

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Dec/Jan elections: A must for success

A plan has been set to hold the election in the third or fourth week of December this year or in the first or second week of January next year.

SENIOR General Min Aung Hlaing recounted the election was not held once due to internal conflicts in the parliamentary democratic era in Myanmar history.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivered a speech at the SAC meeting at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The Senior General conveyed that he paid official State visits to the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus in the first week of March. In the meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin, he could promote economic and defence cooperation and

discuss the internal peace process of Myanmar, and efforts to implement the multiparty democracy. Moreover, both countries signed agreements on investment in businesses. He also met officials from Hluttaws and discussed sending Myanmar delegations to Hluttaws of Russia. In the meeting with regional authorities, he talked about economic cooperation, tourism development, science and technological cooperation and cooperation in aerospace technology.

While in Belarus, the Senior General continued his experiences, saying that he talked with Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko and agreed on science and technological cooper-



ation, enhancement of cooperation in agro-based industries, medicine and pharmaceutical production, education, dairy products and other sectors. The

official State visits to Russia and Belarus achieved notable success.

He continued that preparations are being made to hold a free and fair multiparty democratic general election. Hence, a plan has been set to hold the election in the third or fourth week of December this year or in the first or second week of January next year. Due to past experiences, preparations are being made to use the electronic voting machine system in which it is not easy to commit voting frauds despite expensiveness. The electoral law mentioned that the election shall be held within a single day and the public holiday as much as possible. Moreover, it mentioned that the announcement for the election must be declared in advance. So, it means no limit for holding the election. The election was not held once due to internal conflicts in the parliamentary democratic era in Myanmar history. The Senior General urged all to consider casting advance votes. The election must be completed in the coming January successfully.

SEE PAGE 3



Photos (top and above) show State Administration Council (SAC) Chairman, Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, addressing the SAC meeting, while the SAC Vice-Chairman and Deputy Prime Minister led attendees during yesterday's session in Nay Pyi Taw.

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CBM to sell \$35M to fuel oil businesspeople, 10M yuan to importers

NATIONAL

Fostering a Love for Forests: Cultivating Trees for a Greener Future

Embracing a love for forests and nurturing the growth of all planted trees is essential.

Trees must be systematically cultivated to ensure a lush, green environment and favourable weather for future generations.

(Excerpt from the speech given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the first monsoon tree-growing ceremony 2024 of Tatmadaw families at the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army, Navy and Air) on 7 June 2024)

Objectives of 80th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day 2025

- 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;
- To steadfastly carry out measures for State development and genuine, eternal peace by ending the armed conflicts under the Constitution (2008) and NCA;
- To protect the State and its citizens from dangers and provide sector-wise assistance for the safety and socioeconomic development of the people;
- 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.



Music performances in progress at Mann Shwesettaw.

Music and Kayin folk dances enliven Mann Shwesettaw Festival

ON 24 March, the second day of the Mann Shwesettaw Festival in Minbu (Saku) Township, Minbu District, Magway Region, featured a music concert and traditional Kayin folk dances.

In the morning, the Taungkalay folk dance troupe from

Hpa-an, Kayin State, performed traditional Kayin folk dances.

The evening music concert took place near the special bridge of the Mann Shwesettaw Pagoda, starting at 7 pm. Artists performed both traditional Myanmar and modern music free of charge, attracting a large

audience of pilgrims and locals from across the country.

The festival is particularly crowded with pilgrims and travellers from all over Myanmar, as it coincides with the end of basic education school and matriculation exams. — Region IPRD/MKKS

Top websites and web portals to access Military Service Rules

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

Cleanliness campaign held at Ngwehsaung Beach



Around 120 volunteers from departmental staff, Myanmar Underwater Federation and Myanmar Dive centre help remove plastic waste and garbage at the Ngwehsaung beach on 25 March 2025. **PHOTO: NGWEHSAUNG IPRD**

A beach clean-up campaign took place from 7 am to 9 am yesterday in Ngwehsaung, Patheingyi District, Ayeyawady Region. The campaign was a joint effort between local departments, the Myanmar Underwater Federation and the Myanmar Dive Centre. The clean-up covered the stretch of beach in Ward 3, near Chithumya Island.

A representative from the Myanmar Underwater Federation spoke about the importance of ongoing efforts to preserve the coastal environment. The goal is to keep the beaches clean, protect the marine ecosystem and ensure sustainable tourism. The

clean-up event, now in its sixth year, helps maintain a pollution-free beach for tourists to enjoy a peaceful and clean environment.

Participants took group photos to mark the success of the campaign. Around 120 people including members from the city administration, local committees, hotel staff, the Myanmar Police Force and volunteers from the Myanmar Underwater Federation and Myanmar Dive Centre participated in the clean-up. They collected plastic waste, coconut husks and other debris from the beach. — Ngwehsaung IPRD/KZL

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)

Dec/Jan elections: A must for success

FROM PAGE 1

Those who will participate in the election must understand that Hluttaw prioritizes legislative measures that trilaterally control executive and judicial powers.

In 2025 and beyond, Myanmar will face tremendous challenges in the political sector. As the country is located between two powerful countries, it is a geographical challenge. Hence, everybody needs to understand Myanmar has many political and geographical challenges.

A plan is underway to establish polytechnic institutes which will admit the students who do not pass the matriculation examination. The first institute will emerge in Nay Pyi Taw. Similar institutes in regions and states will conduct the one-year course and yearwise courses in the coming academic year.

In his speech, the Senior

General highlighted: "It is my clarification about the potential for human resources related to the education sector beyond 2025. The education sector must be reformed compulsorily. We see some weaknesses in the education sector. No one can deny consequence of weak education can affect other sectors. We have to improve the education sector. So, people have to encourage their children to pursue education, do not disturb education measures, and they have to emphasize educational development of their children, nation-building tasks and development of human resources we aspire to".

More than 220,000 students sat for the matriculation examination in the 2024-25 academic year, and it was the largest amount from 2021-22 AY. So, efforts must be made to increase the number of candidates for

the matriculation examination next year.

The Senior General underscored that if the country produces advanced rubber products, it will be beneficial for the country's business. Neighbouring countries of Myanmar are populous. They need footwear, tyres and tubes made of rubber. So, the production can be operated with internal and external investments.

The Senior General pointed out the manufacturing of products made of cotton, leather and marine products. Moreover, he instructed all to make efforts for the export of agriculture and livestock products based on market demands.

The country faced more than US\$8 billion of income decrease due to a lack of meeting the target production of 10 major crops. If such an amount is added with a loss in double

cropping, the loss will be more than US\$19 billion.

Council members and the Joint Secretary discussed holding a free and fair election, activities of the Union Election Commission to be aligned with the legal process, announcements for people to know the electoral system, voting techniques and criteria of eligible voters, clearly combatting terrorists in Kayah State, construction of low-cost houses for the people who lost houses in terror acts, enhancement of capacity of ward and village administrators to successfully hold the election, production of konjac value-added products in Chin State, criteria for casting advance votes, holding of traditional Myanmar Thingyan festival at the national level, and raising awareness for Myanmar Thanaka.

The SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister ex-

plained the need to verify voter lists, participate in political parties in the election under the law, and summon people's military servants under the law.

In concluding remarks, the Senior General revealed that the FPTP (First Past The Post) will be implemented in the election in addition to the PR system for the Amyotha Hluttaw and regional Hluttaw. Advance voting should not harm the election. Political parties will be allowed for nine-month preparations for the election.

All Myanmar citizens are responsible for the development of the nation. It is necessary to emphasize security measures during the preparation period of the election.

The meeting was also attended by Secretary General Aung Lin Dwe, Joint Secretary General Ye Win Oo and officials. — MNA/TTA

E-government Work Committee holds coordination meeting

THE working committee for the implementation of e-government held its first coordination meeting at the Ministry of Transport and Communications yesterday afternoon.

Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Transport and Communications General Mya Tun Oo, in his capacity as Chairman of the Working Committee, said concerted efforts must be made to successfully gain the achievements in e-government development programmes set out in the Myanmar e-government



Deputy Prime Minister, MoTC Union Minister General Mya Tun Oo addresses the E-government Working Committee meeting yesterday.

