

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses the opening ceremony of the Challenges and Opportunities Myanmar Will Have in the Multipolar World Beyond 2025.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing noted that it is necessary to emphasize more flexible and good adaptation in the age of a multipolar world to be able to conduct diplomatic relations through the use of practical approaches.

The opening ceremony of the Challenges and the Opportunities Myanmar Will Have in the Multipolar World Beyond 2025 took place at the Myanmar International Convention Centre I in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning, with an address by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

Foreign experts were introduced individually. The forum was opened with the song and dance of artistes from the Fine

Internal stability key amid rapid shifts in multipolar world

It is imperative to fight fake news, develop the art of propagating via media and counter efforts to exert foreign influence.

ed by only one superpower but now the pattern has been shifted from solitary dominance to collective leadership of many nations and blocs. This is what we now know as the multipolar world order. Nations such as China, India and Russia and a bloc like the European Union have developed by leaps and bounds and they are challenging the domination of the world by the superpowers.

Nowadays, the power is diverging to many nations and certain regional blocs, thereby striking a proper balance between and among the nations, depriving the world of power imbalance. At the same time, the influential nations are bent more on struggling to exert influence than on resolution of the international issues.

Under the multipolar world order, nations will be required to adapt themselves to suit the new geopolitical and geoeconomic conditions. To be able to fit into the transformational process comfortably and conveniently, the nations are required to make preparations and formulate the proper strategy.

Arts Department. Attendees watched a video clip on Myanmar and new landscapes in 2025.

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General said: The world has undergone a paradigm shift to a multipolar world order. Just as we are witnessing the changes in the patterns by which the superpowers exert their influence on international relations, we are also beholding the increasingly important role of the regional blocs. In other words, the paradigm has been shifted from globalization to regionalization.

Previously, the world was dominat-

Salient points from the speech delivered by the Senior General at the forum opening

1. Nations such as China, India and Russia and a bloc like the European Union have developed by leaps and bounds and they are challenging the domination of the world by the superpowers.
2. Only when stability and peace are maintained will foreign investments flow into the country.
3. The legitimate demands of ethnic groups are addressed under the law.
4. The armed conflict remains like an inextinguishable fire, not due to internal affairs alone but because of foreign encouragement and interference.

NATIONAL

Youth Education: Essential for Personal and National Growth

IF youths lack educational knowledge, they cannot develop themselves, their families, society, the nation and nationals.

Therefore, in the basic education sector, it is crucial to ensure all youths and school-age children attend and complete their education.

(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 in 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.



မဲခေါင်-လန်ချန်း ပူးပေါင်းဆောင်ရွက်မှု (၉) နှစ်မြောက် နှစ်ပတ်လည်နေ့

9th Anniversary of Mekong-Lancang Cooperation

(၂၀၂၅ ခုနှစ်၊ မတ်လ ၂၃ ရက်)
23rd March 2025

Mekong-Lancang Cooperation National Coordination Unit (Myanmar)
Ministry of Foreign Affairs



This image captures live entertainment performances underway at the Mann Shwesettaw Pagoda Festival.

Artistes to perform at Mann Shwesettaw Festival

ARTISTES will perform Myanmar traditional music and contemporary pop music over two consecutive nights at the Mann Shwesettaw Pagoda Festival.

The festival, which is held from 2 February to 17 April this year in Minbu Township, Magway Region, is currently underway and will last for 75

days. Starting from 23 March, artistes will perform on an elevated stage near the special bridge of the Mann Shwe Settaw Pagoda. These performances will take place on 23 and 24 March, starting at 7 pm and will continue for two consecutive nights.

Artistes such as actors Min Sit Aung, Zwe Sit Aung,

Zwe Ar Dan, Ye Htun, Phu Wai Tha, Myat Noe San, singer Thanta Moe Theint, KB Nay Myo Lin, DJ John and others will provide entertainment with a mix of Myanmar's traditional and contemporary pop music. These performances are free for everyone. — Region/IPRD/KZL

Inlay fall draws summer visitors

INLAY fall in Nyaungshwe, a popular summer destination, is attracting a lot of visitors from Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw, said Ko Jimmy from the Kalaw Car Rental & Photo Free Service.

The route to the waterfall from Kalaw is about three or four furlongs from the arrow shown on the road from the Bawasan-sara Bridge to the Khaung Taing hot spring.

“As this is a new destination near Kalaw, many people are interested to visit. People from Yangon, Mandalay, and Nay Pyi Taw came. Yangon tops among them. It is a mountain waterfall. Sometimes, you can see groups of monkeys. To reach the waterfall, you have to walk for five to ten minutes and climb up. The bottom is a small stream, which is convenient for bathing. Now, people come to the fall to escape the heat. It is more beautiful during the rainy season, and it is now still beautiful, as the water has not decreased much.” he said.

Near the waterfall, there is a natural forest, a suspension bridge, bamboo bridges for taking photos and small huts to relax. The parking fee in the fall is K1,000 and the entrance fee is K1,000 per person.

The waterfall was opened last year and has become more popular this year due to social media posts, attracting more visitors to escape the heat. — MT/ZN



This image captures scenic views of the Inlay fall. PHOTO: JIMMY

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)

FROM PAGE 1

In the first place, the strategic autonomy is needed. It is essential for the nations to avoid depending too much upon an individual superpower, extending the relations with the friend nations. Then only, decision-making will be flexible and the unnecessary pressures can be resisted with the synergic forces of the friends. The term friends refers not only to the nations but also to the regional blocs.

In extending relations with friends, it is essential to formulate arrangements that will develop sustainably. The ties shall be further strengthened in economic, security and technological fields. Concerning economic relations in particular, we all need to adapt ourselves to suit the changing situations in the new world order.

Plus, we must reduce overdependence on one market only. It is necessary to extend the trade relations to diversified regions. To be able to mitigate the losses that can arise from the global disruption, the regional economic integration is indispensable. Participation is imperative to strengthen the regional supply chains. To ensure the safety of the national interests, emphasis is to be laid upon investments in such major sectors as food, energy and technology.

And what is more, technology and digital sovereignty are also the two sectors which are worth investing in. Technology has become a fundamental sector in the competition of the multipolar world order. Such particular technologies as Artificial Intelligence (AI), semiconductors and cybersecurity are the determining technologies. This being so, it is indispensable to keep strategic technological partners to cooperate in such sectors as artificial intelligence and the digital economy.

We ought to be more flexible and good at adaptation in the age of a multipolar world to be able to conduct diplomatic relations through the use of practical approaches.

Another sector which is worth considering seriously is energy and resource security. Exploration and exploitation of energy, water and rare metals have become vitally important to sustainable stability. We must therefore make investments in renewable energy, nuclear and

Internal stability key amid rapid shifts in multipolar world



SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing views the documentary photos exhibited at yesterday's event.

other energy sectors. Arrangements are to be made to ensure a sufficient supply of rare metals and food security which can be disrupted by geopolitical causes.

Concerning the sociocultural sector, internal stability has become important as the power dynamic is shifting fast in the age of a multipolar world. It is imperative to fight fake news, develop the art of propagating via media and counter efforts to exert foreign influence. With the swift changes in the global economy, we have to invest in human resources to go along with the tide to survive. I would like to point out that the workforce needs to be properly educated and trained.

This forum will involve discussions and suggestions by seasoned experts from China, India, Russia, Thailand, Nepal, Japan and Italy, and so, this forum will contribute a lot towards turning Myanmar into a modern, developed nation beyond

2025. Your experts are expected to provide guidance, ways of showing and strategies for Myanmar.

And the international experts will witness the real situation while in Myanmar. I hope you will witness the true image of our country which is totally different from the distorted images through the use of fake and false news and views.

The Senior General expressed his recognition and appreciation to the Ministry of Information and the "Myanmar Narrative Think Tank" for their timely efforts in organizing this important discussion.

He said he wished for Myanmar to be connected with the international community while accurately representing its true image and fostering stronger friendships and mutual understanding.

The Senior General continued his discussions, saying that Myanmar and its neighbouring countries have a popu-

lation of nearly four billion, accounting for approximately 50 per cent of the world's population. This presents a strong market for exporting the country's goods. Therefore, it is essential to effectively utilize the available resources within the country and strive to maximize their inherent value.

The armed conflict remains like an inextinguishable fire, not due to internal affairs alone but because of foreign encouragement and interference. As a result, Myanmar, despite having many opportunities, has lagged in development. These challenges can be transformed into opportunities and advantages, which ultimately contribute to fostering a love for our country, nurturing the Myanmar spirit, and building unity and strength. Without unity, no economic system can succeed, and no political system can firmly lead the nation.

SEE PAGE 4

NATIONAL

Internal stability key amid rapid ...

FROM PAGE 3

Only when stability and peace are maintained will foreign investments flow into the country. It is necessary to provide guarantees for investment activities. This, in turn, will lead to the growth of the country's GDP and the overall development of the economy. He said he is striving to continue advancing a multiparty democratic system that aligns with the will of the people and the country's foundations. Moreover, the legitimate demands of eth-

nic groups are addressed in accordance with the law.

The Senior General presented medals to mark the forum to foreign experts and scholars.

Experts in geopolitics and geoeconomics from China, Russia, India, Japan, Thailand, Italy, and Nepal, along with local experts, participated in discussions on three topics "The Role of Myanmar and Asia in a Changing Geopolitical World", "Goeconomic Challenges and Promising

Opportunities Myanmar will face beyond 2025", and "Geopolitical Challenges and Promising Opportunities for Myanmar Beyond 2025".

