

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

## Taninthayi approves 15 new hotel projects expanding tourism services



This aerial photo showcases one of the tour destinations in Taninthayi Region.

Efforts are also focused on enhancing tourism services in specific areas: Dawei for domestic travellers, Myeik for both domestic and Thai tourists, and Kawthoung for international visitors

**T**HE Taninthayi Region Tourism Committee, during its 5/2024 Coordination Meeting, announced the approval of pre-construction permits for 15 hotel projects, along with new licences for 14 hotels and several guesthouses in the region.

Since its inception, the committee has held 16 coordination meetings to facilitate the systematic development

of the hotel and tourism sector in key destinations. These meetings have led to the approval of 15 new hotel project proposals, 14 new hotel licences, 3 new guesthouse licences, 25 new tour operator licences, three new tour guide licences, 55 regional tour guide licences, 38 hotel licence renewals, eight guesthouse licence renewals, 32 tour operator licence renewals, and 82 regional tour

guide licence renewals.

Efforts are also focused on enhancing tourism services in specific areas: Dawei for domestic travellers, Myeik for both domestic and Thai tourists, and Kawthoung for international visitors. In addition, the committee is working on developing new tourist routes across the Taninthayi Region to expand its appeal. — ASH/TMT

## Myanmar's manufacturing sector attracts over US\$92.9M FDI (Apr-Nov)

ACCORDING to the statistics released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA), foreign direct investments of more than US\$92.98 million have flowed into Myanmar's manufacturing sector as of November in the financial year 2024-2025 beginning 1 April.

The Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) permitted 35 enterprises to invest in the manufacturing sector so far. Chinese companies primarily made investments in the manufacturing sector. The manufacturing enterprises that need a large labour force are prioritized to create job opportunities for the locals.

MIC gave the green light to 41 foreign projects from seven countries — China, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong SAR, India, Indonesia, Singapore and Thailand — to make investments of over \$235.7 million in the past eight months, adding increased capital by the existing enterprises from China, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong SAR, India, the Republic of Korea, Japan, Seychelles, Singapore and the UK.

The transport and communications sector pulled \$87.7 million with a capital expansion of \$82.66 million this FY. The manufacturing sector drew over \$92.98 million and the services sector received \$44.9 million. The power sector brought in an FDI of \$8.5 million while investments of less than one million flowed into the agriculture sector respectively. The livestock and fisheries sector witnessed a \$1 million increase in capital by existing enterprises.

**SEE PAGE 7**

**OPINION**

Ensure fair prices for basic staple food: Rice

**PAGE 8**

**NATIONAL** **PAGE 4**



Winners awarded in Tennis, Football Finals at National Sports Festival

**BUSINESS** **PAGE 7**



DICA report: 18,000 companies fail to file AR in Jan-Nov



# NATIONAL

## Education as a Catalyst: Building Myanmar's Future through Qualified Educators

COUNTRIES with the highest levels of education among their citizens are also the most developed.

A well-educated population signifies both competence and quantity.

Myanmar must cultivate a large number of qualified educators to drive progress.

*(Excerpt from the speech given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the opening of the Myanmar National Education Conference 2024 on 25 June 2024)*

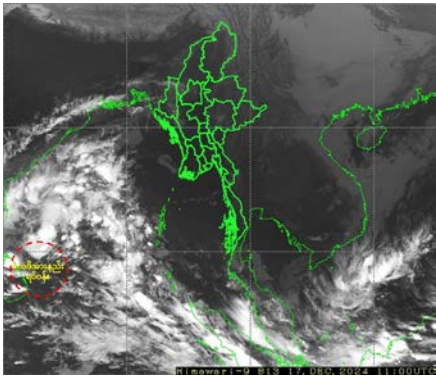
### Myanmar Gazette

#### Appointment of Head of Service Organization confirmed

THE State Administration Council has confirmed the appointment of U Aung Thwin Oo, Director-General of the Union Minister's Office of the Ministry of Commerce, on the expiry of a one-year probationary period.

### Low-Pressure Area Condition

Issued at (19:00) hours MST on 17 December 2024



ACCORDING to the observations at (17:30) hrs MST today, the low-pressure area over southwest Bay of Bengal still persists. It may further intensify and move west-north-westwards and reach to Tamil Nadu Coasts, India during the next two days. — DMH

### EARTHQUAKE NEWS

(Issued at 08:35 hour MST)

A strong earthquake of magnitude (7.4) Richter Scale with its epicentre Outside Myanmar (Vanuatu Islands), latitude 17.74°S, longitude 168.01°E, depth (57) kilometres, about (5,441) miles southeast of the Kaba Aye seismological observatory was recorded at (08) hr (17) min (27) sec MST on 17 December 2024. — DMH

### Gold Market Rate as of 17 December 2024

THE price of one tical (16.329325 grammes) of gold with a density of 19.25 grammes per cubic centimetre and above is K5,360,000, as established by the Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee.



The 17<sup>th</sup> Akha traditional collective festival in progress on 16 December.

