

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



National Water Resources Committee Chairman, State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivers a speech at the ceremony to mark World Water Day at MICC II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Salient points from the speech delivered by the Senior General at the ceremony to mark World Water Day 2025

1. Efforts should be made to strategically manage and sustainably utilize existing freshwater resources.
2. Universities and research centres have to continue studies and awareness initiatives that promote the water sector.
3. To secure future water sufficiency for the nation, individuals have to enhance water management systems using advanced techniques and improve the sector through persistent efforts.
4. It is necessary to follow Integrated Water Resources Management-IWRM adopted by the United Nations.

Urgent action needed for river conservation

Water management is of importance to ensure water security in the future by raising public awareness of good water management practices and good water utilization practices.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing underlined that regional governments and administrative bodies need to restrict activities of environmental impacts along both sides of rivers and creeks.

Chairman of the National Water Resources Committee Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivered a speech at the ceremony to mark World Water Day at MICC II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General said that although Myanmar

does not have significant glaciers, the glaciers which originate on the Khakaborazi mountain range and Tibet Plateau partially supply water to the Ayeyawady River in Myanmar.

He recounted that experts estimated Kachin State would face a 2.5 degrees centigrade rise in 2100 due to global warming, indicating total loss of glaciers as a threat posed to Myanmar's future freshwater sources.

He retold that Myanmar suffered impacts of climate change with flash floods in the monsoon of 2024, mostly in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, Kachin State, Man-

dalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions and Shan State.

As such, he continued that it is necessary to follow Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) adopted by the United Nations.

The Senior General added that a water resources exploration body was formed on 7 March 2022 to measure the current rate of water in the Ayeyawady, Chindwin, Sittoung and Thanlwin rivers and observe water courses and volume of water. Such a body submits reports on the progress of water resources to the Union government. **SEE PAGE 3**

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SHWE PHE OO

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NATIONAL

Quality Seeds and Techniques: The Backbone of Agriculture

BASICALLY, thriving agriculture requires quality seeds, fertile soil, natural and inorganic fertilizers, an adequate volume of agricultural water, and proper farming techniques.

(Excerpt from the speech given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with the Magway Region government and district-level departmental officials on 24 May 2024 to talk about regional development)

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.



Myanmar Gazette

Head of Service Organization Appointed

THE State Administration Council has appointed Dr Zaw Moe Aung from the Ministry of Defence as Rector of the Myanmar Maritime University, the Ministry of Transport and Communications on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

Top websites and web portals to access Military Service Rules

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

Shwe Minn Thar Foundation (Myanmar) to fund disabled entrepreneurs

SHWE Minn Thar Foundation (Myanmar) will provide business loans to entrepreneurs with disabilities across the country under the Pyit Tine Htaung Programme.

This business loan is to provide capital for those entrepreneurs to start their businesses and expand their businesses.

“The Pyit Tine Htaung Programme is a funding platform to help the disabled shape their dreams into reality.

“Those disabled who have acquired vocational training will get access to loan assistance through this programme,” said an official of the Shwe Minn Thar Foundation (Myanmar).

Shwe Minn Thar Foundation (Myanmar) and LOLC Myanmar jointly carried out this loan programme to fund disabled entrepreneurs. — ASH/KK



An advertisement for a loan programme tailored to people with disabilities.

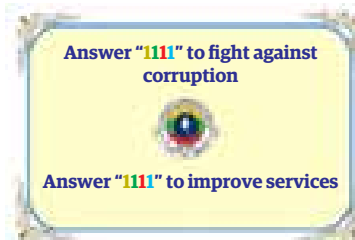
Public Notice

THE Anti-Corruption Commission has established corruption prevention units within ministries to curb corruption effectively.

The ACC used SMS on mobile phones to ask the public who sought services at an office of the department of the relevant ministries via short code No “1111” for feedback, including the public feedback programme (PFP).

According to the PFP, the proper replies of the citizens via short code No “1111” will provide the quality of services of each department and the requirements for corruption prevention to be fixed.

Therefore, the public should reply to the questions of the ACC and corruption prevention units of the ministries via SMS



at short code “1111”. Such doing is a supportive measure for PFP, and the people are urged to cooperate in the operations.

Anti-Corruption Commission

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)

FROM PAGE 1

Currently, he noted that sandbanks in the Ayeyawady and Chindwin rivers become barriers in waterway transport. The conservation of river courses is in a critical state and needs to be addressed urgently.

He stressed that regional governments and administrative bodies need to restrict activities with environmental impacts along both sides of rivers and creeks.

The Senior General underscored that water management is important to ensure water security in the future by raising public awareness of good water management practices and good water utilization practices.

He highlighted that this year's World Water Day theme, "Glaciers Preservation," emphasizes the importance of ensuring long-term water abundance and reducing water-related natural disasters in Myanmar. To achieve this, it is necessary to collaborate among relevant departments and organizations, leverage advancing technologies, and engage public participation to maintain and conserve our water resources.

He instructed that efforts should be made to strategically manage and sustainably utilize existing freshwater resources. Universities and research centres have to continue studies and awareness initiatives that promote the water sector. To secure future water sufficiency for the nation, individuals have to enhance water management systems using advanced techniques and improve the sector through persistent efforts.

To support the country's freshwater sources, the Senior General continued to say that it is necessary to take action to ensure the long-term sustainability of existing glaciers and ice-capped moun-

Urgent action needed for river conservation



tains. All citizens must work together in the water management sector to establish a systematic, equitable, and sustainable use of water resources, benefiting both present and future generations.

The Senior General presented first, second and third prizes to winners in the open article contest to mark World Water Day 2025.

Vice-Chairman of the National Water Resources Committee Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Transport and Communications General Mya Tun Oo gave prizes to winners in the amateur-level article contest.

The Senior General and attendees watched a documentary video on World Water Day 2025.

The Senior General visited the photo gallery at relevant booths in honouring the World Water Day 2025.

Also, present at the ceremony were Council Joint Secretary General Ye Win Oo, council members, Union ministers, the Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, the Nay Pyi Taw Command commander and deputy ministers together with chief ministers of regions and states through videoconferencing. — MNA/TTA

State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presents the first prize to the winner in the open article contest to mark World Water Day 2025.

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

Coord meeting focuses on protecting seized vehicles, motorcycles from damage

DEPUTY Prime Minister Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein, in his capacity as Vice-Chair of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, presided over a coordination meeting on swift resolution of cases to prevent losses and damage to the seized, unregistered vehicles and motorcycles yesterday.

Speaking at the meeting, the Deputy Prime Minister said the courts in different regions and states, the Myanmar police force, Forest Department, Customs Department and Myanma Port Authority seized, especially vehicles, and the seized vehicles, machinery and motorcycles were transferred to the Central Equipment Statistics and Inspection Department.

There is also instruction in nationalizing the unregistered



Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein delivers a speech at the coordination meeting on swift resolution of cases to prevent losses and damage to the seized, unregistered vehicles and motorcycles yesterday.

vehicles that are to be confiscated while receiving confirmation from the Road Transport Ad-

ministration Department that the vehicles are unlicensed and to transfer to the Central Equip-

ment Statistics and Inspection Department promptly.

Moreover, the Central

Committee for Custody and Disposal of Exhibits, Nay Pyi Taw Council, Region, State and District level committees are also formed to manage the seizers, and there is also a directive to carry out under the law to prevent damages during the trial period for legal and illegal vehicles and machinery.

He then highlighted to need to follow the SOPs to prevent the nationalized vehicles from melting them down and damage and to nationalize and transfer to the Central Equipment Statistics and Inspection Department on time. He also urged the attendees to coordinate the discussion.

Afterwards, attendees reported on their respective sectors, and the Deputy Prime Minister made proper instructions. — MNA/KTZH

Myanmar-India IT collaboration MoU extended at key event

AN event to exchange of Letter on MoU Extension for Strengthening of the India-Myanmar Centre for Enhancement of IT Skills (MCEITS) was held on 21 March at the Ministry of Science and Technology.

The ceremony began with Deputy Minister Dr Aung Zeya expressing his gratitude and pride for the extended cooperation between the two neighbouring countries. He highlighted the rapid development in IT advancements and digital transformation, stressing the importance of international collaboration in this field. He emphasized that the cooperation will enhance human resource development, research experience exchange and capacity building in cutting-edge IT technologies such as AI, cybersecurity, big data and cloud computing. This collaboration is expected to contribute to the development

and continuous growth of the regional digital ecosystem.