The opening ceremony of the forum was also attended by Council Joint Secretary General Ye Win Oo, council members, Union ministers, union-level dignitaries, Ambassadors of foreign embassies to Myanmar and officials, the Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of

the Commander-in-Chief and deputy ministers.

The discussion forum was reportedly held to inform the world about Myanmar's actual situation amid political transitions, fostering understanding and cooperation with Myanmar through empathy, countering false accusations to enhance the country's image and preparing for the challenges and opportunities that may arise in the evolving multipolar world beyond 2025. — MNA/TTA

Myanmar hosts Forum on Challenges and Opportunities in Multipolar World

Forum on Myanmar Beyond 2025: Challenges and Opportunities in the Multipolar World took place at MICC I in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn first mentioned that the world has gone through various political systems and ideologies, while the weaker nations have had to walk the path paved by the stronger ones. Looking back at the world orders, they are a bipolar world order and a unipolar world order. Now, the world has reached a turning point, and it has entered a time of operating within a multipolar world order.

That paradigm shift is reflected in the emergence of BRICS, which is composed of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. And if one casts a glance at the objectives of this group called BRICS, one will see that they are directing their efforts towards building up the multipolar world order.

The provisions enshrined in the charter of BRICS require having respect for and abiding by the provisions incorporated in the United Nations Charter, non-interference in each other's internal affairs and having respect for the national sovereignty of the members of this bloc.

Global governance calls for unifying the diversified attitudes, seeking ways to deprive the world of the deep-rooted hegemony as well as to find resolutions as to how to overcome the challenges of terrorism, cybercrimes and weather-related crises.

He also added that according to the law of impermanence, the unipolar world order has come to an end only to be replaced with the multipolar world order; unable to resist the law of replacement of the old things by the new ones. If one cannot cope with the changes, one will be bound to fade out and disappear over



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn speaks on the occasion of the Forum on Myanmar Beyond 2025 held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

time. This being so, small, developing nations like Myanmar are needed to move along with the global current, struggling hard to be able to change. Efforts are required to be exerted to adapt to the rules of the multipolar world order which has replaced the unipolar world order. Smaller nations like Myanmar have no choice in the unipolar order. However, the multipolar order has provided greater choices and led to a better change.

Professor Mr Zhang Weiwei of the University of Fudan, China Academy, said in a multipolar world, economic sanctions, missile weapon ownership and discriminatory practices are not established as standard norms, and it is the opposite of a unilateral policy. The multipolar world is beginning to emerge with the growing development of China, Russia, and organizations such as the BRICS and the ASEAN. Since the 1980s, China has been achieving technological advancements, and at present, it is leading the fourth

industrial revolution with advancements in artificial intelligence technology, such as DeepSeek.

The country also holds the motto "unite and prosper" rather than the "divide and rule" approach practised by the Western countries. China has been embracing this motto while implementing the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which was launched 12 years ago. Currently, over 150 countries are actively engaged in thousands of projects related to the BRI.

Therefore, the BRI has become a strong platform for international cooperation in human history. If the United States continues to hold the "America First" policy, it will not yield positive outcomes – not only for the rest of the world countries but even for the US itself. President Donald Trump is currently trying to practise this policy.

Former Prime Minister of Nepal Mr Madhav Kumar Nepal said the emergence of middle-power nations and non-Western

allied countries has led some scholars to describe this as the rise of an unequal multipolar world. Some experts highlight how economic power blocs like BRICS are increasingly expanding their influence over regional countries. Additionally, smaller nations strive to assert their sovereignty on the global stage, supposing to pave the way for a multipolar world order.

As China and the US have become rival nations in technology and trade, the European Union, India, and other emerging economies are experiencing their growing influence. This has created reasons for the world to move towards a multipolar order — not only in diplomacy but also in trade and technology. This shift is particularly evident in Asia, where the continent is no longer merely a passive player but has begun taking a central role in global power dynamics. Meanwhile, countries like Nepal and Myanmar are positioned between powerful neighbouring nations. **SEE PAGE 5**

NATIONAL

Myanmar hosts Forum on Challenges and Opportunities in Multipolar World

FROM PAGE 4

He continued that Nepal, the birthplace of Gautama Buddha, continues to contribute to global diplomacy through soft power. Among the nations situated between India and China, Nepal is considered a geopolitical buffer state. Meanwhile, in Southeast Asia, Myanmar holds a strategically significant position with a balanced level of geopolitical influence. Myanmar's geostrategic importance cannot be underestimated, and its stance plays a crucial role in shaping the evolving security and economic landscape of Southeast Asia.

Next, Senior Researcher of Indian Vivekananda International Foundation (VIF) Mr Vinod Kumar Anand said from an Indian perspective, Myanmar is a strategically important country that is a resource-rich nation, and which provides land connectivity to mainland Southeast Asia enabling India to realize objectives and missions of its Act East Policy. India has also supported many other development programmes in Myanmar including the Border Area Development Programme, the establishment of IIT, the Industrial Training Centre, provision of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. Myanmar's efforts in its march towards democracy have also created positive resonance amongst the Western nations and the US.

He continued that Myanmar's decision to hold elections in December 2025 or January 2026 is a welcome step and needs to be appreciated. Joining the mainstream of the evolving multipolar world order would enable Myanmar to exploit the opportunities being presented in this new era in the most diverse and useful ways for its socioeconomic development, growth and betterment of its people.

Similarly, former Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand Mr Sihasak Phuanketkeow said building peace for both the present and future generations is a genuine and enduring process. Peace must also constantly be nurtured. Geopolitical contestations continue to intensify and have added new dimensions of geoeconomic and geotechnology competitions. Globalization has faced a severe backlash with the breakdown of multilateralism — multilateral rules and institutions that have underpinned international cooperation. At the same time, all have witnessed the rise of unilateralism, extreme nationalism, and populism that have propelled nations to turn inward.

The assumption to office of the new US administration has shaken the very core of the rule-based international order.

Unfortunately, these developments come at a time when we need more multilateralism and internationalism to meet the pressing global challenges ranging from climate change, pandemics and migration.

Last but not least, the latest advances in technology, especially digital and AI, have opened up new frontiers of knowledge and economic progress at a pace and scale never witnessed before.

On the other hand, these very same technologies can also be employed in ways that can cause harm and destruction at a level all could never have imagined.

It is clear that the world order as conceived after WW II, the so-called liberal world order is giving way to an emerging



Photos highlight local and international experts and contributors presenting their discussion points at the forum.

new order marked by multipolarity.

New poles of global and regional power have risen challenging the dominance of the established powers. These new and emerging powers seek a greater say in the making of global rules and the way decisions are made in multilateral institutions.

No nation can achieve absolute security on its own. Unilateralism will certainly not resolve the pressing and multifaceted threats that we face to peace and security, which can only be addressed through multilateral solutions and collective efforts. Simply put, all are in the same boat together, navigating the oncoming storms and turbulence. All need to forge stronger partnerships and work collectively as a truly global community. Moreover, all need leadership and leaders sharing the same visions and aspirations. By thinking and acting in unison, we can meet our common challenges and seize the opportunities for sustained peace and greater prosperity for all.

Russian Professor Alexander Dugin made a speech online, saying all are witnessing the potential division of western-polar. Greenland, Canada and the US are claiming that they are independent

polar and representing the US polar and the EU. President Donald Trump stated that it is possible to create a polar like the EU. The civilizational state is an EU Civilization, unlike the North American Civilization.

Russia, China, India, and other powerful countries lead a multipolar global perspective, which may differ slightly from the worldview seen by the Americans. What is crucial is whether America will continue to thrive or face destruction. This matter represents a choice for Western dominance.

All should accept the emergence of a multipolar world as a fact. All are living in this multipolar world. It can be confidently stated that the unipolar world has come



initiatives that benefit all citizens of Myanmar.

The success of this forum depends on the collective efforts to engage in meaningful, solution-oriented conversations. All should seize this opportunity to chart a path forward that honours Myanmar's rich heritage while embracing innovation and progress. Together, all can lay the groundwork for a future that is not only prosperous but also inclusive and resilient.

Then, the forum discussed three main topics — “The Role of Myanmar and Asia in a Changing Geopolitical World”, “Geoeconomic Challenges and Promising Opportunities Myanmar Will Face Beyond 2025”, and “Geopolitical Chal-



to an end. The global agenda, which once dominated as the main direction for the world, no longer exists. All welcome the rise of a multipolar world.

He continued that what I would like to emphasize is the importance of Myanmar, a country where Buddhism and its culture have flourished. Myanmar, as a powerful country in the region, should consider its own distinctive identity and cultural symbols. There is also a balance to be maintained between China and India. The creation and preservation of its domain is crucial. This will not only open doors to opportunities but also strengthen its political authority.

Afterwards, Myanmar Narrative Think Tank Chairman U Ko Ko said the forum is not just a platform for dialogue but a stepping stone towards tangible progress. All should focus on creating a shared vision that prioritizes inclusivity, sustainability, and resilience. By fostering mutual understanding and cooperation among all stakeholders- government, private sector, civil society, and international partners- we can build a foundation for long-term growth and stability. Active participation and commitment to these discussions will help shape policies and

lenges and Promising Opportunities for Myanmar Beyond 2025”, by the experts in geoeconomics and geopolitics from China, Russia, India, Japan, Thailand, Italy and Nepal including local experts and international observers.

