine cables.

Ishiba also thanked Simina for his trust in Japan’s measures to discharge treated radioactive wastewater from the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant into the Pacific, which began in August 2023, the government said. — Kyodo

Hungary passes bill against annual Budapest Pride march

HUNGARIAN lawmakers passed a bill on Tuesday aimed at banning Budapest’s annual Pride march, the latest in a series of measures under Prime Minister Viktor Orban’s govern-

ment, which critics say curtail the rights of the EU country’s LGBTQ community.

Orban’s government has repeatedly criticized LGBTQ people and has gradually been

rolling back on their rights in the name of “child protection” in recent years.

“We won’t let woke ideology endanger our kids,” the nationalist leader wrote on X.

Thousands of people chanting “We are not afraid!” rallied in central Budapest on Tuesday night to protest against the vote, which marks the latest setback to LGBTQ rights around the world. Protesters also blocked access to a bridge in the capital.

Engineer Laszlo Donat, 40, told AFP that he joined the rally because “we’ve had enough in Hungary”, adding that it was time to “restore democracy” by “replacing this... corrupt, gangster, mafia system”. — AFP



Opposition politicians disrupted voting on the bill by lighting flares. PHOTO: AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Trump hails return of Crew-9 astronauts, thanks Elon Musk

THE White House on Tuesday (local time) highlighted how US President Donald Trump prioritized the return of stranded NASA Crew-9 astronauts Sunita Williams, Nick Hague, Butch Wilmore, and Russian cosmonaut Aleksandr Gorbunov.

The White House stated that the astronauts safely returned in the Gulf of America, crediting Elon Musk for their safe return.

PROMISE MADE, PROMISE KEPT: President Trump pledged to rescue the astronauts stranded in space for nine months.

Elon Musk congratulated the NASA and SpaceX teams on their successful return and thanked Trump for prioritizing the mission.

“Congratulations to the SpaceX and NASA teams for another safe astronaut return! Thank you to Donald Trump for prioritizing this mission!” Earlier in the day, NASA Crew-9 astronauts breathed earthly air for the first time in over nine months following the successful splashdown of SpaceX’s Dragon capsule. The astronauts disembarked the capsule on stretchers, as is customary, CNN reported. This precaution is taken by SpaceX for all astronauts returning from long-duration space missions. — ANI

Kazakhstan establishes Nuclear Energy Agency to strengthen nuclear safety

KAZAKH President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev signed a decree on Tuesday to establish the Republican Atomic Energy Agency under the President’s office and appointed Almasadam Satkaliyev as its Chair.

The agency will oversee the country’s nuclear industry and work to strengthen nuclear safety, according to the decree.

The newly established agency will take on essential responsibilities previously handled by the Energy Ministry, including uranium mining, the use of atomic energy, radiation safety, and the nuclear safety zone at the former Semipalatinsk test site. According to the presidential decree, the agency “will develop proposals for its structure and staffing, with the government supporting the redistribution of personnel from the Ministry of Energy.” — Xinhua

SPORTS

Myanmar and Hong Kong draw in U22 friendly

MYANMAR'S U22 team and Hong Kong's U22 team played to a 0-0 draw in their first friendly match on 19 March at the Thuwunna Youth Training Centre in Yangon.

The match marked the Myanmar U22 team's first international friendly under new coach Kurosaki, with many new players featuring in the squad. While the two sides were evenly matched in terms of physicality, Myanmar struggled with team

coordination and lacked precision in attack. Despite several chances, including a missed opportunity off the crossbar, Hong Kong also failed to score.

Both teams made substitutions in the second half, but neither could break the deadlock. The Myanmar U22 team will face Hong Kong again at 4 pm on 22 March at Thuwunna Training Field 1 in a closed-door training match. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



The Myanmar U22 team attempts to score against Hong Kong U22. **PHOTO: SOE NYUNT THAW.**

MFF Women's Futsal League 2025 kicks off in late Apr



The MFF Women's Futsal Champion team celebrating victory.

THE Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee is planning to organize the MFF Women's Futsal League 2025 in the last week of April.

The tournament aims to

strengthen women's futsal in Myanmar and enhance the national team's performance in upcoming Southeast Asian competitions.

A total of 10 teams will participate in the league, com-

peting in a double round-robin format. The Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee will provide financial support to participating teams, and interested clubs can contact the committee for registration. — ASH/KZL

Son says fit and firing as South Korea close on World Cup spot

SON Heung-min dismissed concerns about his form and fitness on Wednesday as he looks to forget his Tottenham woes by firing South Korea to the World Cup.

The 32-year-old attacker has struggled for both during a difficult season with a Spurs team under Ange Postecoglou who are 14th in the Premier League. Previously one of the first names on the Tottenham teamsheet, Son had a hamstring problem late last year and has come under pressure from fans of the London club for his displays.

The Spurs skipper has scored only seven Premier League goals this season and not played the full 90 minutes in the last five league matches.