Following that, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Abhay Thakur delivered a speech, and both the deputy minister and ambassador exchanged the MoU extension documents.

The MoU, which was first signed in 2007, has now been extended for the first time. The India-Myanmar Centre for Enhancement of IT Skills (IMCEITS) training centre will continue its collaboration with India's Department of Information Technology and Communications Research and Development, and the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) in India. Since 2021, this training centre has been offering AI and big data courses and will continue to introduce further innovative IT training programmes. As of 2024, the training centre has opened



An event to exchange of Letter on MoU Extension for Strengthening of the India-Myanmar Centre for Enhancement of IT Skills (MCEITS) in progress in Nay Pyi Taw on 21 March 2025.

27 training batches, producing 2,873 IT professionals, with a 98 per cent employment rate. — MNA/KZL

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Indian Ambassador calls on Deputy PM MoFA Union Minister

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Than Swe received Mr Abhay Thakur, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of India to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

They discussed ways to further strengthen the longstanding friendship and cooperation between Myanmar and India. They explored opportunities to enhance collaboration across various sectors of mutual interest and emphasized the importance of utilizing existing mechanisms to advance the shared interests of both countries. — MNA



Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe meets Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Abhay Thakur in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Former Nepali PM and team tour Bagan's ancient pagodas



Former Prime Minister of Nepal Mr Madhav Kumar Nepal and his wife participate in traditional Myanmar Thanaka painting and Myanmar hairstyle preparation. **PHOTO: DIPA LINN**

FORMER Prime Minister of Nepal Mr Madhav Kumar Nepal and his delegation, who attended the "Forum on Myanmar Beyond 2025: Challenges and Opportunities in the Multipolar World" held in Nay Pyi Taw on 21 March, arrived at Bagan-NyaungU Airport from Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The chairman and members of the NyaungU District Administration Body and the NyaungU Township Administration Body warmly welcomed

them.

Following their arrival, the former Prime Minister and his team visited the Shwezigon Pagoda and King Bayintnaung's Bell within the pagoda compound.

They then toured the Bagan Archaeological Museum, where they viewed round ancient statues displayed in the main gallery and enjoyed a panoramic view of the ancient cultural landscape of Bagan from the Nan Myint Tower.

In the afternoon, they vis-

ited the southern slope of the Ananda Buddha to pay homage, where young girls from Yepokkyi Village, Pwintbyu Township, Magway Region, greeted them. Mr Madhav Kumar Nepal, his wife, and Strategic Analyst Mr Atul Aneja of India and his wife participated in traditional Thanaka painting and Myanmar hairstyle preparation.

The visit continued with homage paid at the Thatbyinyu Pagoda and Bu Pagoda. — Dipa Linn (IPRD)/MKKS

Electric vehicles arrive at Yangon Port

ELECTRIC vehicles – Chinese-made BYD Yuan Plus, Wuling Bingo, Forthing Friday (standard grade) and Forthing S60 EV Pro – have arrived at Yangon Port. Premier Automotive Limited imported these

vehicles with the approval of the National Electric Vehicle and Related Industry Development Committee. They were cleared for release yesterday as per standard procedures. — MNA/KZL



Officials inspect the new arrivals of battery electric vehicles at Yangon Port.

Gold Market Rate as of 22 March 2025

THE price of one tical (16.329325 grammes) of gold with density of 19.25 grammes per cubic centimetre and above is K5,580,000 as established by the Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee.

Daily newspapers available online

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News and Periodicals Enterprise

NATIONAL

Weekly Roundup

16 March

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects AWPT jetty, Dala Bridge

Myanma Port Authority needs to consider the berthing of vessels depending on their sizes at relevant ports, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on his inspection tour of the jetty of Asia World Port Terminal (AWPT).

17 March

Honorary titles conferred on

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudamma Min Aung Hlaing conferred honorary titles for 2025 on 50 recipients at Thabin Hall of the SAC Chairman Office in Nay Pyi Taw.

18 March

Matriculation exam commences

The first day of the 2025 matriculation examination took place across the nation, both across the country and at overseas examination centres, with 208,889 candidates sitting the exam in the Myanmar language.

19 March

Message sent to Mon State Day

The State Administration Council will hand over State responsibilities to elected government through free and fair general elections, stated the Senior General in his message sent to the 51st Anniversary of Mon State Day.

20 March

Vice-Senior General Soe Win visits Aungban Tatmadaw hospital

State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win comforted Tatmadaw members and people's militia (local) troops who were receiving medical treatment at the Tatmadaw hospital in Aungban of Shan State (South).

21 March

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Russian Ambassador

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and Ambassador Mr Iskander Azizov of the Russian Federation to Myanmar talked about the promotion of cooperation in defence and humanitarian issues in addition to other sectors between Myanmar and the Russian Federation.

Vice-Senior General Soe Win visits Kalaw Station

Vice-Senior General Soe Win confirmed the election date set in December 2025 or early January 2026 in his speech at the meeting with Tatmadaw members and families of Kalaw Station.

22 March

Forum on "The Challenges and the Opportunities Myanmar Will Have in the Multipolar World Beyond 2025" held

Internal stability key amid rapid shifts in the multipolar world, said SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the opening ceremony of the Forum on "The Challenges and the Opportunities Myanmar Will Have in the Multi Polar World beyond 2025" at MICC I in Nay Pyi Taw. — GNLM/TTA

90%+ students choose Biology, Economics on Day 6 of 2025 matric exams

A total of 85,436 students sat for the Biology exam, and 123,018 candidates sat for the Economics exam nationwide, including at overseas exam centres, on the sixth day of the 2025 academic year matriculation examination (Grade 12) yesterday.

This year, a total of 775 exam centres, including 10 overseas exam centres and 765 local centres, are open for the Biology exam. A total of 88,848 students are enrolled to take the examination. On the sixth day, 85,436 students sat for the Biology exam, with 3,412 absentees. The

Ministry of Education stated that the number of students sitting for the examination accounted for 96.16 per cent.

This year, 808 exam centres, including four overseas exam centres and 804 local centres, are open for the Economics exam. A total of 131,995 students are enrolled to take the examination. On the fifth day, 123,018 students sat for the Economics exam, with 8,977 absentees. The Ministry of Education stated that the number of students sitting for the examination accounted for 93.20 per cent. — MNA/KZL



Pinlaung, Shan State.



Minbu (Sagu), Magway Region.



Myawady, Kayin State.



North Okkalapa, Yangon Region.



Lewe, Nay Pyi Taw.

CBM raises interest rate on Average Excess Reserve

THE Central Bank of Myanmar increased the interest rate on the Average Excess Reserve that banks must maintain in the kyat to six per cent on 21 March 2025.

Intending to improve the liquidity of banks and enable banks to earn more interest, the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) raised interest on average excess reserve at 3.8 per cent, that is the Cash at Bank (CAB) held by the banks, according to Directive 4/2024 dated 30 April 2024.

This decision was made according to the monetary policy committee's 1/2025 meeting held on 28 February 2025, to curb inflation, reduce the increase in cash in circulation, build interest rate structure, facilitate banking operations and ensure stability in the banking industry with more interest income.

The amendment stated that the banks that hold an average excess reserve exceeding K7 billion are at least entitled to enjoy

the interest. Excess reserves held by the banks are limited to K50 billion. CBM will periodically amend the minimum and maximum excess reserve ratios and the interest rate on average excess reserve to align with market demand.

Furthermore, interest payments will be calculated on the average excess reserve balance on the last day of the maintenance period and the amount will be automatically credited to the respective bank accounts of the Central Bank of Myanmar on T+2 (two days after the final day of the maintenance period. Interest payment on average excess reserve will be conducted from the maintenance period to 26 March-22 April 2025.

Interest payments will be uniformly applied to state-owned banks, private banks and foreign bank branches that are authorized to execute retail banking services in the kyat. — NN/KK

Blood clam farming generates foreign incomes beyond self-sufficiency

BLOOD clam (widely called Gin) and mollusc farming in Taninthayi Region contribute to securing domestic consumption and export earnings, Taninthayi Region Fisheries Federation.

Taninthayi Region Myeik University's Department of Marine Science conducted research activities on the hatchery culture of the bivalves (blown clam, white clam, oyster and molluscs). The department also supported blood clam commercial farming in Myeik District.