After the discussion of different topics, the attendees, international observers, people from political parties, local political researchers, those interested in Myanmar's political affairs experts in geoeconomics and geopolitics, and local experts raised the questions.

The Union minister concluded the event after summarizing the discussion.

The forum is organized by the Myanmar Narrative Think Tank under the lead of the Ministry of Information intending to raise international awareness about the current situation of the country together with political changes, fostering collaboration towards Myanmar with understanding and empathy, counter the baseless accusations to promote the country's image, understand the challenges and opportunities emerging in the changing global landscape in 2025, specifically in a multipolar world, and identify ways to prepare for them in advance. — MNA/KTZH

NATIONAL

MoC Union Minister attends Nepal-Myanmar Trade and Tourism Expo opening

THE Nepal-Myanmar Trade and Tourism Expo was held yesterday at the Lotte Hotel in Yangon.

Union Minister U Tun Ohn highlighted that this event marks the 65th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries. He also expressed the hope to strengthen trade relations between Myanmar and Nepal by exploring potential goods for mutual exchange. Both countries share similar values in faith and cul-

ture, so they aim not only to expand trade but also enhance tourism. He stressed the need for closer collaboration between governments and private sector businesses in both nations to develop the tourism industry, hold reciprocal trade fairs, and promote human resources development.

Following the speech, Ambassador of Nepal to Myanmar Mr Harishchandra Ghimire along with President of the Union of Myanmar Federation

of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Aye Win delivered remarks. The Union minister and other officials visited the exhibition booths showcasing products from both countries and attended a dinner banquet.

The event saw Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, officials and business leaders from both countries. The exhibition, featuring 30 companies from Myanmar and 16 from Nepal will run until 22 March. — MNA/KZL



Union Minister U Tun Ohn and officials look into the display at yesterday's event.

MoFA Deputy Minister receives Brazilian Ambassador to Myanmar



The Brazilian ambassador calls on MoFA Deputy Minister U Lwin Oo yesterday.

DEPUTY Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Lwin Oo received Mr Gustavo Rocha de Menezes, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federative Republic of Brazil to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw.

They cordially exchanged views on matters relating to the recent outcome of the 4th Political Consultation Meeting held on 28 January 2025, co-

operation with the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC), including the improvement of the quality of snake anti-venom in Myanmar under the technical agreement within the South-South Cooperation for developing countries, combatting transnational crimes and consular matters. Moreover, they also discussed matters related to BRICS, the Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty and closer collaboration in the regional and international arenas. — MNA

Myanmar attends 22nd HLTF-ACV Meeting

THE Myanmar delegation led by Dr Wah Wah Maung, an Eminent Person (EP) of Myanmar for the High-Level Task Force on ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision and Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations of the Republic of the Union Myanmar, attended the 22nd Meeting of High-Level Task Force on ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision (22nd HLTF-ACV) which was held in Penang, Malaysia, on 17-19 March 2025.

The 22nd HLTF-ACV Meeting was co-chaired by Eminent Persons (EP) of Malaysia and the Philippines, as the permanent shepherd Member State,

and attended by Eminent Persons, High-Level Representatives and officials from the ASEAN Member States, representatives from Timor-Leste as well as ASEAN Secretary-General, ASEAN Deputy Secretary-General for APSC and officials from the ASEAN Secretariat.

At the Meeting, the HLTF-ACV had an Interface meeting with the Chair of the High-Level Task Force on ASEAN Economic Integration (HLTF-EI), Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Development of ASCC Post-2025 Strategic Plan and Chair of the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC) and the respective

pillar updated progresses in developing their ASEAN Vision 2045 strategic action plans. The Meeting discussed the development and finalization of the respective strategic plans.

The meeting adopted the Kuala Lumpur Declaration after its third reading. The meeting also finalized the strategic measures outlined in the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) Strategic Plan. The meeting also concluded deliberations on the Monitoring and Evaluation Tools, and Communication Plan, and adopted the HLTF-ACV report, which will be submitted to the ASEAN Coordinating Council for consideration at the 46th ASEAN Summit, scheduled to take place in May 2025. Additionally, the title for the ASEAN Community Vision 2045 was approved as 'ASEAN Vision 2045: Our Shared Future'.

The meeting emphasizes further deliberation on the timely conclusion of the Strategic Plans and publication for their adoption at the 46th ASEAN Summit in May 2025 in Malaysia. — MNA



The commemorative group photo of the 22nd HLTF-ACV Meeting in Malaysia on 17-19 March 2025.

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NATIONAL

Indian-backed projects culminate in departmental e-library launch

DEPUTY Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Min Thu attended the closing ceremony of two projects supported by India's Quick Impact Projects initiative. The event was held yesterday afternoon at the Environmental Conservation Department and marked the conclusion of the Departmental E-Library Project and the Water Supply Using Solar Power in the Drought-Affected Villages of Central Dry Zone of Myanmar Project.

In his speech, the Deputy Minister highlighted that India's assistance had enabled the department's library to be upgraded into a Departmental E-Library, providing electronic access to environmental data,



The closing event of two projects aided by India in progress yesterday, attended by Deputy Minister U Min Thu.

research materials and literature. This plan is expected to enhance the efficiency of environmental

monitoring and research among staff. Two more water supply projects were completed using so-

lar-powered water pumps – one in Kadaung Village, Inntaiggyi Village-tract, Magway Township,

Magway Region and another in Suyittan Village, Zayatgon Village-tract, Meiktila Township, Mandalay Region. He expressed gratitude to the Government of India and the Indian Embassy in Myanmar for their support and reaffirmed Myanmar's commitment to strengthening long-term bilateral relations.

Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Abhay Thakur commended the timely completion of the projects. The event also featured project presentations, a video screening and an official inauguration of the Departmental E-Library, where department officials and Indian embassy representatives toured the facility after a traditional fragrance-spraying ceremony. — MNA/KZL

Over 90% of students take Physics and History on Day 5 of 2025 matric exams



Chaungzon, Mon State.



Pwintbyu, Magway Region.



Kanbalu, Sagaing Region.



Paungde, Bago Region.

A total of 185,633 students sat for the Physics exam, and 22,845 candidates sat for the History exam nationwide, including at overseas exam centres, on the fifth day of the 2025 academic year matriculation examination (Grade 12) yesterday.

This year, a total of 813 exam centres, including 12 overseas exam centres and 801 local centres, are open for the Physics exam. A total of 195,603 students are enrolled to take the examination. On the fifth day, 185,633 students sat for the Physics exam, with 9,970 absentees. The Ministry of

Education stated that the number of students sitting for the examination accounted for 94.90 per cent.

This year, 674 exam centres, including one overseas exam centre and 673 local centres, are open for the History exam. A total of 25,240 students are enrolled to take the examination. On the fifth day, 22,845 students sat for the History exam, with 2,395 absentees. The Ministry of Education stated that the number of students sitting for the examination accounted for 90.51 per cent. — MNA/MKKS

Welcoming overseas deportees with open arms

THE nations of the world usually deport foreigners by lawful means if they pose significant threats to the national interests of the respective countries, committed crimes or enter as illegal migrants. Similarly, under the prioritized policies of the new US Administration, full-scale deportations of illegal aliens who violated immigration laws or committed crimes in the US are being carried out. On this front, the Myanmar Government is cooperating with relevant US federal entities in verifying and accepting deportees to Myanmar. Two deportees are scheduled to be sent by air on alternate days from the US to Myanmar as the first batch of deportation. One of them arrived in Myanmar on 19 March 2025 and the other will arrive on 28 March 2025. They will be welcomed and provided the necessary assistance by the responsible officials in the meantime.

For citizens, this deportation sheds light on the importance of departing overseas only through legal channels and complying with the domestic laws of the receiving countries. It is by far the best option to stay in the homeland as law-abiding citizens. — MNA

OPINION

Conserve forests for every greening of the world

FORESTS, which are pillars of global food security and nutrition, are the livelihoods of millions of families. They provide essential foods such as fruits, seeds, roots and wild meat, fundamental resources for indigenous and rural communities.

Forests are a vital source of energy, providing wood for cooking, supporting agriculture by hosting pollinators and contributing to soil enrichment, climate regulation, and biodiversity conservation. Additionally, forested watersheds supply freshwater to over 85 per cent of the world's major cities. In times of crisis, forests serve as an economic and food lifeline, contributing up to 20 per cent of family income in rural areas and ensuring access to healthy diets.

Due to various factors contributing to environmental degradation, forests around the world are facing deforestation. On the other hand, countries globally are implementing projects to establish more forests to help save the Earth. These processes must be carried out in a series, as all events worldwide are interconnected. If one link in the chain is broken, the entire process will fail. Therefore, people around the world need to conserve forests, not only to green the planet but also to provide food for future generations.

and achieving global development targets. Myanmar has a significant forest area, covering approximately 42.19 per cent of its land area, which equates to around 28.5 million hectares including diverse forests, including mangrove, dry, deciduous dipterocarp, and hill/temperate forests.

The Forest Department manages Myanmar's forests, designating them as Reserved Forests (RF), Protected Public Forests (PPF), and Protected Areas (PA), in addition to national parks, wildlife sanctuaries, community-owned forests, commercial forests, and specific forests established by volunteers or charity organizations, all aimed at ecosystem management and conservation of natural environments.