Master Plan 2030. In doing so,

it includes building ICT In-

frastructure, e-procurement

and government and private

collaboration, training skilled

personnel, setting standards,

conducting research, releasing information and engaging in international cooperation. Moreover, it is essential to coordinate rapidly advancing public electronic services and accelerating e-government.

The working committee members, chairs of sub-committees, and officials of regional and state governments coordinated the discussion and sought instructions from the General.

He concluded the meeting after giving proper instructions. — MNA/KTZH

NATIONAL

Peace Talk 2025 continues for 2nd day

THE second-day of Peace Talk 2025 in accord with the motto "From Peace Talks to the New Peaceful Nation" took place at the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Centre in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

In the first session of the Peace Talk, Secretary of National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee Lt-Gen Min Naing presided over the "Political Affairs and Security", and Dr Aung Myo discussed "Myanmar's current peace processes and future potentials".

Then, Member of NSPNC Lt-Gen Win Bo Shein (Rtd) led the

"Economics and State Development Sector", and Dr Zaw Oo discussed "enhancing economic resilience amid conflict mitigation". The representatives coordinated the discussion and the speakers responded to the questions raised by the attendees.

At noon, U Maung Maung Nyein discussed "international relations, regional and international cooperation and Myanmar's peace role" in the "Political Affairs and Security" sector.

In "Economics and State Development Sector", Dr Nyo Nyo Thin discussed "constitutional amendments and the formation



The second-day of Peace Talk 2025 in progress at the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Centre in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

of a democratic federal Union".

Attendees exchanged views about the talks. Relevant representatives made suggestions,

held discussions and raised questions during the talks and the speakers presented clarifications, and the event was con-

cluded.

The third-day peace talk will continue on 26 March. — MNA/KTZH



Myanmar Ambassador U Kyaw Tin Shein presents his credentials to Egyptian President Mr Abdel Fattah Al Sisi on 24 March 2025.

U Kyaw Tin Shein presents Credentials to Egyptian President

U Kyaw Tin Shein, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Arab Republic of Egypt, presented his Creden-

tials to Mr Abdel Fattah Al Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, on 24 March 2025 at the Heliopolis Palace in Cairo. — MNA

Thingyan fever hits Hpa-an: Nang Phaw Awa fest all April

NANG Phaw Awa Beach Thingyan is planned to be held throughout April on the banks of the Thanlwin River in Hpa-an Township, according to interviews with locals.

"This year, preparations are underway to hold the Nang Phaw Awa Beach Thingyan on the Thanlwin River for the entire month of April. Friends from near and far are invited to come and enjoy the scenic spots

of Hpa-an, the beautiful waterfalls and mountain springs, and enjoy the coolness of the Thanlwin water while eating at the food stalls," said a local.

This year is the first time to hold the month-long Thingyan event, said an official from the Myanmar Social Welfare Association (Hpa-an).

"The event will be held for the whole of April. Preparations are currently underway. It is lo-

cated beyond the Kanna Night Bazaar. In previous years, there was no month-long celebration. This is special," he said.

Currently, Hpa-an sees continuous domestic tourism, with many visitors on weekends and public holidays. Guesthouses and hotels are full on busy days, and it is expected that there will be a lot of visitors during Thingyan, said locals. — MT/ZN



Preparations are underway on the beach of the Thanlwin River to celebrate the Thingyan at Nang Phaw Awa.

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Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.
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NATIONAL

2nd coord meeting held for Nay Pyi Taw Walking Thingyan

A second coordination meeting on the holding of Nay Pyi Taw Walking Thingyan to celebrate the 2025 Myanmar Traditional Thingyan Festival was held at the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking at the event, Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, in his capacity as Chairman of the Organizing Committee for Nay Pyi Taw Walking Thingyan, said this year marks the third time that the Walking Thingyan festival has been organized in Nay Pyi Taw as part of Myanmar traditional Thingyan festival.

This year marks the third time that the Walking Thingyan Festival has been organized in Nay Pyi Taw as part of Myanmar's traditional Thingyan Festival. This year is the very first cel-



A coordination meeting on the holding of Nay Pyi Taw Walking Thingyan in progress at the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

bration of Myanmar's traditional Thingyan festival since UNESCO recognized it as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Therefore, it is expected to be a grand and meaningful festival.

All the ministries should participate in preparations like

completion of pandals on time, food donation events, entertainment programmes, and systematic participation of government

employees and civilians knowing the essence of Myanmar culture as the international guests, diplomats, artistes, K-Pop singers from Korea will join the festival.

Vice-chairs of the committee Union Minister U Tin Oo Lwin and Union Minister Khun Thant Zaw Htoo, secretary of the committee reported on the participation of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture in Zone 1, regulatory supervision activities in Nay Pyi Taw Walking Thingyan zones, security measures and completed work plans.

Afterwards, the attendees coordinated the discussion regarding the designated locations for pavilions, security measures, cleanliness, access to water, electricity, regulatory matters and healthcare services. — MNA/KTZH

Japan Foundation to host free Tadoku reading event – 3rd edition

SURASURA Tadoku has been scheduled to be held at Japan Foundation located on Natmauk Lane 1 in Bahan Township from 10 am to 11:30 am on 28 March and it is free admission for all who are learning the Japanese language.

Japan Foundation has planned to organize the Tadoku reading every last Friday of the month. Tadoku means reading any kind of book written in simple Japanese language as a way

of fun learning, unlike reading practice for exams.

Anyone from N5 to N1 can join and as it is the third time, those who collect three stamps will be given a present but those who will join for the first time are also welcome, said Japan Foundation.

Free registration is available at https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=oy_HkJxhhky73GK1b_fZOeCGB-qQ4Rh-



An advert for the Surasura Tadoku.

AlunZyAqPrSIUNFBNS0p-JVk5QN1ZJMk4yWUgyUK-9SNIZSNS4u) Microsoft Form and seats are limited at 30. The application will be closed on 26 March by noon. — MT/ZS

Yangon Region govt to grant Thingyan pavilion permits



Mandalay Maha Thingyan Pavilion.

THE Yangon Region government will give the green light to operate Thingyan pavilions under rules and regulations.

The regional government formed committees to celebrate Myanmar's traditional Maha Thingyan Festival for the year 1386 ME.

The regional government will nod the applicants who want to operate the Thingyan pavilions depending on water availability, traffic congestion and size of the pavilions, following the set rules.

Those interested must seek permission through the Engineering Department (Road and Bridge) of the Yangon City Development Committee, along

with the recommendation of the respective General Administration Department. Only after the Yangon Region government will check the location and strength analysis to grant a permit, the construction can be undertaken.

The application to construct and host the Thingyan pavilions needs to be submitted between 25 March and 7 April. The form and rules and regulations documents are available at the YCDC's Engineering Department. Those who submit them after the deadline will not be considered anyhow. Individuals can enquire about details through the contact number of the Yangon Region Government via 01 8371128. — NN/KK

Thai Expo Yangon 2025 – Myanmar's premier Thai event – returns this June

THE largest Thai event in Myanmar, the Thai Expo Yangon 2025, will be held from 6 to 8 June at the Yangon Convention Centre (YCC) Hall, according to its announcement.

The event aims to bring together leading Thai companies and business representatives, who are popular in the ASEAN market, and Myanmar buyers, importers, and distributors to create better opportunities. In addition, it will cover various sectors such as Thai-made food

& beverage, fashion, cosmetics, home appliances, and healthcare, which are trusted and used by Myanmar customers.

The objectives of the event are to supply more products to the growing Myanmar market, to meet with buyers, distributors, and decision-makers from Thailand and build business partnerships, to participate in networking and business-matching activities, to increase brand visibility by receiving media coverage, to fur-

ther promote product brands, to participate in demonstration programmes, and to organize a fun event where Thai-Myanmar cultural exchanges can take place.

It will be held from 9 am to 5 pm and as the number of booths is limited, booking is required. For more information, contacts can be made to Ms Sarapee Sripankaew +66 6 1961 6587, Ms Juliet +95 9 970 733 234, contact. marketingdi-oxide@gmail.com. — MT/ZN

NATIONAL



Shwedagon open for Thingyan and New Year festivities

Devotees and well-wishers are seen at the platform of Shwedagon.