## 17<sup>th</sup> Akha Khar Htaung Phar festival held in Tachilek

THE Akha culture and tradi- 16 December.

tion supervisory team organ- At the event, Commander Maj-Gen Soe Hlaing of the Tri- angle Region Command made the opening speech, and super-

visory team head U Min Nyo made a New Year speech. Officials from the super- visory team then awarded the winners of the futsal and Sepak Takraw competitions, prayed for their ancestors and posed for the documentary photo to- gether.

visory team head U Min Nyo made a New Year speech.

Officials from the super- visory team then awarded the winners of the futsal and Sepak Takraw competitions, prayed for their ancestors and posed for the documentary photo to- gether.

Akha youths also per- formed during the New Year festival.

The Akha Zan (aka) Akha ethnic people organize the fes- tival to propagate their beliefs, honour their religion, literature and costume, explore their hidden culture, and reunion of Akha people living in Myan- mar-Thai-Cambodia-Laos-Chi- na once a year, said leader U Min Nyo. — Myint Mo (Tachil- ek)/KTZH



Akha women in traditional attire participate in the festival.



# 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.

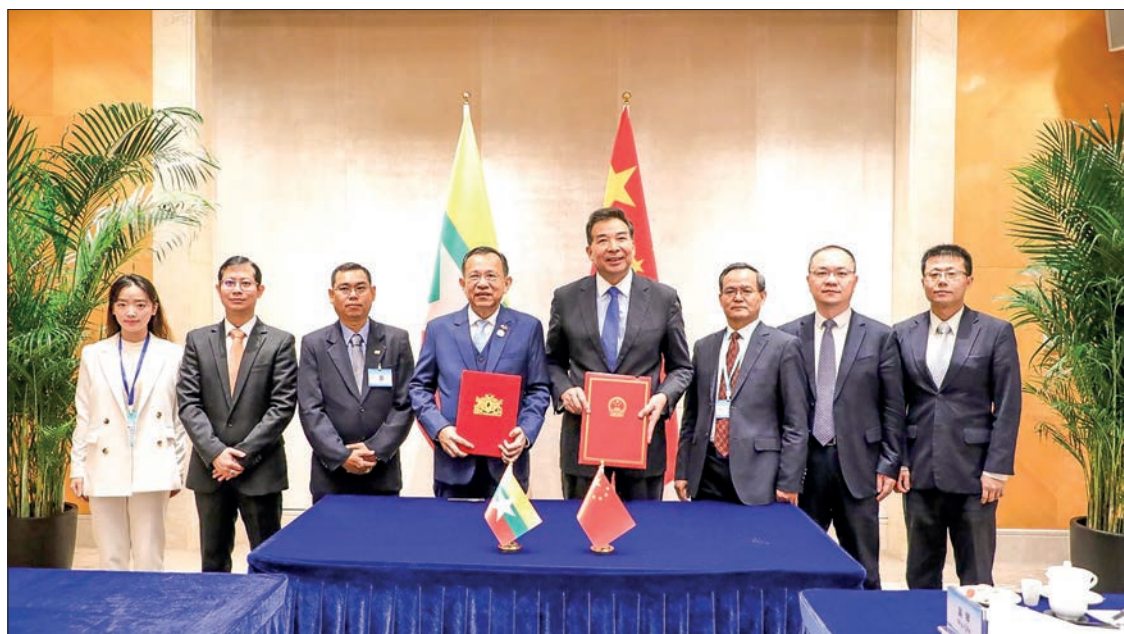
*(Excerpt from guidance given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to Shan State cabinet members and state-level departmental officials on 3 September 2024)*

## MIFER Union Minister arrives back after attending 3<sup>rd</sup> China-Indian Ocean Region Forum on Blue Economy Development Cooperation

AT the invitation of the China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA), Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Dr Kan Zaw and his delegation attended the Third China-Indian Ocean Region Forum on Blue Economy Development Cooperation on 15-17 December 2024, in Kunming, People's Republic of China.

During the trip, the Union Minister and his party met CIDCA Chairman Mr Luo Zhaohui on the morning of 15 December 2024 and discussed enhancing development cooperation between Myanmar and China. The meeting was also attended by the consul-general and the representative from the Consulate-General of Myanmar in Kunming.

Moreover, the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations of Myanmar and the China International Development Cooperation Agency on Promoting the Project of Photovoltaic Power Plants was signed by the Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations of Myanmar and the Chairman of the China International Development Cooperation Agency.



Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw (fourth from left) and Myanmar delegates join the group photo session at the MoU signing ceremony in Kunming.

The Union Minister and his party attended the International Government-Private Business Dialogue held on the afternoon of 15 December 2024 where the topics relating to cooperation on ocean-based connectivity infrastructure, digital empowerment for the blue economy, and cultural exchange promoting marine tourism were discussed. Following this, the Union Minister also attended a welcome banquet in the evening.

On the morning of 16 De-

ember 2024, a group meeting was held between the high-level delegates attending the Third China-Indian Ocean Region Forum on Blue Economy Development Cooperation, including the MIFER Union Minister and Chinese Government officials led by Mr Wang Yong, Vice-Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC). Subsequently, the Union Minister and his delegation attended the opening ceremony of the Third

China-Indian Ocean Region Forum on Blue Economy Development Cooperation, which was held with the theme of Future of the Blue Indian Ocean — Development Practice of the Global South.