"The marine catch has significantly declined. Therefore, we turn to farming practices. The availability of fingerlings and larval rearing research plays a pivotal role in the fish farming sector. Myeik University achieved oyster hatchery and continues to work together with farming businesses. Yet, spawning and larval rearing of blood clams in the hatchery facility of the uni-



Fishers search blood clams in a blood clam farm, in Myeik District, Taninthayi Region. PHOTO: KANU

versity are still being undertaken. If this effort yields a fruitful result, it will help to deal with dropping marine catch volume. Manageable blood clam farming in villages of Taninthayi Region

allows residents to earn well and enhance the socioeconomy of the community," said U Thet Soe, secretary of the Taninthayi Region Fisheries Federation.

The live blood clams pro-

duced in Myeik District are sent to neighbouring Thailand by sea or road trade channels. Blood clams have hard shells and cultivating clams in a controlled shallow coastal sea or an open

sea for up to eight months a year is a must for nutritious food resources. There are over 300 clam breeders in the 2023-2024 financial year in Myeik, Kawthoung, Launglon, Thayetchaung, Palaw, Kyunsu and Bokpyin townships, producing 785.6 tonnes and bagging over US\$2 million. Blood clam exports earned over \$77,000 from 45.85 tonnes as of December in the 2024-2025 FY, as per Taninthayi Region Fisheries Federation.

While shifting marine catches to an aquaculture farming system without spending feed costs, even blood clam farming on a manageable scale can supply the seafood to export markets. This cash-making sustainable business attracts residents to be engaged in. Clam larvae are sourced from natural farming spots, contributing to food security and export income. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/KK

CBM sells US\$91M, THB317M, CNY2.4M within 3 weeks

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) injected \$91 million, 317 million baht, and 2.4 million yuan within the past three weeks.

It sold over 166,880 yuan on 21 March, over 777,000 yuan on 20 March, \$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 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 soon sell 50 million baht to importers. 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



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

Fertilizer Committee: 7,342 registrations actively operating

THE Fertilizer Committee reported that 7,342 active fertilizer registrations are functioning across the country.

The committee held its 44th meeting on 20 March at the meeting hall of the ministry. Deputy Minister Dr Tin Htut for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, committee members and experts attended the meeting. The meeting highlighted ensuring quality fertilizer for growers to boost agriculture productivity and ensure food security, steering fertilizer registration, import and distribution under the Fertilizer Law, bylaws and rules. A total of 12,297 registrations have been granted so far as of the 43rd meeting. Yet, 2,088 were voluntarily cancelled according to individuals' consent and 2,867

were revoked for expiration of validity. Thus, only 7,342 registrations are active for now.

The region and state task forces conduct inspections to ensure the quality of the fertilizer and facilitate distribution in time of the growing season. Moreover, they do lab tests on the fertilizer found in the market and pre-laboratory tests on fertilizer to be used in the State Economic Promotion Projects. Additionally, the agricultural experts also conducted field trips to ensure sustainable agriculture, good yield and soil health and provide technical assistance to farmers on how to remedy the affected land with a combination of natural fertilizer and chemical fertilizer depending on soil lab tests. — NN/KK



Fertilizers and pesticides are displayed at a shop in DaikU Township.

OPINION

Transform challenges into opportunities and advantages

THE world is currently undergoing a paradigm shift toward a multipolar world order. This shift is evident in the changing patterns by which superpowers influence international relations. As global dynamics evolve, it becomes crucial to strengthen the role of regional blocs.

Historically, the world was dominated by a single superpower. However, the landscape has now shifted from solitary dominance to collective leadership, where many nations and blocs share power. Countries such as China, India, and Russia, alongside regional entities like the European Union, have rapidly developed and are now challenging traditional superpowers for global influence.

Power is increasingly distributed among numerous nations and regional blocs, leading to a more balanced international order. This

reduces the power imbalance that once existed, with no single nation able to shape global affairs alone. Today, international issues are addressed through collective efforts by multinational organizations, although some influential nations remain focused on exerting influence rather than resolving global challenges.

In this multipolar world order, countries must adapt to the evolving geopolitical and socioeconomic conditions. Previously, superpowers dominated global affairs, but now, major powers are engaged in both competition and cooperation within the new world framework. This change demands a delicate balance, fostering justice, unity, stability, and peace. To navigate this transformation effectively, countries must prepare by formulating strategies that

As such, challenges must be transformed into opportunities and advantages in the multipolar system, ultimately contributing to fostering a love for Myanmar, fostering the Myanmar spirit, and building unity and strength. Without unity, no economic system can succeed, and no political system can firmly lead the nation.

align with the shifting global landscape.

Recently, Myanmar hosted a forum titled “The Challenges and Opportunities Myanmar Will Face in the Multipolar World Beyond 2025”. During the forum, the Head of State emphasized the need for strategic autonomy. It is critical for nations to avoid over-reliance on any single superpower and to expand relationships with friendly nations. This approach will enable more flexible decision-making and reduce the pressure of external influences by leveraging the support of allies. These “friends” refer not only to individual countries but also to regional blocs.

The forum, which included discussions from seasoned foreign experts, contributed significantly to Myanmar’s vision of becoming a modern, developed nation by 2025. Experts are expected to provide guidance, strategic insights, and recommendations to help Myanmar navigate the complexities of this new world order, ensuring that it can thrive in a multipolar system.

As such, challenges must be transformed into opportunities and advantages in the multipolar system, ultimately contributing to fostering a love for Myanmar, fostering the Myanmar spirit, and building unity and strength. Without unity, no economic system can succeed, and no political system can firmly lead the nation.



Book Title - Hidden Potential
Translator - Myo Lwin (MBA)
Publishing House - Zarti Myay
Publication Date - November 2024 (1st Edition)
Price - K19,500

Hidden Potential by Adam Grant

EVERYONE has hidden potential. As long as you do not know how to utilize the valuable things in life, you will never reach your destination, no matter how far you walk, you will remain distant from your goals. Just like a sword, no matter how sharp it is, if it is left unused, it will rust and become useless. The book presented here is a guide to uncovering your hidden potential and revealing your true capabilities.

The back cover of the book reads -we all have hidden talents, abilities and potentials. The situations of people are different from others depending on how they know and utilize these strengths. The misconception that the abilities of a person are fixed from birth and cannot change throughout the lifetime has led to various

consequences. This book strongly emphasizes that abilities can always be improved through continuous learning.

The book has three main parts, and within those parts, there are nine chapters in total. Part I Skills of Character – Getting Better at Getting Better, includes three chapters Chapter 1 is Creatures of Discomfort (Embracing the Unbearable Awkwardness of Learning, Chapter 2 Human Sponges (Building the Capacity to Absorb and Adapt), Chapter 3 The Imperfectionists (Finding the Sweet Spot between Flawed and Flawless).

In Part II Structures for Motivation (Scaffolding to Overcome Obstacles), it contains Chapter 4 Transforming the Daily Grind (Infusing Passion into Practice),

Chapter 5 Getting Unstuck (The Roundabout Path to Forward Progress), and Chapter 6 Defying Gravity (The Art of Flying by Our Bootstraps).

Part III Systems of Opportunity (Opening Doors and Windows), features Chapter 7 Every Child Gets Ahead (Designing Schools to Bring Out the Best in Students), Chapter 8 Mining for Gold (Unearthing Collective Intelligence in Teams) and Chapter 9 Diamonds in the Rough (Discovering Uncut Gems in Job Interviews and College Admissions), and the Epilogue – Going the Distance.

The Epilogue Going the Distance — starts with the poem by Langston Hughes “Hold fast to dreams For if dreams die

Life is a broken-winged bird That cannot fly.” Then, the author mentions the word “dreams” saying “Is it about reaching our dreams? Are you going to encourage readers to dream big? I didn’t want to go there. It sounded too Pollyanna, too juvenile. It’s the sort of lofty language peddled by self-help gurus, not studied by serious social scientists. If you have the vision, gravitas, and moral high ground of Martin Luther King Jr, you might get away with it.” Even King’s advisers feared the dream language would sound “hackneyed and trite”. For the rest of us, I figured dreams were best left behind in childhood ...

The translator has admitted that this book was published in 2023 and that its research findings and ideas are quite modern and up-to-date. Some words in the original text would have been impossible to translate without the author’s clarifications. While these clarifications have made the translation more comprehensible, certain expressions may not feel entirely natural in the Myanmar language. However, the translator has made every effort to convey the most accurate meaning possible.