U Tin Wa, a member of the Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees, stated that during the Maha Thingyan Festival and the celebration of the Myanmar New Year, which falls on 17 April, the Shwedagon Pagoda in Dagon Township will be open daily from 5 am to 9 pm.

“The pagoda will be open

daily to accommodate the numerous pilgrims engaging in meritorious deeds during the Maha Thingyan Festival,” said U Tin Wa. “Additionally, Sayadaws will administer the Nine Precepts to the congregation at the pagoda’s prayer hall. Plans are also underway for religious groups and do-

nors to serve refreshments and Satuditha (charity feasts) to pilgrims at the pagoda. On Myanmar New Year’s Day, an early meal will be offered to Ovadacariya Sayadaws, and New Year Satuditha donations will be made at the Ancient Buddha Prayer Hall”. — ASH/MKKS

Mandalay Cultural Zones stay open for Thingyan festivities

THE Department of Archaeology and National Museums (Mandalay Region) has announced that the Pinya, Inwa, and Bagan cultural heritage zones in the Mandalay Region will remain open for public study and recreation during this year’s Maha Thingyan festival.

“In addition to these zones, the Bago Cultural Zone and Sri Ksetra Cultural Zone will also be open. Museums in these zones, however, will be closed,” said an official from the Department of

Archaeology and National Museums.

Mandalay Region’s cultural zones will remain open, but the Myanansankyaw Golden Palace will be closed. The cultural heritage buildings in the Mandalay Cultural Heritage Zone, including the Myanansankyaw Golden Palace and the Shwenandaw Kyaung, were renovated and maintained at a cost of millions of kyats last year, ensuring that tourists can visit them safely. — ASH/TH



This photo showcases the Inwa Cultural Heritage Zone.

Veteran vocalist duo to shine at Sky Bar

VETERAN singers Khin Maung Htoo and Bo Bo Han will hold a concert titled ‘Myue Kywa Tannta Music Night’ at Yangon International Hotel’s Sky Bar in Dagon Township, Yangon, on 5 April at 6:30 pm, according to singer Khin Maung Htoo.

He stated, “Ko Bo Bo Han and I will perform together in this event named ‘Myue Kywa Tannta Music Night’ on the evening of 5 April at Sky Bar. The set list will mainly feature classic hit songs that fans love. It will be a music night where I will the songs I have chosen and the ones requested by the audience”.

The Friends band will provide best instrumental support throughout the night, accompanying the two singers in their performances. — ASH/KZL



The advertisement poster of singers Bo Bo Han and Khin Maung Htoo.

Free Chinese movie screenings at Yangon Cultural Centre every Saturday



Free screenings of Chinese films at the China Cultural Centre (Yangon).

CHINA Cultural Centre located in Ahlon Township, Yangon Region, will play Chinese movies every Saturday for free.

The China Cultural Centre (Yangon) selected 10 blockbuster Chinese movies for the Weekend movie programme. It is playing one movie on Saturdays for free.

Anyone can enjoy them by presenting a national citizenship scrutiny card. It will offer a cosy and relaxing experience for movie-goers. Those interested can also explore movie arts.

“Screen-off day of the Weekend movie programme will be announced. If there is any event on the same

schedule at the centre, the public will be informed of it. The seats are first come, first served system.

China is a dominant force in the global filming industry, showing a rapid growth as a cinematic powerhouse and reshaping the industry, with increasing influence and a growing number of Chinese films gaining international recognition, the films are a box-office hit.

“Chinese films grew significantly in recent years,” Imax’s CEO Richard Gelfond addressed.

Total box office revenue has amounted to US\$2.22 billion (15 billion yuan) as of 9 February from the Spring Festival this year. China’s box office set a historic record with the films released during the Spring Festival, according to Science and Technology Daily. — ASH/KK

CBM to sell \$35M to fuel oil businesspeople, 10M yuan to importers

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) announced on 24 March that it would inject \$35 million into the fuel oil sector and 10 million yuan to import industry.

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 sell 50 million baht to importers soon. Later, it sold over eight million baht on that day.

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



Vehicles are seen refuelling at the petrol station in Yangon.

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

Agri Dept guides irrigation for pre-monsoon cotton

THE Agriculture Department notified growers to ensure the precise application of water for pre-monsoon long-staple cotton cultivation to meet production targets.

The notification of the department stated to irrigate immediately when the leaves turn to darker green colour, irrigate when the leaves of 25 plants among 100 are withered at noon (12-2 pm), and irrigate when the soil seems moist yet dry.

While growing monsoon or pre-monsoon long-staple cotton, growers had better irrigate one time after sowing,

once when the flower blossoms and at least three more times during the flowering phase (75-120 days). They also need to regulate irrigation according to soil type and prevailing weather conditions. Drip irrigation every 10 to 15 days is best for sandy soil.

Moreover, the department informed them of adequate irrigation into the two-foot depth of cultivation land, use of drip irrigation, avoiding excess application of water, irrigation for six to 12 hours, and having drainage for efficient agriculture operation. — NN/KK



This picture shows a thriving cotton plantation.

Indian firm appoints Myanmar woman as country head

THE Sohan Lal Commodity Management, one of India's largest post-harvest agricultural logistics service providers, appointed a Myanmar woman called Daw Phyo May Win as the Country Head of Business Development and Strategic Initiatives of the SLCM to expand operations with innovative warehousing solutions in Myanmar, according to economic attaché in Kolkata.

She will be responsible for overseeing SLCM's operations in Myanmar, driving strategic growth, enhancing market po-

sition and strengthening partnerships.

She is an MBA and a certified project management professional with a 24-year solid experience in business development, sales leadership and strategic growth.

This strategic move is to strengthen SLCM's footprint in Myanmar and expand its operations with the implementation of scientific warehousing offerings coupled with Phygital solutions across Agri and non-agri commodities in Myanmar, citing a report of one domestic

media outlet.

SLCM is the first-ever company investing in Myanmar's warehousing sector. It showed a significant 10-year presence in Myanmar. The Assets Under Management managed by the company in Myanmar is estimated at US\$88.72 million from providing management and procurement solutions to over 300 warehouses. Additionally, it also offers end-to-end warehousing solutions to 1,600 types of commodities from different sectors in Myanmar, the statement revealed. — NN/KK

Coconut boom: Prices surge as demand spikes

DESPITE the seasonal short supply of coconuts, the trade has soared and the price has climbed up dramatically.

This is the month that Muslims make sweets using coconut, making the demand rise.

"This is the month that Muslims make sweets using coconuts so the demand has been large now. The trade has been doing well. But the

supply has been short and we are not able to get as much as we want. The price will fall when the monsoon arrives. In Myanmar, major coconut producers are Rakhine State, Ayeyawady Region and Taninthayi Region," said a coconut trader from Patheingyi Township.

Besides, the coconut production is low in summer, causing the supply scarce in

the market.

"The price has surged unbelievably now, it has never happened in 20 years. This is time the coconut production is low but it coincides with the month that coconut consumption is peak, so those who make money with coconut have to buy by giving the price high, that leading the price rocketing unbelievable," he added. — Thit Taw/ZS

OPINION

Beware of heat waves in early summer

THE highest recorded temperature in Myanmar reached around 40°C in the last 10 days. In comparison, the highest temperature in late March 2020 exceeded 43°C, setting the record for the hottest temperature. This year, however, the heat in late March feels even more intense than in previous years. Myanmar's residents are facing the consequences of environmental degradation and climate change, with rising temperatures taking a toll on their well-being.

The increase in daytime temperatures has resulted in stronger ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun, making the effects of the heat more noticeable. UV radiation is an invisible electromagnetic wave emitted by the sun, categorized based on its wavelength. The green colour corresponds to wavelengths between 0-2.9 nanometres, yellow to 3-5.9 nanometres, orange to 6-7.9 nanometres, and red to 8-10 nanometres.

UV rays are most harmful between 10 am and 4 pm, so it's advisable to avoid direct sun exposure during this time. Wearing sunglasses that block 99 per cent of UV rays can help protect your eyes. Given the high temperatures and UV radiation, it is vital for everyone to follow safety guidelines to avoid heat-related health issues and the harmful effects of UV rays, as recommended by the Public Health Department.