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The global countries lose 10 million hectares of forest annually due to deforestation, and approximately 70 million hectares are affected by fires. Protecting and restoring these forests is urgent and necessary, as the well-being of our planet and future generations depends on them. Join the cause and support the theme of International Day of Forests 2025: 'Forests and Food.' The future of food begins in the forests!"

During the 2021 COP26 conference on climate change, over 100 countries committed to ending deforestation by 2030. They also pledged to contribute nearly \$19.2 billion from both governments and the private sector to halt deforestation. Countries must all work together to achieve the sustainable development goals (SDGs) set by the United Nations, especially those related to environmental conservation

THERE is a very important point to have peace and stability to build a modern and developed disciplined democratic Nation Myanmar is home to various national races and as they have been living together since time immemorial deep-rooted unity and amity have developed among them.

Palaeolithic and neolithic culture flourished in many parts of Myanmar from about 20000 years ago learning behind much material evidence as well as the wall painting of "Pyadalin" Cave in Shan Foothills near "Myittha". A Bronze culture later developed, well represented by the "Nyannggan" archaeological site near "Monywa", and "Sagaing" Division.

The transition to an urban civilization was made in the 2nd century BC. Several cities flourished, among them Wethali (Vaisali) of the Rakhine, Thuwunnabhumi: (Suvannabhumi), "Land of Gold" of the Mon, and Beikthano (Vishnu City), Hanlin and Thayekkittaya (Sriksetra, "Field of Splendour") of the "Pyus", a people whose language has become extinct but whose architectural monuments — the "Bawbawgyi Phayagy" and "Phayama Pagoda" of Thayekhitaya-remain.

Myanmar civilization achieved a high level of development at Bagan from the middle of the 4th century to the end of the 15th century. According to the chronicles, Bagan was founded in AD 107 by the Thamddarit and ruled

by a line of 55 kings, but written aridness is available only from "Anawrahta" (1044-1077) onwards "Anawrahta", the first unifier of Myanmar, established Theravada Buddhism with the help of Buddhist Missionary "Shin Araham" and laid the foundation of Bagan's greatness. A thriving economy and the inspiration of Buddhism resulted in the great monument of Shwezigon, Ananda, Thatbyinnyu, Gadawpalin and a host of other pagodas, several of them decorated with mural paintings on religious themes. The decline of Bagan, brought about by a Mingon invasion in 1287, was followed by political confusion and the emergence of two kingdoms Inwa, Founded by "Thadominbya" in 1365, and Hanthawady (Bago) founded by Banyau in 1369 Nineteen kings ruled in Inwa from 1365 to 1552 and 11 kings in Hanthawady from 1369 to 1538, from 1368 to 1422, there was war between Inwa and Hanthawady.

Myanmar entered a new phase of greatness when the kings of Taungoo moved their capital from Toungoo to "Bago" and three of its kings ruled there from 1538 to 1599.

"Bayintnaung" (1552-1581), known also as lord of the White Elephants and Conqueror of the Ten Directions, reunited the kingdom, created the vast Hanthawady Empire and rebuilt "Bago" on a magnificent scale.

Following the Break-up of the Hanthawady Empire. Nyaungyan (1598-1606) established a

THE FRUITS OF PEACE AND STABILITY

By Sann Ni Lar Winn

new Myanmar Kingdom and ten kings reigned in Inwa from 1598 to 1752. The most famous of the Inwa kings, "Thalun" (1629-1648) built the "Kaunghmudaw" Pagoda near "Sagaing". A rebellion which started in Bago led to the downfall of the kingdom in 1752.

In the tradition of "Anawrahta" and "Bayintnaung", "Alaungpaya" (1752-1760) reunited Myanmar and established the last Myanmar dynasty of 11 kings who ruled from 1752 to 1885. The kingdom had a number of capitals, including "Shwebo", "Inwa" and "Amarapura", with the last capital, Mandalay, being founded by "Mindon" (1852-1878) in 1859.

In 1785, the Rakhine kingdom whose capital was "MyaukU", founded by "Minsawmun" (1430-1433) in 1430, and which had a line of 49 kings reigning from 1430 to 1785, was made part of the Konbaung kingdom.

Myanmar fought three wars against the British and lost Rakhine and "Taninthayi" in 1826,

lower Myanmar in 1852 and its independence on 1st January 1886. The colonialist British started to rule parts of Myanmar in 1826 and the whole country in 1886.

Since our gaining independence, the entire people of Myanmar faced frequently the danger and terrorism, of insurgents and some ethnic armed organizations. In my childhood "Sitkwin" was my native town destroyed by the ethnic armed organization which was named KNDO.

Until nowadays, some ethnic armed organizations and PDF terrorists undermine the peace and stability of the regions with terror attacks on town life and the property of innocent people.

As a result, acts of violence have increased nationwide leading to the loss of lives home, and possessions and extensive damage to a large number of public infrastructures.

As an example, the university building in "Loikaw" was destroyed in attacks by KNPP and

PDF terrorists on "Loikaw" last year. So, the university was closed. A total of 114 buildings were damaged at their university. It needs to spend some K9 billion on repairing these buildings. Such a cost can be used in building many projects of agriculture, livestock and regional development tasks.

Currently, destructive acts together with national stability are becoming more common. Terrorist attacks were often politically motivated and different forms of crime were prevalent in various regions. These acts include violence that harms civilians, damages public infrastructure and threatens private buildings, residential areas, and villages with heavy weapons and bombs. They have also targeted non-military entities, such as cargo trucks, passenger vehicles and residential buildings all of which harm innocent civilians.

Terrorists have been repeatedly targeting villages that do not support them, using tactics such as dropping bombs launching surprise attacks and planting landmines. These acts have led to fre-

quent casualties among innocent civilians and Buddhist monks. The brutal actions of terrorist groups have caused widespread fear among residents, prompting security forces to intensify protective measures in the affected areas.

A society free from coercion, threats, and criminal activities allows people to enjoy the benefits of peace which in turn fosters national progress.

The government is working toward ensuring long-term stability by adhering to the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) and striving to end armed conflict across the country. Efforts are focused on maintaining peace and the rule of law with local militia groups playing a role in protecting regions where the rule of law is not fully enforced.

Some ethnic armed organizations, with misguided attitudes towards the state and its people, also took advantage of the ensuing stability to launch terror attacks and destroy peaceful regions. As a result of these events, innocent civilians lost their lives, homes and belongings as well as public

infrastructure in the area.

In our country over 100 ethnic groups have lived in friendship and harmony since time immemorial. All the national people have found unity in diversity having been born and living on the same land. The geographical features of our country include high mountain ranges and major rivers. That flow from the north to the south made transport difficult and impeded interactions among the national people. Moreover, under colonialism, they were subject to many years of systematic divide-and-rule practice. The national people became suspicious of one another promoting our leader to make strenuous efforts during the struggle for our independence so that the central Myanmar and the mountainous regions could gain independence together.

The noble Buddha said that "Samagghanan Tutpaw Thukhaw" (သမဂ္ဂိန္ဒြိယံ တပေါ သုခေါ - ဝေါင်းစည်းညီညွတ်စဉ်းလုံးခြင်းသည် ကြီးပွားချမ်းသာတိုးတက်ခြင်း၏ အကြောင်းရင်းဖြစ်၏) likewise, "Unity is Strength" is a Myanmar Proverb.

A society without unity is probably occupied and destroyed by external and internal enemies. It is very important for every important nation regardless of the place they live to have a strong Union Spirit. Only the Union Spirit is the true patriotism all the nationalities will have to safeguard. Our Three Main National Causes: Namely, the Non-disintegration of the Union, the Non-disintegration of National Solidarity and the Per-

petuation of Sovereignty are bound duties of the people. Today neo-colonialists usually interfere with their multi-dimensional warfare with sovereign states.

Our national people have the right to settle anywhere in the country with the result that in every area magnanimous national people have harmoniously to live. In this day and age, it is impossible to separate each national people and the very thoughts and notions that give rise to such regional bias have become anachronistic. This is a sign of progress for greater national reconsolidation. I would like to reconsolidation. I would like to urge you to build on the national reconsolidation that might lead to the disintegration of the Union.

Today the State Administration Council (SAC) is implementing two political visions - to strengthen the genuine disciplined multiparty democratic system and to build a Union based on disciplined democracy and Federalism. The stability and peace of our nation along with the rule of law are crucial for the country's development and nation-building. Therefore, I deeply and respectfully urge the entire people including all ethnic people including all ethnic peoples to work together with the government to achieve a ceasefire in armed conflicts. I indeed believe that we surely get the fruits of peace and stability when internal armed conflicts end based on the Spirit of Union and Patriotism. ■

Lifestyle risks weigh heavier on women's hearts: Study

LIFESTYLE and health factors that are linked with heart disease appear to have a greater impact on cardiovascular risk in women than men, according to a study being presented at the American College of Cardiology's Annual Scientific Session.

While diet, exercise, smoking, and blood pressure have long been associated with heart disease risk, the new study is the first to indicate that these correlations are higher in women than in males. According to the researchers, the findings indicate that sex-specific screening or risk assessment methodologies could provide a

The research indicates that traditional assessments of heart disease risk may not adequately reflect the unique risks faced by women.

more realistic picture of cardiovascular risk and better drive people to adopt heart-healthy habits.