A Tribute to Tatmadaw

Min Zan

*On this proud day, the twenty-seventh of March,
We hail the guardians of our land's great arch.
Tatmadaw stands, unyielding and strong,
A fortress of might, where honour belongs,
In 2025, their glory we proudly sing.*

*With courage bold, they shield our nation's soul,
Each soldier's heart beats for one noble goal.
Through storm and strife, their valour shines bright,
A beacon of strength in the darkest of night,
The people's defenders, their praises we toll.*

*From mountains high to rivers deep and wide,
Tatmadaw marches with unwavering pride.
Their discipline carves a path so true,*

*Protectors of peace, in all that they do,
A legacy grand, with history allied.*

*In unity's name, they stand as one,
A force of iron beneath the sun.
No foe too great, no task too tall,
For Myanmar's heroes, who answer the call,
Their triumphs are forever, never undone.*

*So raise the flag, let anthems soar,
On Armed Forces Day, we laud them more.
For freedom, for justice, the swords they wield,
Tatmadaw reigns, our nation's shield,
On March twenty-seven, there might we adore.*

(This is the Poem Honouring Armed Forces Day of Myanmar.)



Book Title - The Power by Rhonda Byrne
Translator - Nyi Nyi Naing
Publishing House - Pyi Myanmar
Publication Date - January 2023 (1st Edition)
Price - K8,000

The Power by Rhonda Byrne

THIS week’s pick is The Power by Rhonda Byrne. The power to have everything good in your life is inside you and positive thinking can bring about life-changing results. Every discovery and innovation comes from the Power.

Nyi Nyi Naing who mostly works on treatises and motivational books translated this book into Myanmar.

The translator pointed out that the book shed light on the greatest power in the universe. Without power, one would not be born and there would not be a single human on the planet. Every discovery, innovation and ideas are rooted in the Power. Moreover, the

Power can create good health, good relationships, desired jobs, wonderful life, wealth and everything you want. The dream would be closer to you than you realized.

The author portrayed how a world of thoughts can shape and influence actions. Power is in your thoughts and cognitive perceptions and ideas emerging from the mind will create actions. Thoughts come into one’s mind before getting out of bed. Mind and thoughts can influence functions and actions. Thoughts will decide what one perceives as good or bad, interpreting situations and events. One can reframe negative things into positive thoughts

to lead to a better outcome and outlook. Lack of desire and readiness imply reluctance and the author simply wants the reader to cancel those kinds of negative thoughts.

The author simply put how thoughts can change the direction of words with instances, stating: “One usually shows beautiful expressions for one they want or desire. Yet, they address exorbitant high prices or dissatisfaction with things they do not want.

Then, a “nothing impossible in life” mindset can have a profound impact on one’s life in history. Outstanding and well-known persons in science, medicine, sports, arts or tech-

nology are found to define success beyond limits. The author highlighted the transformative concept of harnessing inner power to achieve desires and improve life.

Consequently, the whole life is just the way we imagine. We can cultivate positive habits and explore the concept of happiness rather than relying on external factors.

Most people dwell on negative thoughts that lead to stifled progress, hinder motivation and cause low self-esteem. Intrusive thoughts that pop into our mind are deadly weapons, causing excessive distress, the author alluded to the point.

Drinking group of toddy sap at sunset

Translated by Maung Swe Ngae

နေညိုချိန်ထရေဝိုင်း

- ❖ A pot of toddy-palm sap is dropped Have a drink of sap from the pot.
- ❖ A touch of fresh toddy juice on the tongue Makes the drinkers enthralled and warm.
- ❖ Though the midday sun moves towards the west, Cups after cups are going straight to the head.
- ❖ Like tweet of mynas reaches a peak Noise spreads far and wide indeed ... Evening time drinkers flock to meet.
- ❖ When they rise from the ground, Hardly carry Longyi, staggering along.
- ❖ Though they fall over, cannot help each other Cannot help each other, though they stagger. Swaying under the toddy palm, Drinking turns somersaults without calm.

သူရဇော်

ထောင်မှာ မြို့မိုးချ
သောက်ရပါ ထွေးရေ။
ပင်ကျရည် လျှာမှာထိတော့
ငြိလှပေလေ။

မွန်တည့်နေ အနောက်ကို တိမ်းပေမင့်
မသိမ်းပါ ခွက်ချင်းဆက်လို့
ရေကိုသံ ဘဝင်ညိုခိုက်အောင်ပျံ
ပွက်လောရိုက် ဆူညံပေ
ချိန်ညနေ ထရေဝိုင်း။

ဝိုင်းအထမှာတော့
သိုင်းကကာ လုံချည်မမြဲပေဘု
သူလဲရင် ကိုယ်မထူနိုင်
ကိုယ်ယိုင်တော့ သူမထိန်းနှင့်
ယိမ်းထိုးကာ ထောင်အောက်
ကျွမ်းမှောက်လို့ဝိုင်း။ ။

၁။ ထရေဝိုင်း - ထန်းရည်ဝိုင်း
၂။ ထောင် - ထန်းပင်
၃။ ထွေးရေ - ထန်းပွားရည်
၄။ ရေကိုသံ - ဆက်ရက်သံ

NATIONAL Entertainment

March brings spectacular Music Festival

MYANMAR'S top veteran musicians will initiate a Music Festival to share their insights on music-related topics.

The Music Festival to be held at Mandalay Convention Centre on 30 March will be organized by Aalto Entertainment. Talented artists will have chances to show off their

talents and great musicians Saya Dira Moh, Saya Aung Ko Lat, Sayama Khin Myat Mon and Saya Tun Tun will share their experiences and proper suggestions for them. Moreover, they will also respond to the questions raised by the young artistes. The festival will feature the performance of singers Wa Na, Oak

Soe Khant, Cherry Thin and YOLO. "The music enthusiasts are invited to join the Music Festival of Aalto where they can listen to the songs of great singers and hear the music-related knowledge of great musicians," said an official of Aalto Entertainment and Art Academy. — Htun Htun/KTZH

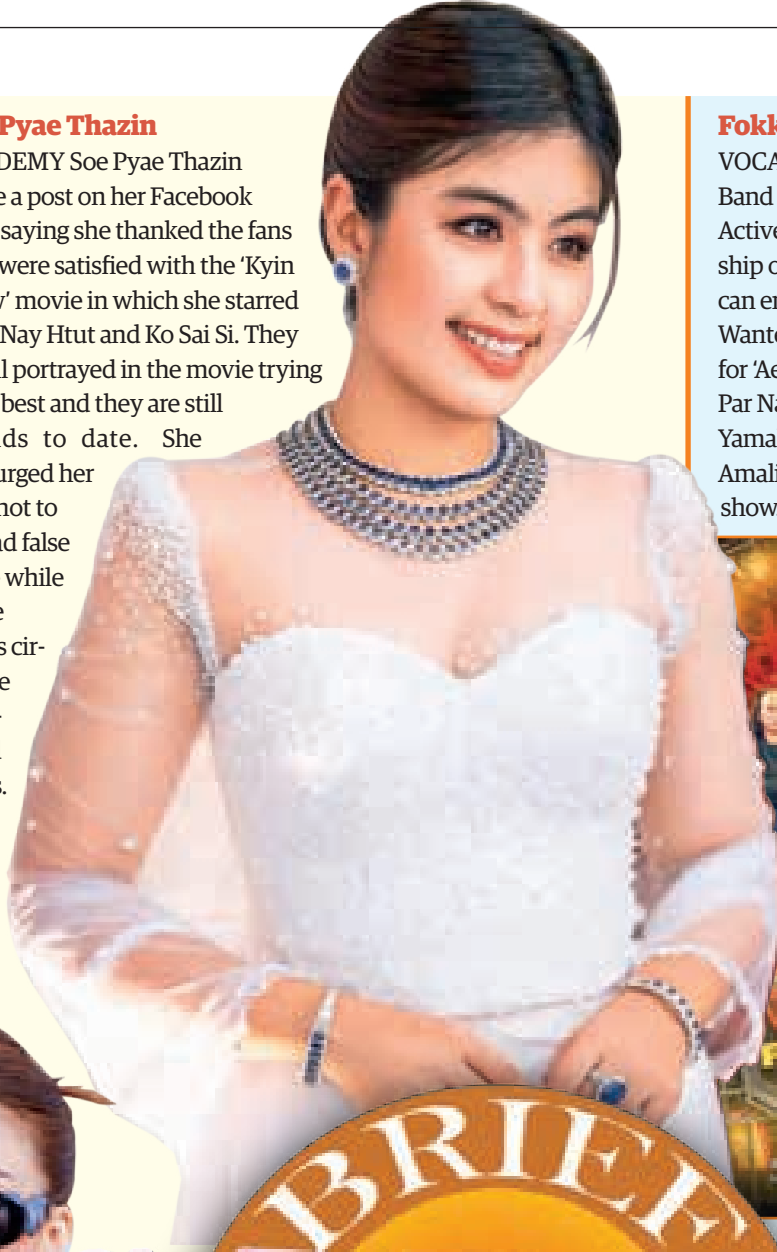


Thitsar Ni

A new book by Saya Thitsar Ni was released recently. It is a kind of speculative fiction and the book's name is 'Kala Vahana and Other Stories'. Saya Thitsar Ni said the literary genre abbreviated as spec-fic is diverse, so Han Lin named it 'Loka Taka Sarpay'. Works such as Orlando by Virginia Woolf, Metamorphosis by Kafka, 1Q84 by Murakami, and short stories by Marquez and Luis Borges are under this category. I also have short stories that can be considered speculative. These short stories are compiled and the Satori Publishing House published them. Readers will experience these stories with unique and different tastes.