The forum was attended by over 300 participants, including high-level officials of the government of the People's Republic of China, local government members, high-level representatives from financial institutions and organizations, 27 countries in the

Indian Ocean Region, and 24 international organizations related to blue economy development.

Following the opening ceremony, the Union Minister and the delegation participated in the thematic discussion on the theme of The Ocean Decade of the United Nations in the Context of the Global Development Initiative on the Global Development Initiative.

On the afternoon of 16 December 2024, the Union Minister addressed the speech at the round table held under the theme of Promoting Ocean Climate Change Governance and Contributing to the Implementation of the Paris Agreement. Afterwards, the Union Minister participated in the closing ceremony of the Forum.

MIFER Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw and the delegation arrived back in Yangon by flight on the afternoon of 17 December 2024. Officials from the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations and Mr Ouyang Daobing, Economic and Commercial Counsellor of the Chinese Embassy to Myanmar welcomed back the Union Minister and the delegation at the Yangon International Airport. — MIFER

## Taninthayi Region Chief Minister inspects 10-MW solar power project

TANINTHAYI Region Chief Minister U Myat Ko, accompanied by regional Chief Justice Daw Pike Pike Aye, and officials, inspected the 10-megawatt solar power generation project in Kawthoung township in Kawthoung district of Taninthayi Region yesterday.

The project is located on 37.23 acres of land in Plot N-313, Yard20/OSS, Parsalpanyan Kyay-taingpyin compound in Salmine village-tract, Kawthoung.

The 10-megawatt power project aims to save the power charges, access continuous power, and

reduce environmental impact. The Southern Coastline Group Co Ltd conducted the project in March 2023. The project is in progress to distribute power in March 2025 and includes a cold storage plant and a cooling plant. — Region IPRD/KTZH



Taninthayi Region Chief Minister U Myat Ko and officials view the solar power project yesterday.



# NATIONAL

## Winners awarded in Tennis, Football Finals at National Sports Festival



Union Constitutional Tribunal Chair U Aung Zaw Thein hands over the prize to the Bago Region men's tennis team.



Union Minister Dr Thida Oo awards the first prize to the Mandalay Region women's football team.

Tin Oo Lwin, Union Minister for Cooperatives and Rural Development U Hla Moe, Union Minister for Electric Power U Nyan Htun, Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs U Min Thein Zan, along with the Deputy Ministers, officials from the Myanmar Olympic Committee, and the team managers, coaches, and athletes of the participating teams. Union Ministers and officials bestowed the awards, afterwards.

The U-30 table tennis finals were held at Wunna Theikdhi Sports Hall. Awards were presented by the chairman of the

THE final matches and award ceremonies of the Inter-Ministry and Inter-State and Region competitions of the Fifth National Sports Festival 2024 took place at various stadiums and gymnasiums in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The U-35 men's and women's Tennis Final matches were held at Wunna Theikdhi Tennis Court. Union Auditor-General Dr Khin Naing Oo and Union Constitutional Tribunal Chair U Aung Zaw Thein presented awards to the winners, with Mandalay Region and Bago Region teams taking top honours in the women's and men's team competitions, respectively.

The U-25 women's football final was held at the Shwekyap-in Sports Ground. Among the spectators were Union Ministers, Deputy Ministers, and sports enthusiasts. Various dignitaries, including Union Minister and Union Attorney-General Dr Thida Oo, presented awards to the winning teams from Mandalay Region, Shan



Union Minister U Tin Oo Lwin presents prizes.



Union Civil Service Board Chair U Aung Thaw offers awards.

State, and Ayeyawady Region.

Among the spectators were Union Minister and Union Attorney-General Dr Thida Oo, Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs U Min Thein Zan, Deputy Ministers, Social Affairs Ministers and Transport Ministers from states

and regions, team managers, coaches, athletes from participating teams, and football enthusiasts.

The U-30 weightlifting finals took place at Wunna Theikdhi Gymnasium, with Union Ministers and officials presenting awards to the top athletes

in multiple weight categories. Winners included teams from Ayeyawady, Sagaing, Magway, Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, Shan State, Yangon, and Kachin State.

Among the spectators were Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U

Myanmar Table Tennis Federation and other dignitaries to the top teams from Yangon, Mandalay, Mon State, and Kay-in State.

Among the spectators were Union Civil Service Board Chair U Aung Thaw, Anti-Corruption Commission Chair U Sitt Aye, Social Affairs ministers from states and regions, the chairman and officials of the Myanmar Table Tennis Federation, as well as administrators, coaches, and athletes from the participating teams.

The Fifth National Sports Festival continues today with final events and award-giving ceremonies in football, Wushu, Karate, traditional Chinlone, and billiards-snooker for athletes under 21 years of age.

— MNA/KZL



Enthusiastic football fans cheer the final match of the Inter-State and Region U-25 Women's Football Tournament.





# NATIONAL

## 5<sup>th</sup> National Sports Festival: Athlete competition gains momentum

SPORTS events of the Fifth National Sports Festival 2024 continued at relevant stadiums and gymnasiums in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area yesterday.

The Inter-Ministry volleyball finals were held at the Wunna Theikdi Stadium's Volleyball Court, where the Ministry of Home Affairs team won against the Ministry of Defence team with a score of 3 matches to 1. The Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs team defeated the Ministry of Planning and Finance



Spectators cheer during the futsal match between MoHA and MoPE at the Fifth National Sports Festival.