UV radiation is at its highest during this period. Prolonged exposure to sunlight can lead to skin burns, skin darkening, premature ageing, decreased immunity, eye damage, and an increased risk of skin cancer. Skin can begin to deteriorate before it fully matures, accelerating ageing, weakening the immune system, blurring vision, and increasing the likelihood of skin cancer. For those who must work outdoors in direct sunlight, it's crucial to take preventive measures to reduce exposure. Extra caution is needed for elderly individuals, those with hypertension, diabetes, heart conditions, pregnant women, and those in poor health. They should seek shaded, cooler areas to mitigate these risks.

UV rays are most harmful between 10 am and 4 pm, so it's advisable to avoid direct sun exposure during this time. Wearing sunglasses that block 99 per cent of UV rays can help protect your eyes. Given the high temperatures and UV radiation, it is vital for everyone to follow safety guidelines to avoid heat-related health issues and the harmful effects of UV rays, as recommended by the Public Health Department.

IN a significant diplomatic and technological milestone, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of the State Administration Council and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, embarked on a high-profile visit to Russia. This visit, which took place on 2 September 2024, as noted in the official records, marks a pivotal moment in the strengthening of bilateral ties between the two nations. The primary focus of this collaboration is the peaceful advancement of space technology, a field that holds immense potential for Myanmar's development. Here, let us explore the details of this partnership, the discussions held, the technological exchanges planned, and the profound benefits that Myanmar stands to gain from this alliance, all while emphasizing the commitment to peaceful applications of space exploration.

The Context of the Visit

The meeting between Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and high-ranking Russian officials, including the Senior General of the Russian Federation and the Deputy Prime Minister, underscored a mutual interest in fostering cooperation beyond traditional diplomatic channels. Held under the auspices of the State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General's Office, the discussions centred on leveraging Russia's advanced space technology expertise to support Myanmar's aspirations. The presence of key figures such as the Deputy Prime Minister and other senior officials from both nations highlighted the strategic importance of this partnership. The talks were not merely ceremonial; they were a concrete step toward integrating Myanmar into the global space technology ecosystem, with a clear emphasis on peaceful purposes.

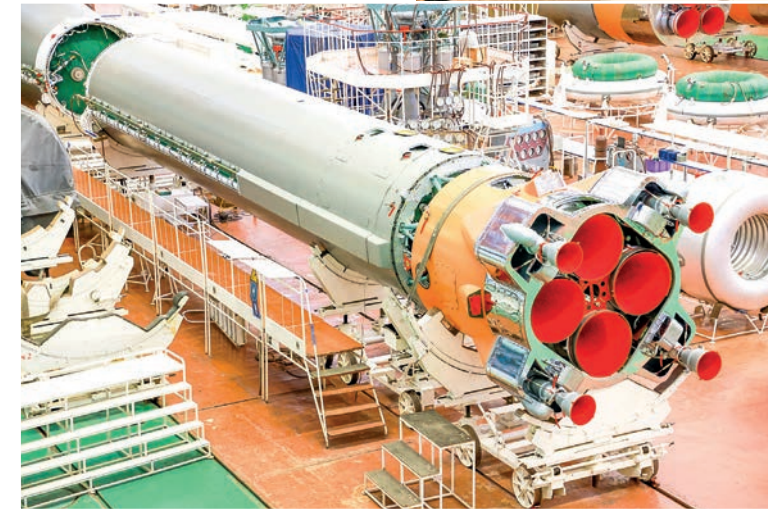
The image accompanying the article depicts a formal meeting, with Senior General Min Aung Hlaing seated alongside Russian counterparts in a conference room, surrounded by an array of officials. This visual representation symbolizes the seriousness with which both nations are approaching this collaboration. Additionally, the second image showcases a rocket assembly process, hinting at

the technological exchange that is at the heart of this partnership. These visuals serve as a testament to the tangible progress being made and the ambitious goals set forth during the discussions.

The Foundation of the Partnership

Russia has long been a global leader in space exploration, with a legacy that includes the launch of the first human into space, Yuri Gagarin, and the development of the Soyuz spacecraft. The country's space agency, Roscosmos, has been instrumental in advancing satellite technology, rocket manufacturing, and interplanetary missions. For Myanmar, a nation with a burgeoning interest in modern technology but limited infrastructure in this domain, this partnership offers a unique opportunity to leapfrog into the 21st-century space age.

The discussions during Senior General Min Aung Hlaing's visit focused on several key areas. First, there was an emphasis on the establishment of satellite technology, which could



This photo shows the assembling of satellites and rocket production at JSC Progress Factory.

Peaceful Advancement of Space Technology

A cornerstone of this collaboration is the commitment to using space technology for peaceful purposes. The State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General's Office has explicitly outlined that the partnership with Russia will focus on "peaceful utilization of space technology". This stance aligns with international norms and treaties, such as the Outer Space Treaty of 1967, which mandates that space exploration be conducted for the benefit of

A New Frontier in Peaceful Space Technology Advancement

By Yin Nwe Ko



Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and Director-General Mr Dmitry Bakanov of the State Space Corporation "Roscosmos" discuss on cooperation in the peaceful utilization of space technology.

all countries and prohibits the placement of weapons of mass destruction in orbit.

For Myanmar, the peaceful application of space technology translates into tangible benefits across multiple sectors. Satellite technology, for instance, can enhance communication networks in remote regions, where traditional infrastructure is lacking. Weather satellites can provide early warnings for natural disasters such as cyclones and floods, which are frequent challenges in Myanmar due to its geographical location. Moreover, space-based data can support agricultural planning, enabling farmers to optimize planting and harvesting schedules based on precise meteorological information.

The rocket assembly process depicted in the image is a symbol of this peaceful intent. Rather than being geared toward military applications, the technology transfer is intended to support scientific research, education,

Economic Growth and Industrial Development

One of the most immediate advantages is the boost to Myanmar's industrial sector. The establishment of a joint rocket factory or space technology facility, as hinted at in the discussions, could create thousands of jobs. This would not only reduce unemployment but also stimulate related industries such as metallurgy, electronics, and engineering. The production of fertilizers,

and industrial development. This aligns with the broader goal of fostering regional economic integration, as Myanmar seeks to position itself as a key player in Southeast Asia's technological landscape.

and a critical need for Myanmar's agrarian economy, could also be enhanced through space-derived technologies, such as precision agriculture guided by satellite imagery. Furthermore, the export of space technology components or services could open new revenue streams for Myanmar. By partnering with Russia, a nation with a robust space industry, Myanmar could eventually contribute to the global supply chain, elevating its economic status on the international stage.

Educational Advancement

Education is another area poised for transformation. The exchange of scientists and engineers between Russia and Myanmar will facilitate knowledge transfer, enabling the training of a new generation of space professionals. Universities in Myanmar could introduce space science curricula, fostering innovation and research. This educational

upliftment is crucial for a country that has historically faced challenges in building a skilled workforce in high-tech fields. The image of the rocket assembly also serves as an inspirational tool. It can motivate young Myanmar students to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), thereby laying the foundation for a knowledge-based economy.

Regional and Global Integration

On a broader scale, this partnership enhances Myanmar's role in regional and international affairs. By collaborating with Russia, Myanmar gains access to a network of space-faring nations, potentially including China and India, which are also active in the region's space race. This integration could lead to joint missions, shared satellite networks, and cooperative disaster response systems, strengthening Myanmar's position in Southeast Asia.

The visit's emphasis on regional economic integration, as noted in the document, suggests that Myanmar aims to use space technology as a tool for diplomacy and development. For instance, satellite data could be shared with neighbouring countries to address transboundary issues such as climate change and resource management.

Challenges and Considerations

While the prospects are promising, this collaboration is not without challenges. Myanmar's current technological infrastructure is limited, and significant investment will be required to build the necessary facilities and train personnel. Additionally, the political context of Myanmar, including international sanctions and internal conflicts, could complicate the implementation of such ambitious projects. However, the focus on peaceful applications may help mitigate some of these concerns, as it aligns with global efforts to promote sustainable development.

Another consideration is the need for transparency and accountability. As Myanmar embarks on this journey, it must ensure that the benefits of space technology are equitably dis-

tributed across its population, particularly in rural and underserved areas. The government will need to work closely with international partners and civil society to achieve this goal.