Soe Pyae Thazin

ACADEMY Soe Pyae Thazin made a post on her Facebook page saying she thanked the fans who were satisfied with the 'Kyin Phaw' movie in which she starred with Nay Htut and Ko Sai Si. They are all portrayed in the movie trying their best and they are still friends to date. She also urged her fans not to spread false hope while some pages circulate falsehood posts.



Fokker

VOCALIST Fokker and Wanted Band will organize a show at the Active Bar in Hlinethaya Township on 29 March. The people can enjoy the performance of the Wanted Band which is famous for 'Aein Pyay', 'Naut Htat Manya Par Nae', and 'Balo Nyeinthe Yamale' songs. Moreover, DJ Amalia will also partake in the show.



Tun Tun Win

ACADEMY Tun Tun Win shared his experiences about how he accidentally became an actor with the media. He mentioned that he did not mean to be an actor but he applied the application with his friends and was shortlisted. He also mentioned veteran actor late U Win Oo as he approved the selection of him while director Tin Aung Myint Oo faced difficulties in selecting candidates.

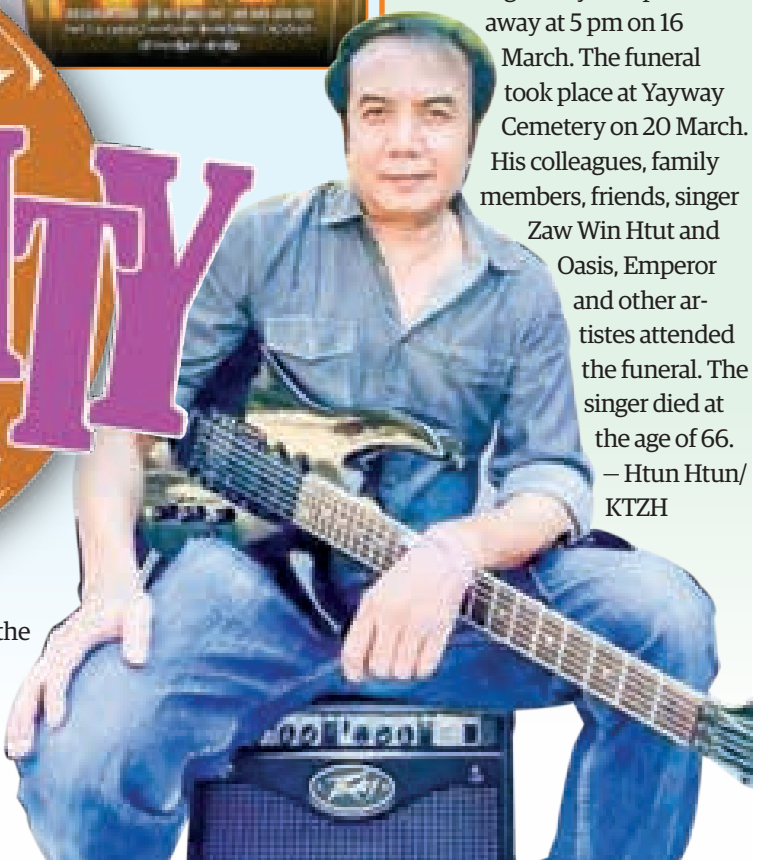
Billy Tun

ROCK singer Billy Tun passed away at 5 pm on 16 March. The funeral took place at Yayway Cemetery on 20 March. His colleagues, family members, friends, singer Zaw Win Htut and Oasis, Emperor and other artistes attended the funeral. The singer died at the age of 66. — Htun Htun/KTZH



Nan Su Yati Soe

Nan Su Yati Soe, who visited Korea recently, attended the opening ceremony of V47 in Dagon Myothit (North) Township on 20 March. The ceremony was also attended by Academy Nay Win, Academy Aye Chan Maung, Hlwan Paing, Academy Melody, Pan Young Chel, Li Li Kyaw Khine, Nan Kalaya Aung and Teresa Khine.



BRIELLE CELEBRITY BRIELLE

NATIONAL

Myanmar detains 172 foreigners for illegal border entry

MYANMAR authorities detained 172 foreign nationals who illegally entered the country through border routes, including those crossing through Thailand. These individuals are involved in online gambling and fraud activities in Myawady, Maethawtalay area in Kayin State. The detained foreigners include 50 from China, 100 from Ethiopia and 22 from Kenya.

The Kayin State government, headed by Colonel Min Thu Kyaw and officials, coordinated the investigation and

detention of these individuals. They also ensured the safe custody of the detained foreigners, with details about their personal information and records being thoroughly examined. The authorities are preparing to transfer these individuals back to their respective countries without delay.

From 30 January to 22 March 2025, a total of 8,042 foreign nationals were detained for illegal entry into Myanmar. Of these, 5,147 were transferred to their respective countries

through Thailand, following legal procedures. The remaining 2,895 are ready to be transferred soon.

The detained individuals came from various countries including China, Indonesia, Vietnam, Malaysia, Pakistan, India, Uganda, Ethiopia, Nepal, Thailand, Rwanda, Kenya, Kazakhstan, Cambodia, Ghana, Bangladesh, Japan, Sri Lanka, Africa, Tunisia, Algeria, Congo, Cameroon and Chinese Taipei. The majority of the detainees are from China. — MNA/KZL



Myanmar Immigration and officials processing undocumented foreign entrants.

37,295 Yangon students finish final matric exam



Students are seen the sixth day of the matriculation exam at BEHS 6, Botahtaung Township, Yangon. PHOTO: KANU

THE 2025 Matriculation Examination, which began on 17 March across regions and states, saw students in Yangon Region completing their final subjects: Biology and Economics yesterday.

A total of 39,263 students registered for the exam across 91 exam centres in Yangon Region. Of these, 37,295 students sat for Biology and Economics subjects yesterday.

The Yangon Region Education Officer expressed joy over the smooth and successful conduct of the exams, stating, "I am delighted that students were able to complete the exam smoothly according to the subjects they sat for. Although the exam has ended, I hope students will make good use of their time by helping their parents, reading books and attending training courses. I wish all students success and hope they can achieve their desired results when the matriculation exam results are announced."

In yesterday's exam, 18,881 students sat for the Biology exam, and 18,414 students took the Economics exam in Yangon Region. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/KZL

K2.2B worth of stimulants seized in Mandalay's Pyigyidagun

OVER K2.2 billion worth of 1.5 million stimulant tablets were seized in Pyigyidagun Township, Mandalay, as reported by the Myanmar Police Force.

A combined team, including members of the Anti-Drug Police Force, conducted a search of a 12-wheel Nissan truck driven by Aung Naing Htwe (aka) Phoe Tha, accompanied by Ye Lin Phyto, and another 12-wheel Nissan truck driven by Nan Lin, accompanied by Ye Win Htet, in Pyigyidagun Township at 4:30 pm on 14 March. During the search, police seized 1.01 million stimulant tablets.

Similarly, at 1 am on 15 March, the police arrested Soe Thiha and Aung Phyto Ko, who were involved in drug trafficking, in Pyigyidagun Township, and seized an additional



Offenders are seen along with confiscated stimulant tablets and vehicles.

500,000 stimulant tablets.

Additionally, the police arrested Zaw Min Htun (aka) Ko Zaw (aka) Pone Tu at his home in Kalay Township, Sagaing Region. He had instructed others to transport drugs from Amarapura Township to Kalay Township.

The offenders confessed to transporting drugs from Shan State to Sagaing Region. Legal proceedings have been initiated against them, and an ongoing investigation is underway to apprehend others involved in the case. — MNA/MKKS

'King' film to premiere in early Apr

THE Myanmar film 'King', produced by Aung Hake Film Production, is set to premiere in cinemas across the nation starting in early April.