"For the same level of health, our study shows that the increase in risk [related to each factor] is higher in women than in men—it's not one-size-fits-all," said Maneesh Sud, MD, PhD, assistant professor in the department of medicine, interventional cardiologist and clinician scientist at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre in Toronto and the study's lead author. "This

is novel and something that hasn't been seen in other studies."

The study focused on eight factors associated with heart disease: diet, sleep, physical activity, smoking, body mass index, blood glucose, lipids and blood pressure. Overall, the results showed that women were more likely to have fewer negative risk factors and more positive ones compared with men. However, women with more negative risk factors faced a more pronounced increase in their

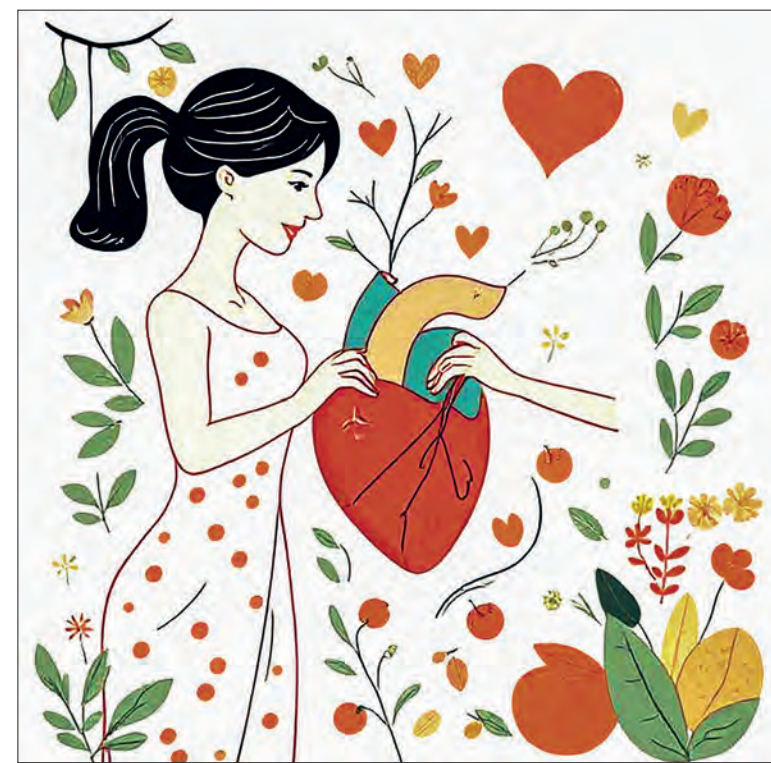
chance of a heart attack, stroke or other cardiovascular event compared to men with a similar risk factor profile.

"We found that women tend to have better health than men, but the impact on outcomes is different," Sud said. "The combination of these factors has a bigger impact in women than it does in men." The researchers analyzed data from over 175,000 Canadian adults who enrolled in the Ontario Health Study between 2009-2017. None of

the participants had heart disease at baseline and about 60 per cent were women. Each participant was classified as having ideal or poor health in terms of each of the eight risk factors, and these scores were combined to calculate an overall risk factor profile as poor (fewer than five positive factors or more than three negative factors), intermediate (five to seven positive factors) or ideal (ideal across all eight factors). During a median follow-up period of just over 11

years, researchers tracked the incidence of seven heart disease outcomes—heart attack, stroke, unstable angina (chest pain that results from restricted blood flow to the heart), peripheral arterial disease (narrowed blood vessels in the arms or legs), heart failure, coronary revascularization (procedures to open blocked arteries) and cardiovascular death—among participants in each of the three groupings.

SOURCE: ANI



The findings suggest that sex-specific screening and risk assessment could lead to more effective heart health strategies for women. ILLUSTRATIVE IMAGE: CONCEPT ART

NATIONAL

Electric vehicles arrive at Yangon Port



New arrivals of battery electric vehicles at Yangon Port.

ELECTRIC vehicles including the Chinese-made Geely Geometry E, have arrived at Yangon Port. Premier Automot-

tive Limited imported these vehicles with the approval of the National Electric Vehicle and Related Industry Development

Committee. They have been cleared for release yesterday according to the standard procedures. — MNA/KZL

Drugs seized in Mohnyin, Tachilek townships



Arrestees are seen alongside seized drugs.

DRUGS were seized in Mohnyin and Tachilek townships, as reported by the Myanmar Police Force.

A combined team, including members of the Anti-Drug Police Force, conducted a search of a vehicle driven by Phyo Nyein Oo accompanied by Than Htike Oo in Pinlon village-track, Mohnyin Township, at 10:3 am on 19 March. Police

seized 4.4 kilogrammes of heroin valued at K110 million.

Similarly, the police force searched a hired house of Kaw Htu (aka) Nay Thurein in Tachilek Township at 5:30 pm on the same day and captured 1.7 kilogrammes of Happy Water valued at K187 million.

On 20 March, the police force searched a house of Lin Htut in the house of Lin Htut

in Samseng Ward B, Tachilek, at 11:30 am and seized 108,000 stimulant tablets worth K43.2 million and 34,000 stimulant tablets worth K13.6 million in a hired house of Lin Htut in Samseng Ward A, Tachilek Township, at 11:50 am. Police arrested Sai Oun (aka) Sai Kham who was involved in drug trafficking in Yanaungmyay Ward, Tachilek, at 12:15 pm and seized K96 million worth of 240,000 stimulant tablets that were kept near the Tachilek detour.

Legal proceedings have been conducted against the offenders, and an ongoing investigation is underway to apprehend others involved in the case. — MNA/MKKS

Counter-argument to false information

Media intentionally spreads fake news

THE malicious media spread fake information, claiming that two civilians were injured and houses were seriously destroyed after the attacks of security forces in Kyaukkyi Township, Bago Region, Kyaukto Township, Mon State, and Kalay Township, Sagaing Region.

According to a local security official, such news was invalid. The terrorists launched attacks using heavy weapons and drones in villages, resulting in houses being destroyed and civilians injured and killed. Security forces did not attack non-military targets such as

wards and villages, and the forces conducted counter-terrorism activities after examining the existence of terrorists. Subversive media outlets spread misinformation, covering up their terror acts and misleading the people about security forces. — MNA/KTZH

149 Chinese and 48 Kenyan nationals deported to respective countries

THE Myanmar government, in cooperation with international organizations and neighbouring countries, is working to combat online fraud and organized criminal activities. In this effort, 149 Chinese nationals and 48 Kenyan nationals involved in such crimes were deported yesterday to their respective countries.

The Myanmar government is coordinating efforts with neighbouring countries including Thailand to tackle these issues. The 149 Chinese nationals and 48 Kenyan nationals, who were implicated in illegal activities were transferred through the Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge 2 in line with international law and the principles of mutual understanding and cooperation.

The Kayin State government and senior security and border officials including Colonel Min Thu Kyaw oversaw the transfer. They ensured the proper documentation and compliance with the legal procedures for the smooth transfer of these individuals. Officials from the relevant authorities also followed up on necessary checks to ensure all documents were accurate and complete.

The handover ceremony was attended by officials from the Kay-

in State government, Myanmar's Ministry of Security and Border Affairs, representatives from the Kenyan Embassy to Thailand, the Chinese Ministry of Public Security and Thai authorities from the Immigration Bureau. They observed the seamless handover of the individuals back to their respective countries.

Myanmar continues to combat illegal entry into the country through various routes, arresting 254 more foreign nationals, including 150 Chinese nationals and 104 Ethiopians, who had entered via illicit means. Since 30 January 2025, Myanmar authorities have detained a total of 7,870 foreign nationals who entered illegally. Of these, 5,147 were repatriated to their respective countries through Thailand, with the remaining 2,723 prepared for further transfer. The government is actively working to identify and apprehend individuals involved in online scam activities and foreign nationals who are behind these operations. Efforts are also underway to swiftly repatriate foreign nationals who are either victims of various hardships or human trafficking, in cooperation with relevant countries. — MNA/KZL



Photos reveal transfer processes underway for foreign deportees.

NATIONAL

Myanmar-China Friendship Association donates gold foils to Shwedagon Pagoda

THE Myanmar-China Friendship Association (Central), along with partner groups, donated 19 ticals of gold foils, valued at K47.5 million, to the Shwedagon Pagoda. The donation ceremony took place at the Shwedagon Pagoda on 19 March, according to the Myanmar-China Friendship Association (Central).

The donation was jointly made by the Myanmar-China Friendship Association (Central), the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Myanmar, the Yangon-Yunnan Association, the My-

anmar-Hokkien (Fujian) Chinese National Association, and the Myanmar Cantonese Merchants and Entrepreneurs Association.

The donation ceremony was attended by Chairman Sayadaw of Yangon Region Dvipitaka Bhaddanta Aggasami, Shwedagon Ovada Cariya Hlayadana Sayadaw, and Shwepyitha Sayadaw. The donors took precepts from the Sayadaws, handed over the gold foils to the board of trustees, and listened to the Dhamma with meritsharing. — ASH/MKKS



This photo showcases a donation ceremony of gold foils to the Shwedagon Pagoda.



Attendees of the workshop pose for the commemorative group photos.

MRCS holds 2025 Safety and Security Review Workshop

THE Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) held its 2025 Safety and Security Review Workshop in Nay Pyi Taw from 17 to 19 March, according to the MRCS headquarters.