The Road Ahead

The visit by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to Russia is just the beginning of what promises to be a transformative partnership. The establishment of the State Space Corporation "Roscosmos" office in Myanmar, as mentioned in the document, is a concrete step toward operationalizing this collaboration. Plans include the assembly of satellites and the development of a launch site, potentially near the Tanintharyi Region, which offers strategic geographical advantages.

The peaceful advancement of space technology also opens the door to cultural exchanges. Joint missions could involve Myanmar astronauts training in Russia, fostering a sense of pride and unity among the populace. Additionally, the collaboration could inspire artistic and educational initiatives, such as planetariums or space museums, to engage the public.

The partnership between Myanmar and Russia in the peaceful advancement of space technology represents a bold vision for the future. Under the leadership of Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Myanmar is poised to harness Russia's expertise to address its developmental challenges while contributing to global scientific progress. From enhancing communication and disaster preparedness to boosting economic growth and education, the benefits are far-reaching. As this collaboration unfolds, it will be essential to maintain a focus on peace, equity, and sustainability, ensuring that the skies above Myanmar become a symbol of hope and progress for generations to come.

This alliance is not just about rockets and satellites; it is about building a bridge between nations, fostering innovation, and uplifting society. With a commitment to peaceful utilization and a strategic roadmap, Myanmar and Russia are setting the stage for a new era of technological collaboration that could redefine the region's future.

NATIONAL

ME warns: Legal action for fake passport appointment scams

ACTIONS will be taken if it finds out that there are people who misuse its name for their gains, said the Myanmar Embassy in Singapore.

The embassy stipulated in a statement, that applicants for passport extension can get an appointment date by sending the passport's first page and IC Card front and back page to its WhatsApp numbers

+6581748993 and +6582468581 as of 21 March.

The statement said the embassy already warned that no individual or organization is allowed to provide this service. It added that it has received complaints from some Myanmar nationals that there are people who ask them to send personal information to the embassy's WhatsApp numbers



The Myanmar Embassy to Singapore.

to seek appointment dates by pay.

It said applications to do it themselves and evidence of being the same family is required to be attached if they send by a single phone number, and requests to report to +6581748993 if there are people who ask money for passport extension appointment date. — MT/ZS

Seafarers' Pension Reform Committee takes shape



A meeting of the Myanmar Seafarers Federation (MSF).

THE Myanmar Seafarers Federation (MSF) is preparing to form a working committee on the pension system for Myanmar seafarers.

Discussions have been held with relevant organizations, including the Department of Marine Administration and Myanmar Insurance, to establish this pension system.

At the initial meeting in 2020, the MSF's president stated that a pension system was required.

"Yesterday's imagination has found a path to reality. Discussions were held among organizations such as the Department of Marine Administration, Myanmar Insurance, overseas consultants, MSF,

MSESF, Myanmar Five Star Enterprise, and Coastal Ship Owners Association," the MSF said.

MSF's proposal to form a management and working committee was accepted in principle and the meeting will continue to implement it.

Plans for a seafarers' pension system were underway, Captain Soe Min Aung, MSF president, had previously said at a forum held last month.

"The reason we are introducing the pension system is because we have found that many seafarers of our age are homeless and destitute. If the young sailors have no money in old age, what will they do? Then we realize we must work with the relevant organizations to create a pension system," he said. — MT/ZN

206 illegal immigrants deported, 238 more detained

MYANMAR authorities deported 206 foreign nationals who illegally entered the country, while another 238 individuals were detained for further investigation.

Among those deported, 176 were from the Philippines, 24 were from Malaysia, four were from Nepal, and two were from Cambodia. These individuals entered Myanmar through illegal border routes, particularly in Myawady, Kayin State, after transiting through neighbouring countries, including Thailand. Many were found to be involved in illegal online gambling operations, online fraud schemes and other criminal activities.

The deportation process took place via the Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge No 2, with Myanmar officials coordinating with representatives from the respective embassies. Myanmar authorities officially handed the deportees the necessary legal documents to ensure their smooth repatriation.

On the same day, authorities

in Myawady and the surrounding areas detained another 238 foreign nationals who illegally entered the country through unofficial routes. Between 30 January and 25 March 2025, a total of 8,670 illegal immigrants were identified and detained in Myanmar. Of this number, 5,406 individuals have already been deported through Thailand to their respective countries, while arrangements are being made to deport the remaining 3,264 individuals. These individuals are currently under detention while awaiting repatriation.

The Myanmar government takes strict action against illegal online fraud and scam operations, particularly in border areas. Authorities are collaborating with neighbouring countries and international organizations to crack down on illegal online gambling networks and financial fraud, ensuring effective investigations and legal actions against those involved. — MNA/KZL



Myanmar Immigration and officials processing undocumented foreign entrants.

Counter-argument to false information

Misinformation: Maubin's youths arrested for military service

MALICIOUS news media spread false information that youths in Maubin Township are forcefully recruited. However, these reports are misleading.

A local official confirms that people's military service

follows the law. There is no forced conscription as security forces conduct regular checks to maintain peace and prevent illegal activities.

Authorities claim these false reports aim to create fear. The public should trust only



Screenshot of DVB TV News validates misinformation.

official sources for accurate information about people's military service and security matters. — MNA/KZL

Cherry blossom season arrives in central Tokyo, matching average year

CHERRY blossoms bloomed on Monday in central Tokyo, with the flowers appearing on the same date as in an average year, the weather agency said.

The “Somei Yoshino” variety at Yasukuni Shrine, home to a specific tree which serves as the Japan Meteorological Agency’s blooming reference in the capital, flowered five days earlier than

last year, when it was delayed due to unseasonably cold weather. The blossoms are expected to reach their peak in about a week.

Private weather service company Weathernews Inc predicts cherry blossom trees in western and eastern Japan are expected to begin flowering within the month. They are forecast to bloom in the country’s northeast

from early to mid-April and in Hokkaido in late April.

A weather agency official confirmed that at least six flowers had appeared by around 2 pm at Yasukuni Shrine, meeting the criteria for declaring the cherry blossom season open. The announcement was met with applause from visitors to the shrine.

— Kyodo



A Somei Yoshino cherry tree, which the Japan Meteorological Agency uses as a benchmark tree to declare the official start of the spring cherry blossom season, comes into bloom at Yasukuni shrine in Tokyo on 24 March 2025. PHOTO: KYODO

New ‘Snow White’ tops N America box office despite grumpy reviews

DISNEY’S remake of “Snow White” topped the North American box office this weekend with an estimated take of \$43 million, but faces stiff winds — and some horrendous reviews — to make up its huge production costs.

The new live-action version starring Rachel Zegler, which comes 90 years after the original blockbuster, has faced a series of woes — from the Covid pandemic to criticism of its use of CGI, not real actors, to portray the seven dwarves.

The film’s budget topped out at an estimated \$250 million and it has become “one of the most troubled projects in Disney’s 102-year history”, according to The New York Times.

Some reviews have been scathing — the Guardian called it “toe-curlingly terrible” — while others were a bit kinder, with The Washington Post calling it “surprisingly entertaining” and audiences giving generally positive feedback.

“While it’s a disappointing opening weekend, we can’t write off the film’s performance until we see how it holds up in the coming weeks,” said Daniel Loria, senior vice president at



Rachel Zegler attends the World Premiere of Disney’s Snow White at El Capitan Theatre in Hollywood, California on 15 March 2025. PHOTO: RODIN ECKENROTH/GETTY IMAGES FOR DISNEY/AFP

the Boxoffice Company.

Focus Features’ spy thriller “Black Bag” starring Michael Fassbender and Cate Blanchett ticked up a notch from last weekend to second place, earning \$4.4 million, industry watcher Exhibitor Relations reported Sunday.

In third place, also up one spot from last weekend, was Marvel and Disney’s “Captain America: Brave New World,” at \$4.1 million. Anthony Mackie and Harrison Ford star in the latest installment in the Marvel Cinematic Universe. — AFP

Sri Lankan police digitize fingerprints of 1 mln individuals convicted by courts

SRI Lankan police said on Sunday that they have digitized the fingerprints of 1 million individuals convicted by courts.

Ruwan Kumara, director of the Crime Record Division, told the media that the initiative, launched in collaboration with the University of Colombo’s Computer Department and the police

fingerprint unit, is expected to significantly support criminal investigations.