Enthusiastic sports fans cheer on the players in the ISR Sepak Takraw tournament.



Enthusiastic spectators watch the ISR women's volleyball match.

team with a 3-0 victory. In the women's volleyball competition, the Ministry of Home Affairs team triumphed over the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs team with a 3-1 score, while the Ministry of Defence team won against the Ministry of Transport and Communications team with a 3-0 score.

The Inter-Ministry men's

Sepak Takraw competition took place at Wunna Theikdi Sports Complex, where teams from various ministries competed. In the men's four-player doubles match, the Ministry of Construction team defeated the Ministry of Transport and Communications team with a score of 2 matches to 1. In the men's three-player doubles match, the

Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs team won against the Ministry of Defence team with a 2-1 score. The Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs team secured first place, the Ministry of Defence team came in second, and the Ministry of Construction team finished in third place.

In the Inter-Ministry men's futsal quarterfinals, held at Wun-

na Theikdi Futsal Stadium, the Ministry of Commerce team won 2-0 against the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation team. The Ministry of Transport and Communications team won 2-1 against the Ministry of Construction team. The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement team defeated the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism team with a 4-3 score. The Min-

istry of Planning and Finance team won 5-1 against the Ministry of Home Affairs team, with all winning teams advancing in their respective categories. The Inter-State and Region semifinals of billiards and snooker competitions were held at the Wunna Theikdi Sports Complex. In the men's billiards singles competition, Ayeyawady

Region's Kyaw Swa Win defeated Yangon Region's Aung Naing Soe with a 3-1 score. Magway Region's Lin Aung won against Nay Pyi Taw's Kyaw Thein with a 3-1 score.

In the snooker 15-Red singles competition, Kayin State's Myo Thura Aung won against Magway Region's Kyaw Wai Yan Soe with a 3-0 score. Magway Region's Kaung Zan Htet also defeated Kayin State's Thet Hmu Kyi Hlaing with a 3-2 score.

In the men's billiards doubles competition, Ayeyawady Region defeated Yangon Region 3-1, while Mandalay Region's team won 3-0 against Kachin State. In the snooker 15-Red doubles competition, Shan State's team triumphed 3-2 against Kachin State, and Yangon Region's team won 3-0 against Magway Region, securing victory in both categories.

The Inter-State and Region Men's Table Tennis finals, the Women's Table Tennis finals, and the Under-25 Women's Volleyball third-place and final matches were held at various venues, including the Wunna Theikdi Sports Complex, the Training Grounds (3), and the Shwekyapin Sports Ground. Officials presented prizes to winners in the relevant categories. — MNA/KZL



Photos showcase various sports at the National Sports Festival, including Karate, traditional Myanmar Chinlone, Wushu, and billiards-snooker.



# NATIONAL

## Operational communication training for field workers opens in Nay Pyi Taw

THE Myanmar Red Cross Society and the International Committee of the Red Cross jointly conducted the operational communication training for field workers in Nay Pyi Taw during the second week of December.

The opening ceremony took place at the Myanmar Red Cross Society's headquarters in Nay Pyi Taw, attended by the Nay Pyi Taw Red Cross Supervisory Committee Chairperson, Central Council members of the Red Cross Society, officials from the Nay Pyi Taw Supervisory Committee, the Department of Social Welfare, and 20 Red Cross volunteers from various districts and townships within Nay Pyi Taw.

This training is part of a series previously held in Yangon, Magway, Northern Shan State, Kachin State, Mon State, Kayin State, Eastern



This image shows the opening of the operational communication training.

Shan State, Mandalay, Taninthayi, and Ayeyawady Regions. Plans are underway to expand these sessions to the remaining states and regions to ensure nationwide accessibility. — ASH/KZL

## Myanmar Countdown 2025 at Wunna Theikdi Sports Stadium, NPT

A grand Myanmar Countdown 2025 event will take place at Training Grounds 1 and 2 of the Wunna Theikdi Sports Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw from 29 to 31 December.

The event will feature performances by over 30 well-known singers and is open to the public free of charge.

"Many singers will perform at the countdown show. With free entry, it feels like the old days when we used to have concerts in the stadium. Let's all gather and enjoy with a huge audience," said singer He Lay.

The lineup includes popular artistes such as Bobby Soxer, Pone Yake, Hlwan Paing, Chan Myae Maung Cho, Htet Yan, Example, Double J, Team 143, Wine Su Khaing Thein, Eaint Chit, Phyo Pyae Sone, Jewel, Nay Min Eain, Wai La, Bo Phyu, He Lay, Naw Naw, Irene Zin Mar Myint, Ye Yint Aung, Yoon Myat Thu, Yadana Mai, J Fire, Izani, Thein Lin Soe, Aung Htet, Jason Ace, Ma Haw, Chit Kaung, Project-K, and Awesome Boyz. — ASH/TRKM



This photo showcases a billboard for the Myanmar Countdown 2025.

## YGN Downtown Lifestyle Shopping Festival to celebrate New Year's Eve



This photo depicts the Secretariat Yangon that will host the New Year's Market Fair.