During the workshop, MRCS Vice-President Dr Daw Tin Tin Lay and Deputy Cooper-

ation Coordinator U Aung Moe Kyaw from the International Committee of the Red Cross delivered opening remarks. Director U Myint Tun Han from the MRCS Administration Department also explained the objectives and implementation plans of the workshop.

Attendees included the MRCS vice-president and executive members, directors, department heads, state and regional supervisory committee chairpersons, Red Cross brigade commanders and safety and security coordinators. — ASH/KZL

'168 Hours' film holds press launch

THE press launch for the film '168 Hours' took place on 19 March at the Tamada Cineplex in Dagon Township, Yangon, according to actor Kaung Myat San, who stars in the film.

The screenplay and story were written by Thet Oo Maung, while Min Ko Soe (Nat Than Kwin) handled the shooting script. Directors Ei (Aryone Oo) and Ko Zaw (Aryone Oo) took charge of production under Bo Bo Film.

Actor Kaung Myat San explained the plot, stating, "The film explores what happens in the 168 hours leading up to the seventh day after a person's death. Does the character discover hidden truths about his life? Does he get a chance to resolve his struggles within that timeframe? In '168 Hours', I portray an employee at a major media company. The film is packed with suspense, romance, adventure, and comedy. It will premiere nationwide in major cinemas starting 21 March."

The movie features a star-studded cast, including Academy Award winners Myint Myat and Melody, along with Kaung Myat San, Min Phone Myat, Khin Hlaing, Joker, Yadana Bo, Wai Lar Yi, Hla Myo Thinzar Nwe, and many others. — ASH/KZL



This image displays the press launch of the '168 Hours' movie held at Thamada Cineplex in Yangon.



This photo showcases the cast of the series at the filming launch.

Filming of new series 'Seinpan Thitsa' begins

THE opening ceremony for the filming of the series Seinpan Thitsa, produced by Ye Yint Thitsa Film Production, took place on 19 March at the Kyaikakan Pagoda in Thingangyun Township, Yangon Region, according to director Ye Yint Thitsa, who will be directing the series. The storyline for the series was written by Ye Yint Thitsa and Ingyin Han, with the screenplay adapted by Ingyin Han.

Director Ye Yint Thitsa remarked, "This drama will be set in Yangon and filming will begin on 22

March. It will consist of 15 episodes and is a family drama with an educational scene. Since it features many veteran characters, both the cast and the story are strong. That's all I can say for now".

The series will feature a star-studded cast, including Kyaw Hsu, Ester Lin, Alin Thit, Maw Kun Thit, Eden, Htoo Tha, Min Thu, Ye Naing, Win Myaing, Kyaw Zin Min Myat, Academy Khin Moh Moh Aye, Ma Theingi, Nan Myint, Nan Kathari, and many others. — ASH/MKKS

NATIONAL BUSINESS

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold yuan 777,000 on 20 March.

CBM sold \$300,000 and 1.12 million yuan on 19 March and \$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 again 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 sells yuan 777,000 on 20 Mar



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

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

Ayeyawady's rice husk pellets distributed to major cities daily

RICE husk pellets produced in Ayeyawady Region are daily supplied to Yangon, Bago and Mandalay regions, according to the Department of Consumer Affairs.

Ayeyawady Region, reputed as the rice bowl of Myanmar is home to rice mills. Rice husk, the by-product of the mills, was earlier used in alcohol production and brick manufacturing businesses. Abundant paddy harvest season resulted in significant piles of rice husks. Some of them are even discarded, burdening farmers to find places to receive this waste.

Rice mills are grappling with big challenges on how to dump heaps of husks. They have to find ways to dispose them of. They have been turned into fuel pellets.

Only rick husks are used by compressing and crushing rice husks in the pelletizing machine. They are added into the rice husk boiler at a 380-degree temperature. The rice husk pellets are distributed to garment, liquor, iron casting, instant noodle manufacturing and petroleum factories in Yangon, Bago and Mandalay cities.

Those rice husk pellets could substitute for wood, charcoal and coal as domestic fuel. Lately, they are widely used among housewives. Even fishing trawlers in Ayeyawady Region have demanded them.

A rice husk pellet factory runs operations with at least 30 workers, with a capital of K600 million. That factory can produce 20 visses of rice husks (4,000 bags or 20 tonnes). The profit is estimated at K120 million per annum.

Millers started to practice a mass production system to export rice pellets. They are a clean, efficient and sustainable energy source that can reduce the use of wood and charcoal and deforestation and environmental impacts. Furthermore, it can create jobs for locals. — NN/KK

CBM's foreign currency injection slash fuel oil prices



Vehicles lining up for refuelling at the petrol station.

FOLLOWING the foreign currency injection of the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) into the fuel oil sector, fuel oil prices continued to decline in the domestic market. CBM injected \$33 million on 18 March into the fuel oil sector after announcing it on 17 March.

CBM sold \$33.5 million and over 156 million baht into the fuel oil sector on 11 March after announcing it on 10 March. Moreover, it announced the sale of \$23 million and 150 million baht on 3 March for fuel oil importers. It pumped that amount of foreign currencies into the fuel oil sector on 4 March.

The set fuel prices were K3,080 per litre of Octane 92, K3,135 for Octane 95, K2,655 for diesel and K3,285 for premium diesel during a week from 14 to 20 March. Consequently, the set fuel prices dropped K2,990 per litre of Octane 92, K3,045 for Octane 95, K2,600 for diesel and

K3,215 for premium diesel during a week from 21 to 27 March, reflecting a decrease of K55 to 95 per litre.

The price index set by Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS), the pricing basis for many refined products in southeast Asia, influences the domestic fuel prices, according to the Supervisory Committee on Oil Import, Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil. Under the Supervisory Committee on Oil Import, Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil, the Petroleum Products Regulatory Department has been issuing daily reference wholesale prices to ensure price stability for energy consumers.

The committee is inspecting the fuel stations to see whether they are overcharging. Authorities are taking action against those retailers of fuel stations under the Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law 2017 if they are found overcharging

rather than the set reference rate. As per the statement, 90 per cent of fuel oil in Myanmar is imported, while the remaining 10 per cent is produced locally. Domestic fuel prices are highly correlated with international prices. The State is steering the market to mitigate the loss experienced by the importers, sellers and energy consumers. Consequently, the government is trying to distribute the oil at a reasonable price compared to those of regional countries.

Some countries levied higher tax rates and hiked oil prices than Myanmar's. However, Malaysia's oil sector receives government subsidies and the prices are about 60 per cent lower than those of Myanmar. Every country lays down different policy patterns to fix oil prices, the Supervisory Committee on Oil Import, Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil stated. — NN/KK

Italy says Baku Steel submits 'best offer' for ex-Ilva plant

A year after ousting ArcelorMittal, Italy moved Thursday to start handing over control of its giant ex-Ilva steelworks — one of Europe's largest — to Azerbaijan's Baku Steel.

State commissioners running the plant in the southern city of Taranto asked the government to authorise "preferential negotiations" with a consortium led by Baku Steel and the state-owned Azerbaijan Investment Company.

Industry minister Adolfo Urso said it was deemed to have made the "best offer" among three bids, with the others made by India's Jindal Steel and US holding company Bedrock Industries.

The commissioners said in a statement that the decision was based on factors including the financial viability of the bidders, the "industrial sustainability" of their plans and "benefits in terms of employment and for the local communities".

The amount of the offer from Baku Steel has not been disclosed, and the commissioners said the talks would be carried out "with the necessary confidentiality".

Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's government placed the plant under state administration in February 2024 in a bid to protect its thousands of employees after it was declared insolvent by a Milan court. — AFP

Trump says people sabotaging Teslas may go to jail for "up to twenty years"

US President Donald Trump said on Friday that people who are caught sabotaging Tesla cars may stand a chance to go to jail for up to twenty years. He made the announcement in a post on Truth Social.

The statement by Trump comes after US Attorney-General Pam Bondi has called the recent violent attacks on Tesla property "nothing short of domestic terrorism" and vowed to investigations that impose severe consequences on those involved in these attacks, including those operating behind the scenes to



The statement by Trump comes after US Attorney-General Pam Bondi has called the recent violent attacks on Tesla property "nothing short of domestic terrorism" and vowed to investigations. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

coordinate and fund these crimes. In a statement, Bondi stated, "The swarm

of violent attacks on Tesla property is nothing short of domestic terrorism.