The digitization project, which began in 2013, gives police officers instant access to fingerprint records for investigative purposes.

Kumara added that the system will enhance the ability of law enforcement

to locate and repatriate wanted fugitives living overseas.

By sharing digitized fingerprint data with foreign law enforcement agencies, Sri Lankan police can improve cross-border cooperation in tracking down criminals, he said. — Xinhua

Australia’s school funding reform covers all public schools

THE Australian government has secured agreements with every state and territory to put all public schools on the path to full and fair funding, representing its biggest new investment in public education to date.

Under these “historic agreements”, the federal government will increase its contribution to the Schooling Resource Standard from 20 per cent to 25 per cent by 2034, except for the Northern Territory, which will see its share rise to 40 per cent by 2029, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said on Monday.

This reform will inject an estimated 16.5 billion Australian dollars (US\$10.37 billion) in additional funding into public schools over the next decade, Albanese said, adding the funding is tied to critical education reforms aimed at improving student outcomes, increasing mental health support in schools, and supporting teachers.

The agreements also set national targets to increase Year 12 completion rates to their highest level in 2030, raising student attendance rates to pre-pandemic levels — 91.4 per cent, and boosting teacher education engagement rates by 10 percentage points by 2035.

Albanese said this funding is an investment in Australia’s future, ensuring every child has access to a quality education.

Education Minister Jason Clare hailed the agreements as a “game-changer” for public education, providing a 70 per cent increase in federal funding per student when fully implemented. — Xinhua

ECONOMY WORLD

Multinational CEOs flock to China for business opportunities



This photo taken on 23 March 2025 shows the Symposium on Macro Policies and Economic Growth of the China Development Forum 2025 in Beijing, capital of China. The China Development Forum 2025 is scheduled from 23 to 24 March. The theme of this year's forum is "Unleashing Development Momentum for Stable Growth of Global Economy." **PHOTO: XINHUA**

HEADS of some 80 multinationals including Siemens, Apple, Samsung and Pfizer have flocked to China to seek new cooperation opportunities with the world's second-largest economy.

The transnational corporate chiefs were present at the China Development Forum 2025 in Beijing, scheduled from 23 to 24 March. The annual event, hosted by the Development Research Centre of China's State Council, has become an important platform of dialogue for the Chinese government, global businesses, academia, and international organizations.

China will continue to welcome enterprises from around the world with open arms, further expand market access, actively address the concerns of businesses, and facilitate the deeper inte-

gration of foreign-funded enterprises into the Chinese market, Chinese Premier Li Qiang said in a keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the forum.

Prior to the forum, British pharmaceutical giant AstraZeneca signed a landmark US\$2.5-billion agreement on Friday to invest in Beijing over the next five years, the largest single investment in Beijing's biopharmaceutical sector in recent years.

Under the agreement, AstraZeneca will establish a global strategic R&D centre in Beijing, its sixth worldwide and second in China after one in Shanghai. The new centre, equipped with an advanced artificial intelligence and data science laboratory, will accelerate early-stage drug research and clinical development. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

S Korea's retail sale grows 4.4% in February

SOUTH Korea's retail sale grew in single digits last month due to strong online demand for food, daily necessities and service, government data showed Tuesday.

Combined revenue for major offline and online retailers gained 4.4 per cent in February from a year earlier, slower than an increase of 11.7 per cent in the previous month, according to the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy.

Revenue for online retailers jumped 16.7 per cent last month, maintaining a double-digit growth for the 18th straight month since September 2023.

Sales by offline retailers declined 7.7 per cent in February compared to the same month of last year after expanding 8.8 per cent in January.

Food demand in cyberspace soared 14.9 per cent, and online sales of daily necessities increased 7.9 per cent. — Xinhua

Laos records US\$56 mln in trade deficit in January

Laos recorded a trade deficit of US\$56 million in January, according to the latest figures from the Lao Trade Portal website.

The total value of trade in January reached over \$1.3 billion, with exports accounting for \$650 million and imports totalling \$706 million, said a report issued on Tuesday from the website.

Laos' main export products included electrical appliances, mixed gold and gold bars, cassava, potassium salt, papers, rubber, gold ore, cassava starch, wood pulp and paper scraps, clothing. The country's main imports included diesel, land vehicles, mechanical equipment, chemical products, fertilizers, electrical appliances, steel and magnetic steel, sugar, clothing, and farm tractors. — Xinhua

Japan's Oita aims to lure tourists with renamed "Hello Kitty Airport"

OITA Prefecture in southwestern Japan, host to a Sanrio character theme park, plans to temporarily pitch its airport as "Hello Kitty Airport" in hopes of luring tourists visiting the country for the upcoming World Exposition in Osaka who are eager to travel further.

Oita Airport will call itself Oita Hello Kitty Airport for six months starting 13 April, when the expo begins in Osaka, western Japan. Oita Prefecture is the only location other than Tokyo that hosts a theme park dedicated to the globally popular feline character.

The airport will welcome travellers by setting up a photo spot and banners featuring Hello Kitty and other Sanrio characters, according to the local government and the operator of Sanrio theme parks, Sanrio Entertainment Co.

A shuttle bus connecting the airport and Harmonyland, the Sanrio theme park, will also run between August and

October, they said.

Noting that the prefecture saw a record high 1.5 million foreign visitors in 2024, Oita Governor Kiichiro Sato was quoted in a press release as saying he hopes to share the charms of his prefecture while the expo is under way.

Aya Komaki, president of

Sanrio Entertainment, said her company is aiming to make Harmonyland an "entertainment and resort area."

"We will make efforts so that Harmonyland can contribute to attracting tourists in and outside the country as one of Oita Prefecture's attractions," she said. — Kyodo



Undated photo shows a panel displaying the image of a photo booth which will be set up at an arrival gate in Oita Hello Kitty Airport. (Copyright 2025 Sanrio Co Ltd Tokyo, Japan.) (Photo courtesy of Sanrio Entertainment Co) **PHOTO: KYODO**

China's BYD reports 34% net profit increase to US\$5.6 bln in 2024

CHINA'S leading new energy vehicle (NEV) manufacturer BYD Company Limited has reported robust profit growth in 2024, driven by booming car sales.

BYD's net profit attributable to its shareholders grew 34 per cent year on year to 40.25 billion yuan (about US\$5.6 billion) last year, the company said in its annual report filed to the Shenzhen Stock Exchange on Monday night.

Last year, it generated 777.1 billion yuan in revenue, an annual increase of 29.02 per cent, according to the report.

BYD continued to

post strong growth in vehicle sales. It sold 4.27 million NEVs last year, up 41 per cent year on year. Its overseas sales reached 417,000 units, up 72 per cent.

Its vehicle and vehicle-related business contributed 617.38 billion yuan in revenue, up 27.7 per cent year on year and accounting for 79.45 per cent of the total, the company said.

Its mobile phone component, assembly and other businesses contributed about 159.61 billion yuan, up 34.6 per cent year on year and accounting for 20.54 per cent of its total revenue.

— Xinhua



(FILES) This photo taken on 18 April 2024 shows BYD electric cars for export waiting to be loaded onto a ship at a port in Yantai, in eastern China's Shandong province. PHOTO: AFP

Asia's GDP expected to grow 4.5% in 2025: report

THE weighted real GDP growth rate of Asia is projected to reach 4.5 per cent in 2025, an increase from 4.4 per cent in 2024, according to a report released by the Boao Forum for Asia Tuesday.

"Despite increasing global economic uncertainty, Asia has remained as a key growth engine for the world economy," said the report titled Asian Economic Outlook and Integration Progress.

At purchasing power parity, the ratio of Asia's GDP among the global total is expected to rise from 48.1 per cent in 2024 to 48.6 per cent in 2025, the report said.

The overall situation of employment and income is turning upwards in Asia, with its unemployment rate projected at 4.39 per cent in 2025, lower than the global rate of 4.96 per cent, according to the report. — Xinhua

Rapidus teams up with Singapore's Quest Global to produce AI chips

JAPAN'S state-backed chip venture Rapidus Corp and engineering services provider Quest Global Services Pte Ltd headquartered in Singapore have agreed to team up to develop low-power artificial intelligence semiconductors, the two companies said Tuesday.