Speaking to reporters on the eve of a home World Cup qualifier against Oman, South Korea's captain admitted to some "difficult and challenging" moments with Tottenham.

But he added: "My physical condition is perfectly fine."

Son said that playing in front of the South Korean fans for the first time this year would be extra motivation. — AFP

Heavyweight trio eye history in race to succeed Olympics chief Bach



The seven candidates to succeed International Olympic Committee president Thomas Bach are nearing the end of the campaign to become the most powerful person in sports governance. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE race to succeed Thomas Bach as president of the International Olympic Committee reaches a climax on Thursday with Juan Antonio Samaranch Junior, Sebastian Coe and Kirsty Coventry believed to be neck and neck but clear of the remaining quartet.

Any of those three would be an his-

toric winner in the election in Costa Navarino, Greece.

Samaranch would emulate his father of the same name and become the first father and son to be crowned president, World Athletics president Coe would be the first Briton and Zimbabwean Coventry the youngest at 41, and both

the first woman and African.

Nevertheless surprises from the electorate of 100-plus IOC members cannot be ruled out in the battle to become the most powerful figure in sports governance.

Ski federation chief and renowned environmentalist Johan Eliasch, Mori-nari Watanabe, president of the international gymnastics federation, cycling head David Lappartient and Prince Feisal al-Hussein make up the heavyweight field.

The vote takes place behind closed doors and just as in the award-winning film "Conclave" about cardinals choosing a new pope, all the IOC members will be obliged to leave their phones outside the room.

Just off the exclusive resort is the site of the 1827 naval battle in the Greek War of Independence which resulted in a heavy defeat for the Ottoman Empire.

While this battle will be bloodless it has got dirtier with the three main candidates targeted in the past week as the contest enters the decisive stage. — AFP



CUTS IN THREE WAYS

Pentagon to cut up to 60,000 civilian jobs

THE US Defence Department plans to cut 50,000 to 60,000 civilian jobs through firings, resignations and a hiring freeze in the coming months, local media reported on Tuesday.

Intending to cut five to eight per cent of the Defence Department's civilian workforce of roughly 900,000, Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth aims to slash roughly 6,000 positions a month by not refilling roles as employees quit, ABC News reported, citing a senior defence official.

The Pentagon is going about the cuts in three ways: voluntary resignations, firing probationary workers and weeding out positions by not replacing employees who routinely leave, said the report.

The move is part of a larger effort by US President Donald Trump's administration to cut the federal workforce.

The majority of the Pentagon's workforce reduction effort is voluntary so far. However, the department sought to cut some 5,400 probationary civilian workers last month, which has been put on hold due to legal challenges, said the report, adding that Hegseth is confident the cuts can be done without harming military readiness. — Xinhua



US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin agreed during a phone call that peace in Ukraine "will begin with an energy and infrastructure ceasefire."

PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ AFP/FILE

Trump, Putin agree "energy and infrastructure ceasefire" in Ukraine

Ukraine's response to the proposed ceasefire remains uncertain, although Kyiv has indicated its willingness to accept a 30-day truce suggested by Trump.

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin agreed in a phone call on Tuesday that the peace in Ukraine "will begin with an energy and infrastructure ceasefire."

Meanwhile, they agreed to "immediately" launch technical negotiations on the implementation of a maritime ceasefire in the Black Sea, as well as on

the full ceasefire and permanent peace in Ukraine, the White House said in a statement.

"These negotiations will begin immediately in the Middle East," said the statement, noting the two leaders agreed that the three-year Ukraine conflict needs to end with a lasting peace.

The two leaders stressed the need for improved US-Russia relations, said

the statement. Further details are not immediately available, but US media outlets, citing Russian sources, said they spoke in favour of normalizing relations between the two countries. It is not immediately clear the response of Ukraine to the limited and phrased ceasefire plan. Kiev has said it is ready to accept the 30-day truce proposed by Trump. — Xinhua

ASEAN takes step towards sustainable agriculture



ASEAN is a major producer and exporter of palm oil, crude rubber, rice, sugar, seafood, and fruits. PHOTO: ADB/FILE

THE Lao government, together with representatives from countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and development partners, officially launched the ASEAN Policy Guidelines on Agroecological Transition, marking a significant step towards strengthening sustainable and resilient food systems in the region.

According to a report from the Lao Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry on Wednesday, the guidelines were launched during a meeting on implementing the Policy Guidelines on Agroecology Transition and linking to green finance, held in Lao capital Vientiane from Monday to Tuesday.

The launch marks a significant milestone in promoting agroecology across ASEAN, paving the way for a more sustainable agricultural future.

The meeting also brought together policymakers, private sector leaders, and development partners to discuss actionable steps for implementing agroecology in the region, reinforcing ASEAN's commitment to sustainable agriculture.

Discussions focused on the importance of multi-stakeholder engagement and green investments to support farmers in adopting sustainable practices, further highlighting ASEAN's dedication to a resilient, sustainable agricultural future. — Xinhua