The Department of Justice has already charged several perpetrators with that in mind, including in cases that involve charges with five-year mandatory minimum sentences." "We will continue investigations that impose severe consequences on those involved in these attacks, including those operating behind the scenes to coordinate and fund these crimes," she added. Bondi's statement came after five Tesla vehicles were damaged when a fire erupted at a Tesla Collision Center in Las Vegas on Tuesday morning. — ANI



The transfer involves a consortium led by Baku Steel and the state-owned Azerbaijan Investment Company. **PHOTO: AFP**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC SHUNDE VOY.NO. (2505N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC SHUNDE VOY.NO. (2505N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **22-3-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CAPE FELTON VOY.NO. (932N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CAPE FELTON VOY.NO. (932N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **22-3-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

(ONE) OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BANGKOK VOY.NO. (207N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BANGKOK VOY.NO. (207N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **22-3-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BEYPORE SULTAN VOY.NO. (25010)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BEYPORE SULTAN VOY.NO. (25010)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **22-3-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S CONNEXT SHIPPING PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC YUANMING VOY.NO. (2504S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC YUANMING VOY.NO. (2504S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **22-3-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

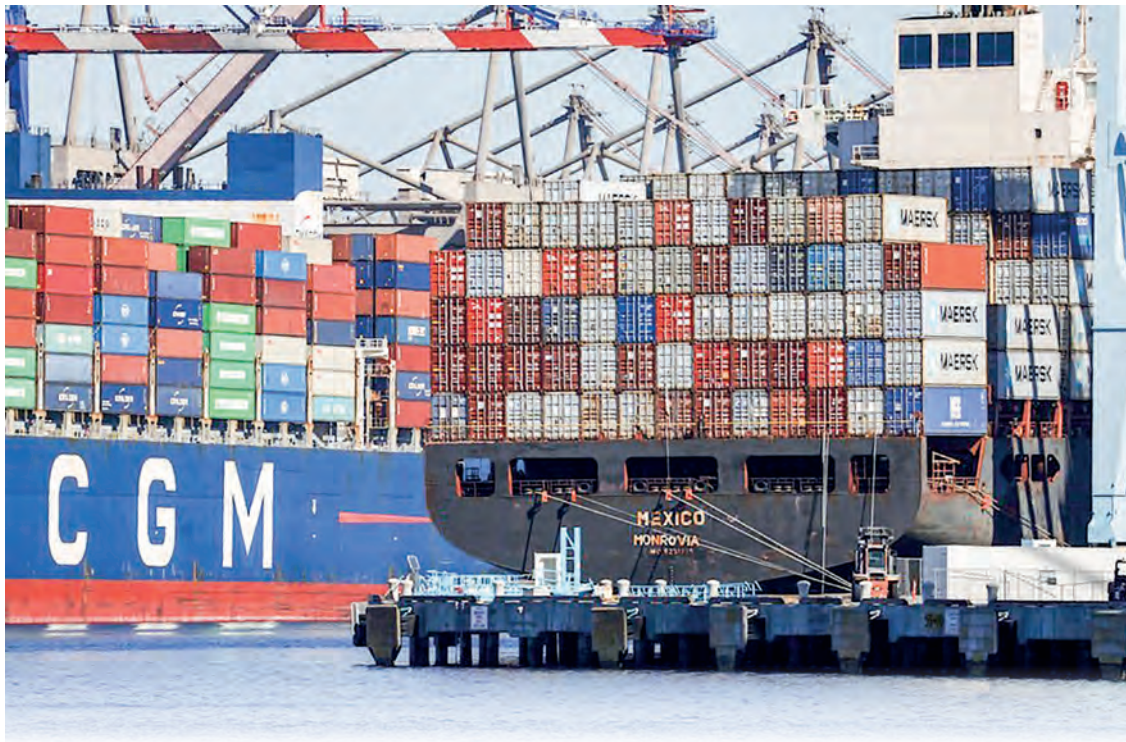
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO, LTD

GLOBAL VIEWPOINTS: FEATURED REPORTS FOR THIS WEEK



Fully loaded container ships are seen at the port of Los Angeles, California, the United States, 29 October 2021.

PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE

Trump aides prep new tariffs on imports worth trillions for 'Liberation Day'

This action is seen as a significant escalation of the existing US trade war.

WHITE House officials are preparing to impose sweeping new tariffs on most imports by 2 April, escalating US President Donald Trump's ongoing trade war with an unprecedented move that he

has called it "Liberation Day", the Washington Post reported.

This move, which Trump calls "Liberation Day", follows his previous increase of tariffs on about \$800 billion in imports from countries like China, Mexico, and Canada. These aggressive tariffs have caused market volatility and fears of a recession.

The administration is now looking to expand these tariffs to cover trillions of dollars in imports, alarming economists and raising concerns among congressional Republicans.

Trump argues that these tariffs are necessary to bring manufacturing back to the US and to ensure fair trade practices. His "reciprocal tariff" plan aims to match tariffs imposed by other countries on American goods.

While some experts warn that matching foreign tariffs could lead to US import duties reaching levels not seen since the 1930s, the administration is debating how to categorize countries for tariff assessments.

— ANI

Japan panel drafts response plan for Mount Fuji eruption

A Japanese panel of experts issued guidance to greater Tokyo residents on Friday in the event Mount Fuji erupts, telling them to stay indoors unless the ashfall becomes severe.

The guidelines were issued to the region's more than 44 million residents by experts, convened by the Cabinet Office.

The panel also called on municipalities and households

to maintain emergency supplies like food and water in case the 3,776-metre volcano were to erupt.

Mount Fuji last erupted in 1707.

In the worst-case scenario, a massive eruption of Japan's highest peak could spew 30 centimetres of ash (nearly 12 inches) or more over Tokyo, about 100 kilometres (62 miles) northeast

of the volcano, the panel said.

This amount of ashfall could destroy wooden houses, particularly if combined with rain, the report said, urging residents to evacuate in such cases.

Even with less severe ashfall, damage to large buildings is expected, like school gyms that are often used as evacuation centres, the report said.

— AFP

Israel government sacks Shin Bet intelligence chief

Netanyahu on Sunday cited an "ongoing lack of trust" as the reason for moving to dismiss Bar, who joined the agency in 1993.

Days after the intelligence agency acknowledged failures leading up to Hamas's 7 October assault, Shin Bet Director Ronen Bar was fired after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu cited a breakdown of trust.

The head of Shin Bet, Israel's domestic intelligence agency, was sacked Friday, days after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he no longer trusts him, and fallout from a report on the 7 October 2023 Hamas attack.

"The Government unanimously approved Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's proposal to end ISA Director Ronen Bar's term of office," a statement said.

He will leave his post when his successor is appointed or by 10 April at the latest, the statement said.

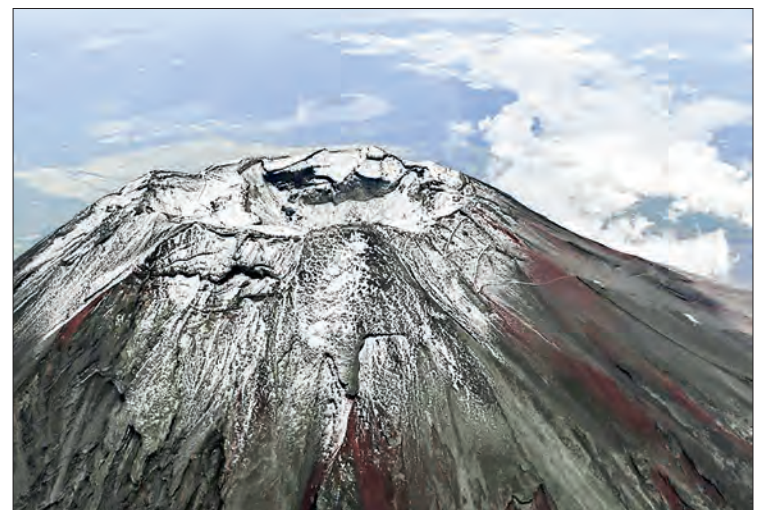
Netanyahu on Sunday cited an "ongoing lack of trust" as the reason for moving to dismiss Bar, who joined the agency in 1993.

Bar, meant to end his tenure only next year, was appointed Shin Bet chief in October 2021 by the previous Israeli government that briefly forced Netanyahu from power between June 2021 and December 2022.

His relations with Netanyahu were strained even before the unprecedented October Hamas attack which sparked the war in Gaza, notably over proposed judicial reforms that had split the country. — AFP



Netanyahu cited an "ongoing lack of trust" as the reason for moving to sack Ronen Bar. PHOTO: AFP/FILE



A Japanese panel of experts issued guidance to greater Tokyo residents on Friday in the event Mount Fuji erupts. PHOTO: KYODO

SPORTS

Jersey sponsorship agreement signed for Myanmar national teams

A SIGNING ceremony for the jersey sponsorship agreement between the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) and Dong Luc Joint Stock Company took place on 21 March at Novotel Yangon Max.

The sponsorship covers Myanmar's national teams including youth squads. Attendees included Yangon Region Minister for Social Affairs U Htay Aung, Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Senior Vice-President and MFF President U Zaw Zaw, MFF Senior Vice-President U Pyae Phyto Tayza, Vice-President U Htaik Khun Naung Myint Wai, MFF executives, the president of the Vietnam Football Federation, representatives from sponsoring

companies, as well as players from Myanmar's national football and futsal teams.

During the ceremony, AFC Senior Vice President and MFF President U Zaw Zaw delivered a welcome speech, followed by an opening remark by Jogarbola President Mr Sakaguchi Kenji.

Subsequently, MFF Senior Vice-President U Pyae Phyto Tayza and a representative from Dong Luc Joint Stock Company signed the sponsorship agreement. U Zaw Zaw then presented commemorative gifts to the sponsoring company representatives, while national football and futsal players showcased the newly sponsored jerseys.

Vietnam-based Dong Luc



AFC Senior Vice-President and MFF President U Zaw Zaw presents a commemorative gift to representatives of the sponsoring companies at the jersey sponsorship signing ceremony. **PHOTO: SOE NYUNT THAW**

Joint Stock Company will provide Jogarbola-branded jerseys as the official kit sponsor for Myanmar's national teams for

the next four years. The sponsorship includes match kits, training wear and other equipment. Jogarbola jerseys are also sponsored

for Vietnam's national football and futsal teams, as well as various club teams in Vietnam. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Vinicius strikes late as Brazil sinks Colombia

VINICIUS Junior scored in the 99th minute as Brazil edged to a 2-1 home victory over Colombia in their FIFA World Cup qualifier here on Thursday.