Under their partnership, Quest Global will help Rapidus and its customers to design state-of-the-art 2-nanometre semiconductors for AI use.

The tie-up will provide Rapidus "access to Quest Global's extensive global client chip base" and allow the two companies to deliver new chips



Photo taken from a Kyodo News helicopter on 24 March 2025 shows a Rapidus Corp plant under construction in Chitose, Hokkaido. PHOTO: KYODO

to "existing and new clients", the Singaporean company said in a statement.

Rapidus plans to begin mass-producing next-generation chips in 2027 at a plant being built

in Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido, with pilot production starting in April. — Kyodo

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY.NO. (184N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY.NO. (184N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **26-3-2025** 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PADIAN 3 VOY.NO. (0UVCIS1NC)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PADIAN 3 VOY.NO. (0UVCIS1NC)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **26-3-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/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 CMA-CGM SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MSC ANDREA F VOY.NO. (SB510A)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MSC ANDREA F VOY.NO. (SB510A)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **26-3-2025** 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 MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY S.A

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V DANU BHUM VOY.NO. (563W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V DANU BHUM VOY.NO. (563W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **26-3-2025** 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 REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD



A helicopter drops water as they prepare for the possibility of a wildfire advancing towards Gounsa Temple in Uiseong on 25 March 2025 **PHOTO: AFP**

Temple burned, UNESCO-site evacuated as South Korea wildfires spread

INHABITANTS of a UNESCO-listed village were ordered to evacuate while a historic Buddhist temple was burned to the ground as South Korea scrambled to contain worsening wildfires, which are tearing across the country's southeast.

More than a dozen different blazes broke out over the weekend, with four people killed as dry windy weather hampered efforts to contain one of the country's worst-ever fire outbreaks, prompting the government to transfer thousands of prisoners.

Early on Tuesday, acting Interior and Safety Minister Ko Ki-dong said the wildfires had "so far affected approximately 14,694 hectares (36,310 acres) with damage continuing to grow".

The extent of damage makes the fires collectively the third largest in South Korea's history. The worst was an April 2000 blaze that scorched 23,913 hectares (59,090 acres) across the east coast.

"Strong winds, dry weather, and haze are hampering firefighting efforts," Ko told a disaster and

safety meeting. The government declared a state of emergency in four regions, citing "the extensive damage caused by simultaneous wildfires" and thousands of people have been ordered to evacuate.

"The wind was so strong that I couldn't stand still," Kwon So-han, a 79-year-old resident in Andong told AFP.

"The fire came from the mountain and fell on my house.

"Those who haven't experienced it won't know. I could only bring my body." — AFP

NASA's Curiosity rover detects largest organic molecules on Mars

RESEARCHERS examining pulverized rock samples aboard NASA's Curiosity rover have discovered the largest organic molecules ever found on Mars, according to a new study published on Monday.

The findings suggest that prebiotic chemistry may have advanced further on Mars than previously observed, according to the study published in the Proceedings of the National

Academy of Sciences. Scientists probed a rock sample inside Curiosity's Sample Analysis at Mars (SAM) mini-lab and found the molecules decane, undecane, and dodecane. These

compounds, which are made up of 10, 11, and 12 carbons, respectively, are thought to be the fragments of fatty acids that were preserved in the sample. — Xinhua

This self-portrait of NASA's Curiosity Mars rover obtained 4 February 2018 shows the vehicle on Vera Rubin Ridge, which it's been investigating for the past several months, directly behind the rover is the start of a clay where north is on the left and west is on the right, with Gale Crater's rim on the horizon of both edges. -rich slope scientists are eager to begin exploring. Behind Curiosity's mast is Mount Sharp. **PHOTO: HANDOUT / NASA/JPL-CALTECH/MSSS / AFP**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Israeli military admits mistakenly struck Red Cross building in Gaza

THE Israeli military acknowledged on Monday that it mistakenly struck a building belonging to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Gaza due to misidentification.

Israeli military forces operating in the city of Rafah, southern Gaza, fired at the building after "identifying suspects inside who they perceived as a threat", a military statement said.

A subsequent inspection revealed the identification was incorrect, and the troops "were unaware of the building's affiliation" with the ICRC at the time of the shooting, the statement said.

Earlier on Monday, the ICRC said in a statement that its office in Rafah "was damaged by an explosive projectile despite being clearly marked and notified to all parties."

"Fortunately, no staff were injured in this incident, but this has a direct impact on the ICRC's ability to operate. The ICRC strongly decries the attack against its premises," said the ICRC, which runs a field hospital in Rafah and other facilities in the Palestinian enclave to treat mass casualties from Israeli strikes. In the statement, the ICRC also said that it lost contact on Sunday with emergency medical technicians from the Palestine Red Crescent Society, and that humanitarian workers in Gaza were killed and injured last week. — Xinhua

Kremlin says Moscow analyzing results of recent talks in Riyadh

KREMLIN Spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Tuesday that Moscow is analyzing the outcomes of the concluded Russia-US talks in Riyadh.

The talks were "technical", and their content would not be made public, Peskov said, adding that contacts between Russia and the United States would continue.

The spokesperson said there were currently no plans for a conversation between Russian President Vladimir Putin and US President Donald Trump, but it could be organized quickly if necessary.

Negotiations between the Russian and US delegations concluded in Riyadh on Monday after nearly 12 hours. Last week, Trump held phone talks with Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on Tuesday and Wednesday, respectively. — Xinhua



SPORTS

Brisbane to build 63,000-seat main stadium for 2032 Olympics

A 63,000-seat stadium will be built in central Brisbane as the main venue for the 2032 Summer Olympics and Paralympics, the Queensland state government said Tuesday.

The stadium planned for Brisbane's Victoria Park was unveiled by Queensland Premier David Crisafulli as the centrepiece of an infrastructure plan that will see multiple hosting venues built or upgraded across the northeastern Australian state.

The plan includes a 25,000-seat national aquatic centre near

the main stadium. Events will also take place at popular tourist destinations such as the Gold Coast and Cairns. Rowing will be held on the Fitzroy River in Rockhampton, which local media describe as crocodile habitat.

The state and federal governments will invest a combined AU\$7.1 billion (\$4.4 billion) in the construction and upgrading of venues, with the main stadium expected to cost AU\$3.8 billion, according to an independent review the state government used to guide its planning. — Kyodo

Defenders missing for Barca as international break threatens to take toll on key players

FC Barcelona coach Hansi Flick is likely to have only two central defenders available for his side's rescheduled La Liga game at home to Osasuna on Thursday night.

The match was originally scheduled to be played on 8 March, but was postponed after the sudden death of Barca team doctor Carles Minarro just hours before kickoff, and now goes ahead despite protests from both Barcelona and Osasuna, given that it is now played before the

end of the international break.

Barcelona duo Raphinha and Ronald Araujo have to play South American qualifying games late on Tuesday, with Brazil and Raphinha facing Argentina and Araujo's Uruguay playing Bolivia.

Flick is also likely to be without Pau Cubarsi, who had to be substituted in Spain's 2-2 draw with the Netherlands last Thursday with an ankle injury and missed Sunday's return leg to start treatment with his club. — Xinhua



Than Paing (9) scores an equalizing header for Myanmar. PHOTO: SOE NYUNT THAW

Myanmar surpass Afghanistan 2-1 in AFC opener

MYANMAR'S national football team claimed a 2-1 victory over Afghanistan in their opening match of Group E in the 2027 AFC Third-round qualifiers at the Thuwunna Youth Training Centre in Yangon yesterday.

After a disappointing second-round performance that saw them finish at the bottom of their group, Myanmar displayed much-improved form in the opening match of the third-round qualifiers.

Myanmar is grouped with

Syria, Afghanistan, and Pakistan and their strong performance in the opening match boosted their confidence.

Myanmar's head coach Myo Hlaing Win selected key players including Maung Maung Lwin, Thiha Zaw and Than Paing for the match. Myanmar started the match aggressively while Afghanistan focused on counter-attacks. Afghanistan took the lead in 14 minutes with a goal from striker Omid. However, Myanmar

responded in 28 minutes with Than Paing heading in an equalizer. The score was 1-1 at halftime.