THE Yangon Downtown Lifestyle Shopping Festival, a New Year's Eve market fair, will be held at the Secretariat Yangon in Botahtaung Township, Yangon Region, according to Dora Entertainment, the event organizer.

The fair is scheduled to take place from 25 to 31 December at the Secretariat Yangon Heritage Market Hall. Over 100 stalls will offer a variety of foods, consumer goods, and merchandise. A food court on the lawn will also be available for festival visitors.

"This venue is easily accessible, has ample parking, and is beautiful, making it an ideal spot for hosting annual seasonal markets. We are organizing the New Year Market from 25 to 31 December and inviting interested businesspeople to participate. About 100 stalls are planned, but the final number may vary as the event date approaches," said Daw Thazin Soe, an organizer from Dora Entertainment.

The market fair will feature entertainment programmes, including music performances by various artistes. A children's playground will also be set up, offering games such as bumper cars, soft play, a roller coaster, and a pirate ship ride. — ASH/MKKS

## MSF Chair: Youths show eagerness to be seafarers but lack information-seeking skills

MOST youths are showing eagerness to join a maritime career but they are weak in acquiring information on what they should prepare, said Myanmar Seafarer Federation chair, Captain Soe Min Aung.

The Department of Marine Administration has issued guidelines for seafarers and youths can contact MSF if they want to learn, he said.

"Many young men and women are now eager to join the maritime industry. However, we found out that they don't make sure what they need to prepare to become a seafarer. There are guidelines that a seafarer needs to follow. If they want to choose a seafarer life they will need to learn this vocation. If they don't

do thorough research on this vocation, they will be cheated on making necessary documents and certificates. And if they don't know thoroughly about skill training courses and travel documents they will cost more. These are cases complained to MSF," he said.

If a seafarer doesn't make proper preparations, it is not easy to solve when they get injured or lose their life at work.

"If their travel documents or certificates of completion of the training course are not real, it is difficult to solve when they get into trouble onboard and the employer will deny his responsibilities," he said. — MT/ZS



This photo reveals the basic practical training underway for safety onboard. PHOTO-MSF



## Myanmar's manufacturing sector attracts over US\$92.9M FDI (Apr-Nov)

### FROM PAGE 1

Singapore is the leading foreign investor in Myanmar with \$89 million of FDI in the past eight months of the current FY, followed by China and Thailand.

Myanmar's manufacturing sector is largely concentrated in

garment and textiles produced on a Cutting, Making, and Packing basis, and it contributes to the country's GDP to a certain extent.

Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association (MGMA) is committed to accelerating its

effort to keep improving Myanmar's garment sector, joining hands with international brands and partners, as per the MGMA's statement on its commitment released on 25 August 2023. MGMA also offers HR management courses, occupa-

tional health and safety courses, and basic and advanced sewing machine operator training to enhance the capacity of the employees.

There are 547 active factories operated under the MGMA as of October 2024 comprising

323 from China, 56 from South Korea, 17 from Japan, 15 from other countries, 48 domestic factories and 25 joint ventures. Fifty-three factories are temporarily closed for now, according to the MGMA's monthly Newsletter. — KK

### MMFA to launch financial planning training on 11 Jan

THE Myanmar Microfinance Association (MMFA) will conduct Financial Planning Training (Batch 1) from 9 am to 4 pm on 11-12 January 2025. This intensive course is tailored to Operation Managers, Senior Branch Managers, Branch Managers, Assistant Branch Managers, Supervisors and individuals working for the HR Department, Finance Department, Training Department, microfinance companies and those who are interested in exploring a career in the microfinance sector.

Financial Planning Training will offer Module 1: Financial Goal Setting, Module 2: Budgeting, Module 3: Tax Planning, Module 4: Cash Flow Management, Module 5: Debt Management, Module 6: Financial Risk Management, Module 7: Emergency Fund Planning and Module 8: Monitoring.

Certified trainers of the Frankfurt School of Finance & Management will help trainees be equipped with qualifications to be financial service providers that meet the requirements of clients and access the financial goals of individuals.

The fee is K120,000 for non-members. Members can enjoy a K20,000 discount. Trainees will receive a completion certificate. Those enthusiastic can enrol for the course by 6 Japan 2024 through <https://shorturl.at/VOQoR>. For further details, individuals can contact 09965209010 within office hours. — NN/KK

## DICA report: 18,000 companies fail to file AR in Jan-Nov

A total of 18,000 companies were struck off the register in January-November 2024 as they failed to file annual returns (AR) on the online registry system, MyCO, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

DICA notified those companies that failed to file their AR on the MyCO were struck off the register from the date of the directive under 430 (F) of the Myanmar Companies Law.

DICA's statistics indicated that 750 companies in January 2024, 600 in February, 1,650 in March, 2,000 in April, May, and June, 2,500 in July, 1,000 in August, 2,000 in September, 1,500 in October, and 2,000 in November had not filed the AR.

A total of 6,400 companies also failed to submit the AR in 2023. The company registration on the MyCO website commenced on 1 August 2018



The signage of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) office.

under the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

All registered companies must submit AR on the MyCO registry system within two months of incorporation, and at least once every year (not later than one month after the anniversary of the incorporation) under Section 97 of the law.