Author Byu wrote the story of the film, with the script developed by Poe Kyaw (Thanlyin). It is directed by Soe Moe Min.

"It is a family drama. It is a story that fully explores the bond of brotherhood and sisterhood, as well as the love of parents. This film carries the message that one should never

exchange the precious family bond for things that are worthless in this world. The reason a brother and sister step back to help the other get ahead is out of the family spirit. This spirit will be evident in the film," said actor Kyaw Htet Zaw.

The film features an ensemble cast, including Kyaw Htet Zaw, Tayza Lin Yaung, Academy May Myint Mo, Academy Cho Pyone, Win Myaing, and Kywal Zin Phyu, among others. — ASH/MKKS



The film poster showcases scenes from the movie, highlighting its essence.

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ECONOMY WORLD

India targets 5.0 MMSCMD Coal Bed Methane production by 2027-28 to boost energy security

The initiative is part of efforts to strengthen domestic energy security and reduce dependence on imported natural gas, as stated by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.



With ongoing policy reforms and advanced drilling technologies, significant growth in CBM production is anticipated, which will help reduce reliance on conventional fossil fuels. **PHOTO: ANI**

INDIA aims to increase Coal Bed Methane (CBM) production to 5.0 million metric standard cubic metres per day (MMSCMD) by 2027-28, strengthening domestic energy security and reducing dependence on imported natural gas, according to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

With strong policy support, technological advancements, and rising investments, the CBM sector presents a lucrative opportunity for both domestic and international energy companies.

With policy reforms and advanced drilling technologies, CBM production is expected to grow significantly, helping reduce reliance on conventional fossil fuels. India is taking major

steps to develop CBM as a key energy source, creating new investment opportunities in the unconventional hydrocarbon sector.

The government has been actively working to expand CBM exploration. Through two special bid rounds in 2021 and 2022, seven new CBM blocks were added, bringing the total number to 15 blocks.

These new blocks come with a committed investment of US\$16.64 million for exploration, signalling strong interest from energy companies in India's CBM reserves. To support CBM development, the government introduced the Policy for Exploration and Exploitation of Unconventional Hydrocarbons. — ANI

NEWS IN BRIEF

Egypt, Siemens to build 500-megawatt wind farm in Gulf of Suez

THE Egyptian Electricity Transmission Company (EETC) signed on Wednesday an agreement with Siemens Gamesa Renewable Energy (SGRE) to establish a 500-megawatt wind power plant in the Gulf of Suez.

The SGRE will be responsible for developing, financing, and operating the wind power plant, the Egyptian Cabinet said in a statement. The project is expected to play a crucial role in increasing the share of renewable and clean energies in Egypt's energy mix, said the statement, adding the country plans to achieve 42 per cent renewable energy in the energy mix by 2030 and 65 per cent by 2040. — Xinhua

Southwestern Japan airport gets new runway to address congestion

A new runway began operating at Fukuoka Airport on Thursday to address increasing congestion at the hub for flights connecting southwestern Japan and other parts of Asia.

With two runways, including the new 2,500-metre one, the airport has increased its takeoff and landing slots to 188,000 from 176,000 per year, amid Japan's inbound tourism boom. The new runway will be

mainly used for international flight takeoffs.

The airport, located only around three kilometres from JR Hakata Station in central Fukuoka, handled around 25 million international and domestic flight passengers in fiscal 2023, the fourth-highest number in Japan, after Haneda in Tokyo, Narita in Chiba Prefecture and Kansai airport in Osaka Prefecture.

Chronic flight delays led the central government to commence construction of the new runway in fiscal 2015. A total of 164.3 billion yen (\$1.1 billion) was spent on the project, including for building a new airport control tower. The new runway runs parallel to the old one, which is 2,800 metres long. The runways cannot be used at the same time due to their proximity. — Kyodo

Trump says US rare earths deal with Ukraine soon

PRESIDENT Donald Trump declared Thursday that the United States would soon sign a deal with Ukraine for access to its rare earth minerals.

In a White House address, Trump said he had signed an order to "dramatically increase" US production of critical minerals and would "very shortly" sign a pact with Ukraine.

"We're also signing agreements in various locations to unlock rare earths and minerals and lots of other things all over the world, but in particular Ukraine," he said.

"One of the things we are doing is signing a deal very shortly with respect to rare earths with Ukraine, which they have tremendous value in rare earths,

and we appreciate that."

Trump has been pressuring President Volodymyr Zelensky to sign economic deals.

In particular, he has set his sights on Ukraine's mineral wealth. Ukraine's soils hold five per cent of the world's mineral resources, including iron, manganese, titanium, lithium and uranium. — AFP



Workers operate machinery at an open-pit titanium mine in the Zhytomyr region on 28 February 2025. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Boeing would develop next-generation fighter jet

US President Donald Trump on Friday announced the award of the contract for the development of the US Air Force's next-generation fighter jet to Boeing.

Trump, the nation's 47th president, said in the Oval Office that the F-47 fighter jet "will be the most advanced, most capable, most lethal aircraft ever built".

Trump claimed that the F-47 is "the world's first sixth generation fighter jet" in a video posted by the White House on X platform.

"The Next Generation Air Dominance Platform (the F-47) contract is a monumental leap forward in securing America's air superiority for decades to come," Chief of Staff of the US Air Force General David Allvin said in a statement.

"The F-47 will have significantly longer range, more advanced stealth, be more sustainable, supportable, and have higher availability than our fifth-generation fighters," said Allvin.

The Engineering and Manufacturing Development (EMD) contract for the programme is expected to be worth approximately US\$20 billion, although, across the life of the programme, Boeing is in line to receive hundreds of billions of dollars in orders, The War Zone, a defence-analysis website, reported.

Each copy of the jet, once series production commences, has been estimated in the past to cost upwards of \$300 million, said the report. — Xinhua

The Next Generation Air Dominance Platform (the F-47) contract is a monumental leap forward in securing America's air superiority.



Employees work on Boeing 737 MAX airplanes at the factory in Renton, Washington. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Japan household financial assets hit record high

FINANCIAL assets held by households in Japan totalled 2,230 trillion yen (about US\$15 trillion) as of the end of 2024, up 4.0 per cent from a year earlier to a new record, Bank of Japan data showed Friday.

Supported by rising stock

prices following a tumble in August last year, stockholdings went up 9.5 per cent to 298 trillion yen, while investment trusts soared 27.4 per cent to 136 trillion yen, the data showed.

The balance of cash and

deposits, which accounted for half of the total, gained 0.6 per cent to 1,134 trillion yen. Of them, cash shrank 3.4 per cent to 105 trillion yen due to higher prices and an increase in cashless payment services.

— Xinhua

Electronic payments in Korea hit new high in 2024

THE amount of payments made electronically in the Republic of Korea reached a record high last year, central bank data showed Thursday, as a growing number of people engaged in contact-free commerce.

The daily average amount of electronic financial transactions came to 959.4 billion won (US\$657.4 million) in 2024, up 9.6 per cent from a year earlier, according to the data from the Bank of Korea (BOK).

The reading marks the highest amount since the central bank began collecting data on electronic payments in 2007.

The daily average number of electronic financial transactions

jumped 12.3 per cent on-year to 30.7 million in 2024. — ANI



The daily average amount of electronic financial transactions came to 959.4 billion won (US\$657.4 million) in 2024, up 9.6 per cent from a year earlier. PHOTO: PIXABAY

Prospect of copper mine reopening revives tensions in Panama

PILES of copper concentrate from a Canadian-owned mine closed by the Panama courts in 2023 sit on the shores of the Caribbean Sea and are now approved for export, to the dismay of environmentalists.

A red and white chimney serves as a beacon for ships, but none have docked for more than a year at the Cobre Panama mine, which had been operated since February 2019 by Canada's First Quantum Minerals. Earlier this month, Panamanian President Jose Raul Mulino announced that

he had authorized the firm to export the copper concentrate it had already extracted before Central America's largest open-pit mine was shut. Around 130,000 tonnes of it are stored in a huge shed near the dock. In response, the mine operator signalled that it was ready to suspend multibillion-dollar arbitration proceedings against Panama over the closure. Supporters and opponents of the mine see it as a first step towards its reopening, although Mulino said there are still issues to be negotiated. — AFP

US imports eggs from S Korea, Türkiye to ease prices

THE United States is importing eggs from South Korea and Türkiye to help ease soaring prices, US Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins said Friday.