In the second half, Myanmar made tactical changes and in the 75th minute, Maung Maung Lwin scored the winning goal with a long-range shot which was victory for Myanmar.

Myanmar will face Pakistan in their next group match on 10 June as they will play away from home. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

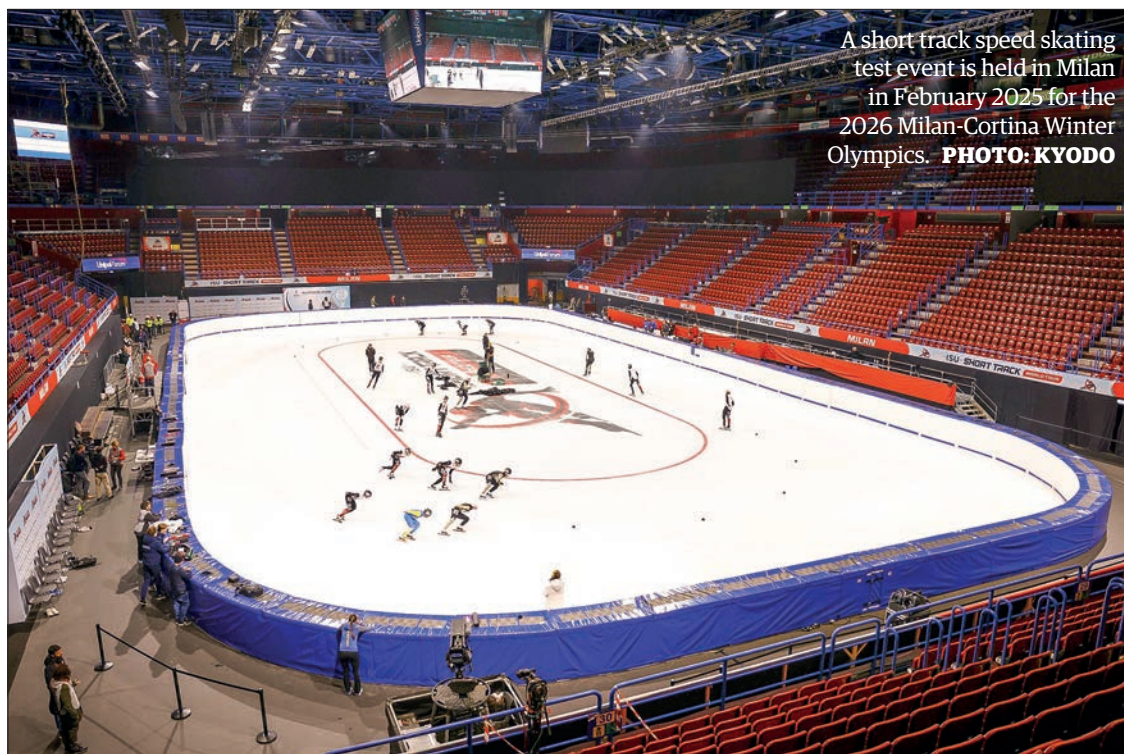
2026 Olympics to have AI-powered ice conditioning for skating events

ARTIFICIAL intelligence helped maintain the conditions of the ice at figure skating and short track test events held last month in Milan, a year before the 2026 Winter Olympics.

According to the local organizing committee, AI analyzed the collected data and kept the ice in the right conditions after humidity and ice temperature were monitored by sensors installed around the rink.

"The ice was just right, not too hard or too soft," Japanese figure skater Sota Yamamoto said after competing at the Ice Skating Arena, the venue for the Milan-Cortina Olympics.

The venue, with a very high ceiling, opened its doors to the public in 1990 and usually stag-



es events such as concerts and basketball games.

It hosted the world figure skating championships in 2018.

"It's a very big venue with a sense of openness," Yamamoto said.

The venue will likely house about 6,700 spectators during the Olympics, the organizing committee said.

During the games, there are days when figure skating and short track speed skating are held on the same day.

The thickness of the ice is slightly different, more than 5 cm for figure skating and less than 5 cm for short track, but the latest cooling equipment allows a switch between them in a short period of time. — Kyodo

Temple burned, UNESCO-site evacuated as South Korea wildfires spread
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WORLD

Israel president 'shocked' hostages in Gaza no longer top priority

ISRAEL'S president said on Tuesday he was shocked that the issue of hostages being held by Palestinian militants in Gaza was no longer a top priority in the country, days after criticizing the government's war policy.

"I am quite shocked how suddenly the issue of the hostages is no longer at the top of the priority list and at the top of the news," Isaac Herzog said in a video issued by his office, adding it was important to keep working towards "bringing the hostages home, down to the last one".

"We must never lose sight of this issue, as a nation, until every last hostage is brought home. This is a national effort," Herzog, who was speaking at a conference in Tel Aviv, continued.

Some 251 people, including women and children, were seized during Hamas's 7 October attack on southern Israel, which left 1,218 Israelis dead according to an AFP tally based on official data, and sparked a deadly war in Gaza.

Of those 58 are still being held in Gaza, including 34 the Israeli military says are dead.

On 18 March, Israel launched a series of deadly air strikes on the Palestinian territory renewing the fighting after a nearly two-month ceasefire that saw the handover of 33 Israeli hostages from Gaza, including eight who were dead.

Since the resumption of fighting, the health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza has reported that at least 792 people have been killed, raising the overall death toll to 50,144.

Herzog's comment followed a statement on Thursday in which he said he was "deeply troubled" by the policies of the government led by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.



Anti-government demonstrators gather with banners and flags to block Yitzhak Rabin Boulevard during a protest near the Foreign Ministry headquarters in the centre of Jerusalem on 25 March 2025. PHOTO: AFP

jamin Netanyahu.

"It is unthinkable to resume fighting while still pursuing the sacred mission of bringing our hostages home," Herzog, whose role is largely ceremonial, said.

Thousands of Israelis have been holding daily protests in Jerusalem, angry over the government's policies

including a return to war, which many see as forsaking the hostages still being held in Gaza.

The families of the hostages have also been critical of the fighting, accusing the government of sacrificing their loved ones, who they had hoped would be released with the continuation of the ceasefire. — AFP

Trump says he may "give a lot of countries breaks" on tariffs

US President Donald Trump on Monday said that he may "give a lot of countries breaks" on tariffs, as his 2 April deadline to impose "reciprocal tariffs" on US trading partners draws closer.



US President Donald Trump leaves after an event celebrating the Greek Independence Day at the White House in Washington, DC, the United States, on 24 March 2025. PHOTO: XINHUA

"I may give a lot of countries breaks, but it's reciprocal," Trump told reporters at the White House Monday afternoon. He noted that the European Union (EU) has agreed to lower car tariffs to 2.5 per cent as part of a deal with the Trump administration.

"We'll be announcing some additional tariffs over the next few days, having to do with automobiles, cars, and having also to do a little bit with lumber down the road, lumber and chips," Trump continued.

"But for the most part, 2 April will be a big day, that will be reciprocal day, and we'll be bringing some of the money back that's been taken from us," Trump said. Earlier in the day, Trump announced on social media that he'll impose 25-per-cent tariff on any nation that purchases oil and/or gas from Venezuela, accusing the Latin American country of sending "tens of thousands of" criminals to the United States.

When asked by a reporter whether the 25-per-cent tariff is "on top of existing tariffs," Trump said "yes." — Xinhua

Magnitude 6.7 earthquake hits off New Zealand's South Island

A 6.7-magnitude earthquake struck off New Zealand's South Island on Tuesday, the United States Geological Survey said.

The tremor hit at 2:43 pm (0143 GMT) at a depth of 10 kilometres (6.2 miles) off the southwest tip of New Zealand's South Island, according to the USGS.

Centred around 160 kilometres (100 miles) from mainland settlement Riverton, it was initially recorded as a 7.0-magnitude jolt before it was downgraded.

There was no tsunami warning or immediate reports of damage, according to the Honolulu-based Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre.

New Zealand's emergency management agency warned residents to avoid nearby coastal areas due to the risk of "strong and unusual currents". "No land threat is expected," the agency said in a national advisory. Rose Ivory, owner of La Riviera Guesthouse in Riverton, said her "whole car was rocking and rolling". — AFP