Under Section 266 (A)

of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017, public companies simultaneously must submit annual returns and financial statements (G-5). All overseas corporations must submit ARs in the prescribed format on MyCO within 28 days of the financial year ending, under Section 53 (A-1) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

Per DICA's report, thou-

sands of companies were suspended for failing to submit AR forms before the due date. Newly established companies are required to submit ARs within two months of incorporation or face a fine of K100,000 for filing late returns.

DICA has notified that any company that fails to submit its AR within 13 months will be notified of its suspension (I-9A). If it fails to submit the AR within 28 days of receiving the notice, the system will show the company's status as suspended. Companies can restore their status only after shelling out a fine of K50,000 for the AR fee, K100,000 for restoration of the company on the Register, and K100,000 for late filing of documents, totalling K250,000. If a company fails to restore its status within six months of suspension, the registrar will strike its name off the register, according to the DICA notice. — NN/KK

## CBM sells US\$28M, 1M baht, 710,000 yuan on 16 Dec

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold over US\$28 million, one million baht and over 710,000 yuan on 16 December.

CBM sold 340,000 yuan and 400,000 baht on 13 December, \$28.51 million and 600,000 baht on 12 December and 500,000 yuan again on 11 December. CBM announced on 10 December that it would sell \$35 million and 40 million baht through the foreign exchange trading

platform. Then, it sold about 900,000 yuan on 10 December, \$15 million, over one million yuan and 200 million baht on 6 December, over 1.55 million yuan on 5 December after sales of 1.48 million yuan on 4 December and 1.43 million yuan on 3 December.

Furthermore, CBM injected \$38 million, 1.48 million yuan and 107.46 million baht online

forms on 2 December.

CBM pumped over \$59 million, over 280 million baht and 8.78 million yuan in November and over \$91 million, over 610 million baht and 9.8 million yuan in October into the financial market.

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 joining hands 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



# OPINION

## Ensure fair prices for basic staple food: Rice

It is time to harvest the monsoon crops and plant cold-season crops as a second cycle. Paddy, the primary monsoon crop, has already been harvested and processed into rice for the domestic market, while cold-season crops are flourishing on suitable farms.

Myanmar is a major rice-producing country. For farmers to thrive economically, rice production must increase while maintaining affordable production costs and fair market prices. Supporting farmers and ensuring stable, equitable market conditions are essential for consumers to enjoy a stable socio-economic life.

Paddy is cultivated on some 17 million acres planted annually. About 80 per cent of the rice yield is used for domestic consumption and food production, while only 20 per cent is exported. Maintaining a stable rice market requires collaborative efforts from all stakeholders to ensure its smooth operation domestically.

To support farmers, who are vital to the rice sector, the Steering Committee on Protection of Farmer Rights and Enhancement of Benefits set the basic reference price for paddy on 19 October 2024. This move follows earlier adjustments to the price due to evolving circumstances. Relevant organizations prioritize farmers' welfare and work to stabilize rice prices, promoting a fair and sustainable market environment.

Paddy with a 14-per-cent moisture content, free from impurities like husk, chaff, dust, sand, and stones, and meeting the required quality standards, is priced at K9.5 million per 100 baskets, with each basket weighing 46 pounds. If the market price exceeds the base indicative price, purchases should be made at the market rate. However, if the market price is lower than the base price, purchases should be made at the base price. This base indicative price applies to the 2024 monsoon paddy and 2025 summer paddy harvests.

Paddy and rice prices mirror current commodity rates. Commodity prices in domestic markets will only drop when farmers face the need to secure a slim profit margin from their crops. As a result, consumers can benefit from lower prices, helping to alleviate socioeconomic challenges.

The rise in rice prices is driven by factors such as unpredictable weather during the paddy harvest, higher input costs like pesticides and fertilizers, increased labour costs in agriculture, and instability in rice-producing areas. A key factor, however, is market manipulation, where rice is bought and hoarded in large quantities to drive up prices. To maintain affordability for consumers, it is crucial that rice prices reflect both farmers' production costs and fair profits for traders involved in milling, storage, and sales.

To support farmers, who are vital to the rice sector, the Steering Committee on Protection of Farmer Rights and Enhancement of Benefits set the basic reference price for paddy on 19 October 2024. This move follows earlier adjustments to the price due to evolving circumstances. Relevant organizations prioritize farmers' welfare and work to stabilize rice prices, promoting a fair and sustainable market environment.

Paddy with a 14-per-cent moisture content, free from impurities like husk, chaff, dust, sand, and stones, and meeting the required quality standards, is priced at K9.5 million per 100 baskets, with each basket weighing 46 pounds. If the market price exceeds the base indicative price, purchases should be made at the market rate. However, if the market price is lower than the base price, purchases should be made at the base price. This base indicative price applies to the 2024 monsoon paddy and 2025 summer paddy harvests.

Paddy and rice prices mirror current commodity rates. Commodity prices in domestic markets will only drop when farmers face the need to secure a slim profit margin from their crops. As a result, consumers can benefit from lower prices, helping to alleviate socioeconomic challenges.