Imports from the two countries have begun, and imports from other countries are also in talks, she said, noting, "We are talking in the hundreds of millions of eggs for the short term." Egg

prices surged 10 per cent month on month, driven by shortages caused by an avian flu outbreak. Preliminary data showed University of Michigan consumer sentiment for the United States plunged to 57.9 in March, the lowest since November 2022 amid mounting inflation, which was marked in part by continuous surges in egg prices. — Xinhua

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS DIGEST



The foreign ministers' meeting follows a rare trilateral summit in May in Seoul.
PHOTO: POOL/AFP

22 March

China, Japan, ROK FMs pledge to advance trilateral cooperation

CHINA is ready to work with Japan and the Republic of Korea (ROK) to elevate China-Japan-ROK cooperation under the new circumstances, and make it more mature, stable and resilient, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said here on Saturday.

Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, made the remarks at the 11th China-Japan-ROK Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Meeting with Japanese Foreign Minister Takeshi Iwaya and ROK Foreign

Minister Cho Tae-yul.

Noting that the trilateral cooperation is one of the most deeply rooted, highly institutionalized, and promising cooperation frameworks in East Asia, Wang said the three-way cooperation has yielded positive results over the past 20 years since its inception, which not only benefits the peoples of the three countries and their respective development, but also promotes regional stability and economic integration. —Xinhua

21 March

BIMSTEC leaders to adapt Vision 2030

BIMSTEC leaders are set to adopt a declaration and BIMSTEC Vision 2030 at the upcoming Summit to be held in the first week of April in Bangkok, the organization's Secretary-General said on Friday.

"The Summit, which is just 10 days away, will be an important Summit. It's the first in-person Summit after the Kathmandu Summit in 2018. The Summit in Colombo was virtual Summit. Apart from adopting a declaration in the Summit, the leaders

are also going to adapt BIMSTEC vision 2030 that will pave the roadmap and road for future cooperation among the BIMSTEC member states", Indra Mani Pandey, Secretary-General of BIMSTEC, said in an exclusive interview with ANI.

The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) brings together seven countries of South and Southeast Asia for multi-faceted cooperation. — ANI

20 March

US revokes legal status for 500,000 immigrants

THE United States said it was terminating the legal status of hundreds of thousands of immigrants, giving them weeks to leave the country.

President Donald Trump has pledged to carry out the largest deportation campaign in US history and curb immigration, mainly from Latin American nations.

The order affects around 532,000 Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans and Venezuelans.

They will lose their legal protection 30 days after the Department of Homeland Security's order is published in the Federal Register, which is scheduled Tuesday.

That means immigrants sponsored by the programme "must depart the United States" by 24 April unless they have secured another immigration status allowing them to remain in the country, the order says. — AFP

19 March

Euclid telescope releases first data

EUROPE'S Euclid space telescope, which is on a mission to shed light on the mysteries of dark matter and dark energy, released its first data Wednesday with a little help from volunteers and artificial intelligence.

The telescope launched in 2023, aiming to chart one third of the sky — encompassing 1.5 billion galaxies — to create what has been billed as humanity's most accurate 3D map of the universe.

Euclid, which is now hovering 1.5 million kilometres (932,000 miles) from

Earth, has previously released images of a range of strange galaxies, colourful nebulas and shining stars.

But the first release of astronomical data is "a new milestone for our dark universe detective", the European Space Agency's science director Carole Mundell told a press conference.

The huge amount of data — which was accompanied by 27 scientific papers — still only covers less than 0.5 per cent of the sky that Euclid will scan over its six-year mission. — AFP

18 March

Hungary passes bill against annual 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 government, which critics say curtail the rights of the EU country's LGBTQ community.

Orban's government has repeatedly criticised 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.

The legislation — drafted by Orban's governing Fidesz-KDNP coalition — aims to ban the Pride march on the basis that it infringes on Hungary's much-criticized "child protection" law, making it possible to fine those who attend the event. — AFP

17 March

Court upholds £3 bln lifeline for Thames Water

A UK court on Monday upheld an emergency loan granted to Thames Water, allowing Britain's largest such supplier to keep a financial lifeline as it drowns under massive debt.

The High Court in London last month authorized the £3 billion (\$3.9 billion) loan, allowing Thames to stay afloat and stave off a costly public bailout.

However, it was subject to an appeal

last week by some of the company's smaller creditors displeased at the terms of the package. Thames serves 16 million customers, or a quarter of the UK population, in London and surrounding areas. "We are pleased that the Court of Appeal has today decisively refused the appeals and upheld the strong High Court decision," chief executive Chris Weston said in a statement. —AFP

16 March

Samsung faces competition in the AI space

Samsung Electronics must adopt a "do-or-die" mindset, its chairman told executives, to confront the challenges posed by artificial intelligence that are upending the industry, Yonhap news reported Sunday.

South Korean giant Samsung has been struggling to meet Nvidia's requirements as rival SK hynix has become the

US titan's main supplier of high-bandwidth memory (HBM) chips for its AI graphics processing units (GPU).

The world's largest memory-chip maker already acknowledged in October that it was facing a "crisis", and admitted questions had arisen about its "fundamental technological competitiveness and the future of the company". — AFP

SPORTS

U22 Football: Myanmar, Hong Kong draw in second friendly

THE second friendly match between the Myanmar U22 football team and the Hong Kong U22 team ended in a 2-2 draw on 22 March at the training ground 1 Thuwunna Youth Training Centre.

The match was played behind closed doors with no audience, and the final score resulted in a draw once again. The Myanmar U22 team made some changes to its lineup and played competitively. The two

teams have now drawn both their friendly matches, following a 0-0 draw in the first match on 19 March.

The Myanmar U22 team is preparing for upcoming competitions, including the ASEAN U22 Championship, the AFC U22 qualifiers, and the XXXIII SEA Games, and has played two friendly matches against Hong Kong U22 within two weeks since the team's formation. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



The Myanmar U22 team and Hong Kong U-22 team in action during their second friendly match. **PHOTO: MFF**

Argentina on brink after Almada strike sinks Uruguay

ARGENTINA edged to the brink of qualification for the 2026 World Cup on Friday after a superb strike from Thiago Almada earned them a 1-0 victory over Uruguay in Montevideo.

The reigning world champions looked to be headed for a draw after a tense tussle against a Uruguay side who defeated the Argentinians 2-0 in Buenos Aires earlier in qualifying.

But Argentina grabbed all three points with a moment of magic that stunned Montevideo's Estadio Centenario.

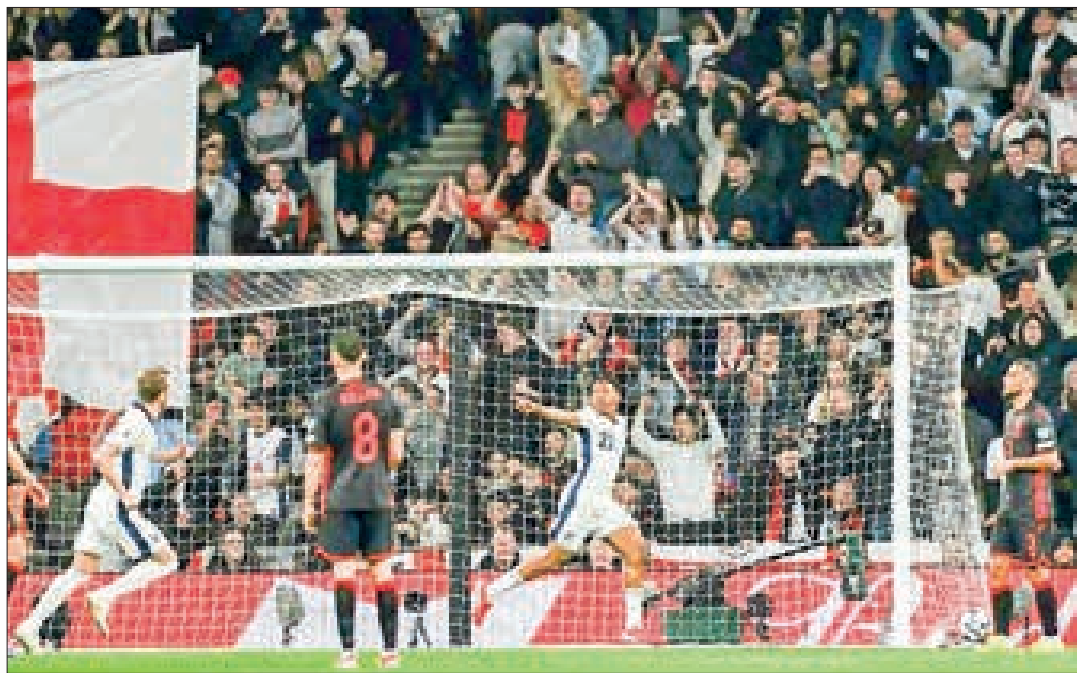
Gathering the ball on the edge of the area, the 23-year-

old attacking midfielder took a touch and uncorked a ferocious strike that flew into the top corner beyond the dive of Uruguay goalkeeper Sergio Rochet.