Barcelona winger Raphinha converted a sixth-minute penalty after Vinicius Junior was brought down by Daniel Muñoz.

Luis Diaz put his side on level terms when he received James Rodriguez's pass before firing a shot past his Liverpool teammate Alisson.

Brazil moved the ball with greater fluency after the interval but failed to take advantage in the final third as Colombia

goalkeeper Camilo Vargas made a series of smart saves.

Vinicius finally broke the deadlock when his long-range effort flew into the far corner after taking a deflection off Jefferson Lerma.

"It was very important for me to contribute and scoring the winning goal makes me very happy," the Real Madrid forward said after the match.

"It gives me a feeling of joy and relief. Playing in the national team is something I can't explain. Every time I wear the Brazil shirt I feel the same emotion that I did when I played my first match". — Xinhua



Brazil's Vinicius Jr (R) celebrates after scoring the winner against Colombia in World Cup qualifying on Thursday. **PHOTO: AFP**

Olympics: Coventry elected new IOC president as Watanabe misses out

KIRSTY Coventry of Zimbabwe was elected the first female and African president of the International Olympic Committee on Thursday as Japanese candidate Morinari Watanabe missed out.

The 41-year-old former swimmer Coventry, the 200-metre backstroke gold medallist at the 2004 and 2008 Olympics, won 49 of the 97 votes during the first round of secret ballot at the 144th IOC Session in Costa Navarino, Greece.

"Glass ceilings have been shattered today, and I am fully aware of my responsibilities as a role model," said Coventry, who won seven medals in total from five Olympic appearances before becoming an IOC member in 2013. She is eligible to serve an eight-year term as president.

It came a day after incumbent Thomas Bach was named the IOC's honorary president for life. The 71-year-old German, who won a fencing gold medal at the 1976 Montreal Olympics, is stepping down in June after 12 years in charge.



New International Olympic Committee President Kirsty Coventry (L) speaks with incumbent Thomas Bach during the 144th IOC Session in Costa Navarino, Greece, on 20 March 2025. **PHOTO: GETTY/KYODO**

Juan Antonio Samaranch Jr. of Spain won 28 votes and Britain's Sebastian Coe eight. Watanabe and David Lapartient of France collected four votes each, with Jordan's Prince Feisal Al Hussein and Johan Eliasch of Britain securing two each. The 66-year-old Watanabe, the head of the International Gymnastics Federation, was running as the first-ever Japanese candidate with outlandish ideas including hosting the Summer Olympics on five continents simultane-

ously and renaming the IOC to the World Sports Organization, expanding its activities beyond overseeing the Olympics.

"I feel sorry I wasn't able to meet the expectations of those who supported me," Watanabe told reporters. "I hope it becomes the new first step for the Japanese sporting world. I hope there will be a Japanese IOC president one day".

The IOC, established in 1894, has had eight European presidents and one from the United States. — Kyodo



CHINESE MERIDIAN PROJECT

China builds mega network for space weather forecasting

One of China's key scientific infrastructures, the Chinese Meridian Project (CMP), successfully passed national acceptance for its second phase on Friday. It will boost cutting-edge scientific research and provide key support for the country's space weather forecasting services, according to the National Space Science Centre of the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

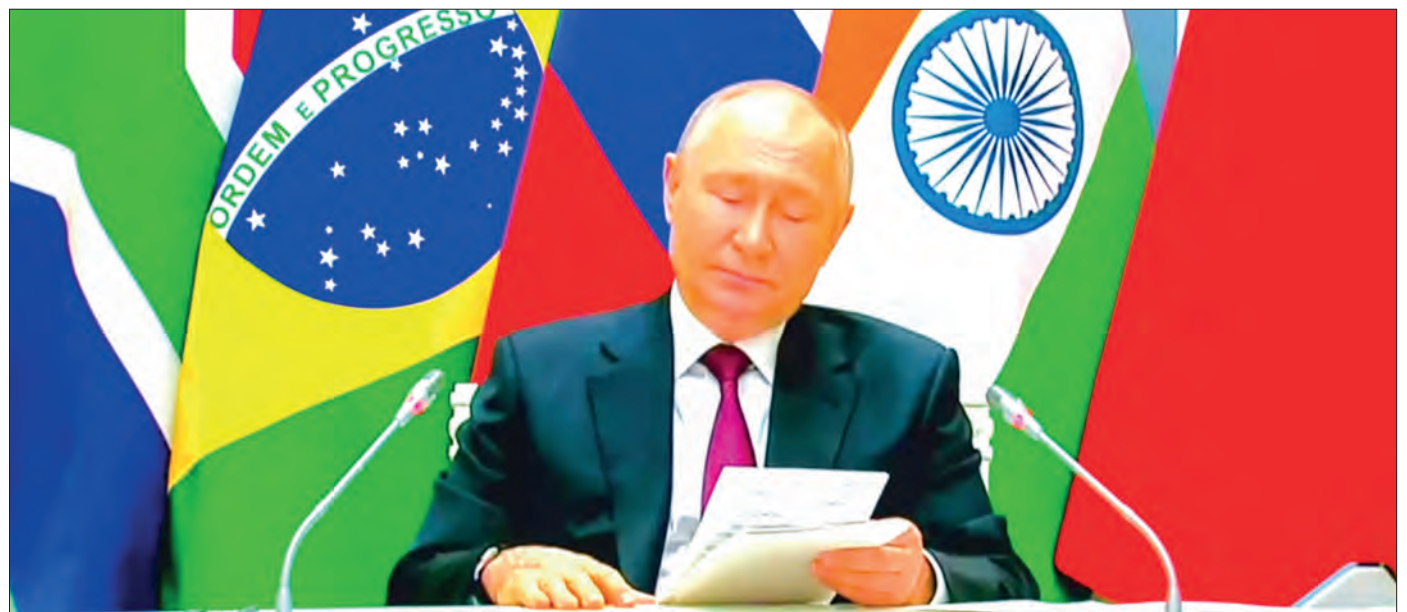
The project, also known as the Ground-based Space Environment Monitoring Network, is the world's first comprehensive ground-based monitoring facility to cover Sun-Earth space from the solar atmosphere to near-Earth space.

The Solar-Terrestrial space is the main area where humans conduct space activities and utilize space. Catastrophic space weather can lead to significant risks such as satellite failures, communication disruptions, navigation deviations, and power grid failures. As a result, space weather forecasting and early warning services are of great importance.

The project is led by the National Space Science Centre. The CMP-Phase I started in 2008 and was completed in 2012, the CMP-Phase II began construction in November 2019. The project has over 30 observation stations, covering the country as well as the polar regions. — Xinhua

Putin calls on Russian businesses to engage in BRICS projects

Putin also noted Russia's ongoing efforts to deepen BRICS cooperation in sectors like energy, finance, and transport, including discussions on national currency settlements and a unified payment system.



Russian President Vladimir Putin urged Russian businesses to capitalize on the economic opportunities offered by the BRICS alliance, highlighting its significant GDP growth and potential for future global economic influence. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin has called on Russian businesses to actively participate in projects within the BRICS framework, emphasizing the economic potential of the alliance, TV BRICS reported.

Speaking at the plenary session of the Congress of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs (RSPP), Putin highlighted the importance of strengthening ties with BRICS nations to support long-term economic growth. His remarks were published on the official website of the Russian President.

Putin highlighted that the combined gross domestic product (GDP) of BRICS nations grew by 4.9 per cent in 2024, reported TV BRICS.

He noted that economic growth in different regions worldwide is expected to remain stable for the coming decades, suggesting that BRICS will play a key role in sustaining global economic momentum. He stressed that continued development within the association would contribute to this positive trend, reinforcing the importance of international cooperation.

The Russian president further urged domestic businesses to take full advantage of opportunities within BRICS, including partnerships with existing and future member states, TV BRICS reported.

Russia has been deepening its engagement with BRICS nations across multiple sectors, including energy, finance, and industrial development. As part of this cooperation, member states are actively discussing steps to transition towards settlements in national currencies, develop a unified payment system, and enhance transport corridors. — ANI



A staff member walks past a substation supplying power to Heathrow Airport where a fire broke out in Hayes, west London on 21 March 2025. **PHOTO: AFP**

Heathrow Airport in London closed due to power outage from nearby fire

LONDON'S Heathrow Airport remains closed until midnight Friday due to a "significant power outage" caused by a fire at a nearby electricity substation, a spokesperson said.

The outage has affected the entire airport, with no clear timeline for power restoration. "To maintain the safety of our passengers and colleagues, we have no choice but to close Heathrow until 23:59 GMT on

21 March," the spokesperson added.

Passengers are advised not to travel to the airport until further notice. Over 1,300 flights, including 120 already airborne, are affected, according to Sky News, citing Flightradar24, a live flight-tracking website. Some planes have been diverted to other airports, including London Gatwick Airport, those in Paris and Shannon Airport in Ireland.

British Airways, Heathrow's largest carrier, urged customers not to go to the airport until further notice and said it is working to update them on travel options.

The fire that broke out in Hayes, north of the airport has also left around 16,000 nearby homes without power.

The cause remains unknown, but the National Grid is working to restore electricity as quickly as possible. — Xinhua