# The Burma Circle of the Geological Survey of India and their Contributions to the Geology of Myanmar

EPISODE: 53

By THAN HTUN  
(GEOSCIENCE  
MYANMAR)

## LATE PLIOCENE AND PLEISTOCENE IGNEOUS ACTIVITY.

Professor H.L. Chhibber (1934) provided a detailed account of igneous activities at Mount Popa, along with a comprehensive report on the igneous occurrences in the lower Chindwin region, presented in Chapter XXIX of *The Geology of Burma*. Due to space limitations, only the most significant points are summarized below.

In Burma, the later stages of the Pliocene and the whole of the Pleistocene period were very important as regards manifestations of igneous activity, which were certainly rife at nine centres at least, excluding the Teng-Yueh area in Yunnan. During these eruptions, voluminous floods of lava and ashes were poured forth, and the periods of igneous activity were marked by intervals of quiescence and by repeated renewals of volcanic energy.

The different centres comprise those of the Jade Mines area, Myitkyina district, the Lower Chindwin region, Shinmadaung, Mount Popa area, Kawet area, Shwebo and Mandalay districts, Thaton district, Loi Han Hun volcano in the Northern Shan States and Medaw Island in the Mergui Archipelago. The Pegu Yoma's dolerites were probably intruded at about the same time. Some old volcanoes in the neighbourhood of Teng-Yueh in Yunnan and those of Barren Island and Narcondam were also active simultaneously. At some of the centres groups of volcanoes are to be seen at the present day, e.g., in the Lower Chindwin region alone there are seven to eight craters, besides several flows of lava, ash-beds, etc. This article will briefly discuss the igneous occurrences of the Lower Chindwin Region.

## Igneous Occurrences of the Lower Chindwin Region.

The igneous occurrences described below occur on both banks of the River Chindwin in an area roughly between Lat 21° 31' and 22° 30' North and Long 94° 45' and 95° 30' East. R.D. Oldham was the first to give a complete account of the explosive craters of this region. Later on, roughly 4,000 square miles of this area were surveyed geologically by Messrs Pinfold and A.E. Day. The central part of the area, both to the east and west of Monywa, was mapped independently by L.D. Stamp in the cold season of 1921-22. The igneous rocks have been examined in the laboratory of the Department of Geology of University College, University of Rangoon, by L. Dudley Stamp and the present writer. The results of the fieldwork by Messrs Pinfold and Day and the laboratory work by Dr Stamp and the author were published in the *Transactions of the Mining and Geological Institute of India*, vol. xxi, 1927, pp. 145-225. Lately, Professor Conrad Burri and Herr Hans Huber have published a description of the petrology of some of the rocks from this region.

The igneous rocks form a well-defined series, with certain characteristics which indicate that they belong to the Pacific suite. The volcanic rocks range from rhyolites, in which secondary changes are most marked, through andesites to basalts, among which the most characteristic and interesting members are very basic olivine-basalts (picrite-basalts) approaching basanites but apparently without feldspathoids. The hypabyssal rocks include both acid and intermediate types. Some of the basic basalts as well as many of the acid ones, should perhaps be classed rather as hypabyssal rocks, occurring, as they do, as plugs or necks. Some of the hypabyssal rocks are coarse-grained and might be classed as plutonic rocks, but it is the ejected blocks from the explosion craters that afford the most interesting examples of plutonic development - more especially a remarkable series of ultrabasic types.



Map showing the explosion craters of the Lower Chindwin and the geology of the neighbourhood. (After E. S. Pinfold and A. E. Day.)

Perhaps the most characteristic rocks of the whole series are the picrite basalts, so it will be convenient to arrange the descriptions, starting with the basic types of passing to the intermediate and acid types.

The following rocks are present in the collections: —

### Volcanic Rocks.

- I. Picrite-basalts- (a) Kuaukka Daung, Hill 779, Natyindaung, North.
- (b) Thazi Hill.

- II. Olivine-basalts- (a) Hill 800 and YeU Road.
- (b) Taungbyauk No 2.
- (c) Okpo Hill.
- (d) Natyindaung, South.
- (e) Twintaung crater.

- III. Other basalts- (f) Hypersthene-basalt-Okpo.
- (g) Tachylyte-Okpo.
- (h) Nepheline-tachylyte-Okpo.

- IV. Andesites- (a) Pyroxene-andesites, etc.
- (b) Olivine-pyroxene-andesites.
- (c) Pyroxene-hornblende-andesites.
- (d) Pyroxene-biotite-andesites.
- (e) Hypersthene-andesite - Yinnabin Road.
- (f) Acid andesite - Shinmadaung.

- V. Rhyolites- (a) Rhyolites (devitrified) - West Monywa Hills.
- (b) Rhyolite (flow breccia) - Kyaukka Daung.

### Hypabyssal Rocks (including altered rocks).

- I. Basic- (a) Dolerite - Wunbo.
- (b) Epidiorite and amphibolite-Myayeik and Salingyi.
- II. Acid- (a) Quartz-porphry - Hill 1055.
- (b) Muscovite-porphry - Hill 994.
- (c) Hornblende-granite-porphry - Silaung.

### Plutonic Rocks

- I. Ultrabasic- (a) Peridotites - Twindaung.
- (b) Perknites - Twindaung.
- II. Basic-Intermediate- (a) Augite-diorite - Salingyi.
- (b) Diorite - Salingyi.
- (c) Quartz-diorite - Twindaung.