The only blemish for Argentina on an otherwise solid night's work came deep into stoppage time when Nicolas Gonzalez was dismissed after catching Uruguay defender Nahitan Nandez with a high boot in a rash challenge.

Nevertheless that late red card could not take the gloss off the evening for Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni, who praised his team's response to losing Messi to injury. — AFP

Tuchel era off to winning World Cup start, Poland beat Lithuania



Myles Lewis-Skelly (C) became the youngest debutant goalscorer for England when he netted the opener against Albania. **PHOTO: AFP**

THOMAS Tuchel made a winning start to life as England coach with a 2-0 victory against Albania in 2026 World Cup qualifying on Friday, while Robert Lewandowski handed Poland a narrow win over Lithuania.

Goals in either half from debutant Myles Lewis-Skelly and captain Harry Kane were enough to get England over the line as they began their qualification campaign for the next World Cup, which will take

place in the USA, Canada and Mexico.

Since taking over the reins from Gareth Southgate in January, Tuchel promised a more vibrant England side but there were only a few fleeting examples of that in an uninspiring yet efficient win at Wembley.

"We can do better, we have to do better. We started well, we had seven-eight minutes with 100 per cent ball possession with a lot of passes and high energy," said a critical Tuchel.

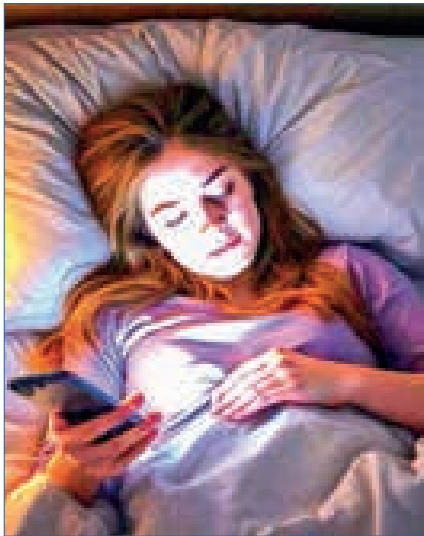
"Second half, I felt we were too slow and in general

not enough runs off the ball to get behind the line".

The 51-year-old German described managing England at Wembley for the first time as a "very new experience", adding: "Myles Lewis-Skelly debuts with me on the pitch, so I am not all alone". Lewis-Skelly, aged 18 years and 176 days, became the youngest player to score on his England debut when he slid a composed finish through the legs of goalkeeper Thomas Strakosha on 20 minutes, following a sublime through-ball by Jude Bellingham. — AFP

Argentina midfielder Thiago Almada celebrates after scoring the winning goal in a 1-0 World Cup qualifying victory over Uruguay. **PHOTO: AFP**





Chinese experts warn cellphone overuse of affecting sleep quality

On World Sleep Day, experts emphasized the importance of reducing electronic device usage before bedtime.

CHINESE experts have warned of the effect of overusing cell phones on sleep quality, as the electronic device has become indispensable to modern life while problems with sleep have surged.

A recent survey about Chinese people's sleep condition reveals that 48.5 per cent of Chinese adults have sleep disturbance, and the suffering will sharpen as people age.

On the occasion of World Sleep Day, which fell on Friday, experts have reminded people to reduce the use of electronic devices before sleep time, especially to avoid indulging in social media and video-sharing platforms.

The survey, conducted by the Chinese Sleep Research Society and the Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, notes that the population spending over three hours on social media per day is 2.3 times more susceptible to sleep disturbance.

"Each hour of exposure to electronic screens will shorten 10 to 20 minutes of deep sleep," said Meng Fanqiang, a senior doctor at a Beijing-based hospital leading in mental disorders. — Xinhua

Thailand's historic city holds boxing ceremony to promote cultural heritage, tourism

Thailand's historic city of Ayutthaya recently hosted the 17th World Wai Kru Muay Thai Ceremony, celebrating the rich heritage of Muay Thai and promoting tourism. Over 800 practitioners from 43 countries participated in the event, performing the traditional Wai Kru dance in homage to their masters against the backdrop of ancient ruins.

This internationally recognized ceremony aims to enhance Thailand's cultural soft power through sports tourism, with Tourism and Sports Minister Sorawong Thienthong highlighting the growing interest in Muay Thai, particularly among Chinese visitors.

The event attracted over 800 practitioners from 43 countries, who performed the traditional Wai Kru dance in homage to their masters against the backdrop of ancient ruins.

The event coincides with the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Thailand and China, fostering cultural exchange. Participants, including Chinese mixed martial artist Ma Jiawen and British fighter Alfie Pearce, expressed their admiration for the passion sur-

rounding Muay Thai and the welcoming atmosphere.

The two-day event, held at the UNESCO-listed Ayutthaya Historical Park, featured live demonstrations, interactive training sessions, and showcases of Thai handicrafts and cuisine, driving experience-based tourism and boosting the local economy through increased visitor spending. — Xinhua

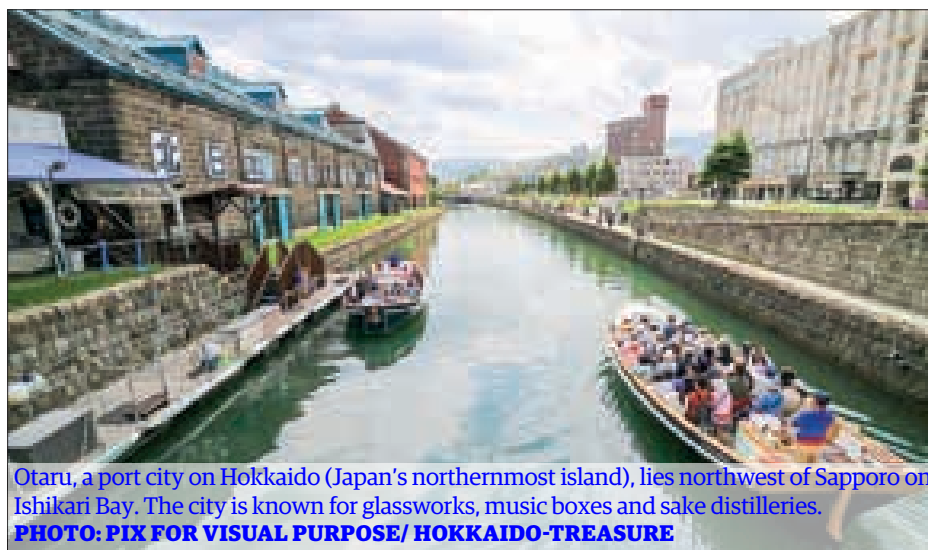


Muay Thai is a traditional Thai martial art and full-contact combat sport that incorporates stand-up striking, sweeps, and a variety of clinching techniques.

PHOTO: REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE/ THAILANDEE

Japan approves lodging tax in 11 more areas as tourism booms

The move comes as more local governments seek to impose such taxes amid a resurgence in tourism following the pandemic.



Otaru, a port city on Hokkaido (Japan's northernmost island), lies northwest of Sapporo on Ishikari Bay. The city is known for glassworks, music boxes and sake distilleries. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ HOKKAIDO-TREASURE**

JAPAN approved Friday the introduction of accommodation taxes in nine cities and two prefectures from this fall, with more local governments moving to impose such duties amid a post-pandemic tourism boom.

Internal Affairs and Communications Minister Seiichiro Murakami approved the introduction of the tax in Miyagi and Hiroshima prefectures, as well as five cities in Hokkaido, two in Gifu Prefecture, and one each in Miyagi and Shimane prefectures, bringing the total number of local governments that have now received the minister's consent to 24. Revenue from the taxes will be used to support the tourism industry and address issues such as overtourism. Among the approved cities are Otaru in Hokkaido, known for its scenic canals, and Gero in Gifu Prefecture, a popular hot spring resort. — Kyodo