### Pyroclastic Rocks

Ashes and tuffs- Twindaung Leshe, Bambwe, Hill 994, 779, 800, Okpo.

### Metamorphic Rocks

- (a) Biotite-gneiss - Twindaung.
- (b) Hornblende-schist - Twindaung.
- (c) Quartzite - Kyaukka Daung.

### Different Forms of Igneous Manifestation.

The manifestations of igneous activity in the region assume several different forms: -

1. Ash deposits with or without lava accompany volcanic crater flows.
2. Isolated ash deposits.
3. Lava flows without evidence of a volcanic rock.
4. Intrusive or extrusive masses of the nature of volcanic necks.
5. Intrusions of Holocrystalline hypabyssal rocks.

It will, however, be most convenient to consider the volcanic rocks in a series of geographical groups:

- (a) The explosive craters occur on both banks of the Chindwin River around the village of Shwezay.
- (b) The volcanic occurrences on the west bank of the Chindwin River southwards to Shinmadaung.
- (c) The volcanic occurrences of the East Monywa Hill Belt.
- (d) The Natyindaung mass.

### The Explosive Craters occur on both banks of the Chindwin River around the village of Shwezay.

There exist today seven or eight craters in all, which occur roughly in a straight line on both banks of the Chindwin River about the village of Shwezay. The line joining these craters bears in a direction of North 33° East, running somewhat obliquely to the normal tectonic direction of the region. The distance between the most northerly and southerly craters, Ywatha and Leshe respectively, is about 13 miles.

The country surrounding these craters on all sides is open plain land floored by alluvium and quartz-pebble-bearing sands of the Irrawaddian age. To the south of Leshe, isolated plateau-like elevations represent sheets of lava, and still farther south, opposite Monywa, are conical-shaped hills composed of rhyolites and other acid igneous rocks.

*Ywatha*: This crater is 6 ½ miles north-east of The Chindwin at Shwezay. All that remains is a circular depression, broad and shallow, sunk in soft sands of the uppermost Irrawaddian age. In diameter, the depression, from rim to rim, measures about half a mile and is very shallow when compared with its width, averaging only about 150 feet in depth. The bottom is flat and sandy and is now partially under cultivation. There is no drainage outlet, however, the rim remains intact with precipitous inner slopes, etc.

*Twindaung*: This crater lies on the east bank of the Chindwin River, about two miles northeast of Shwezay. Although this is not the largest crater in actual diameter, it is the deepest and most perfectly preserved on account of having a partial rim of basalt on its three sides.

Viewed at a distance from the east, the flat cone of the crater appears as a broad plateau-like elevation, and there is nothing in the topographic outline to suggest the existence of a volcanic vent. Approaching from Budalin, we find the first indications of the proximity of volcanic activity at the village of Kyauko, where, in a stream bed to the west of the village, are horizontal deposits of coarse volcanic ash and lapilli and fragments of lava, with a few quartz pebbles, between layers of fine mud-coloured ash. Although this locality is nearer to the Ywatha crater, which is only 2 miles distant, than to Twindaung, the ashes have undoubtedly been ejected from Twindaung, as there is no mistaking the characteristic lava that forms part of the wall of this crater. In addition to the fragments of lava, there are also individual crystals of black glistening hornblende and brown mica mixed up with the lapilli and ash, evidently comprising part of the ejectamenta from this volcano.

The inner slopes of the crater are everywhere precipitous. Lying some three to four hundred feet below are still dark waters of the crater lake which lap the foot of the sheer crater face to the north and west. According to the local villagers, the depth of the lake in the centre is 74 feet. Sloping down to the water's edge on the east side is a narrow shelf of volcanic ash upon which the village of Twindaung has been built.

(To be continued).

References: Chhibber, H.L., 1934: *The Geology of Burma, Macmillan, and Co Limited, St Martin's Street, London.*



# NATIONAL

## Kyaikto Hospital to offer free Hepatitis C medication

FOR patients with Hepatitis C which can cause liver cancer, medicines will be provided with government funding, as announced by the Kyaikto Public Health Department.

It further said that among more than 500 people who underwent medical examination provided by the department in 2023, eight were found infected with Hepatitis C and medicines will be provided for them with the government fund.

“It is a good plan for those who have Hepatitis C. I’m glad for them,” said a Kyaikto resident.

Hepatitis C can be cured by regular medication, it said. Medical costs for Hepatitis C are very expensive and not all patients can afford it. However, those infected but were unlisted and have financial difficulty to gain access medicines can come to register at the department during office hours, it added. — MT/ZS



The facade view of the Kyaikto Public Health Department.

## Drugs worth over K5.7 bln seized in Tachilek



THE Myanmar Police Force has reported the seizure of illegal drugs, including methamphetamine (Ice), ketamine, Ecstasy, and Happy Water, with a combined value exceeding K5.7 billion in Tachilek Township, Shan State (East).

Acting on a tip-off, a combined team, including members of the Anti-Drug Police Force,

searched a house belonging to Janjaan in Tachilek Township at 5 pm on 14 December. The search resulted in the confiscation of 141 kilogrammes of methamphetamine (Ice), 23 kilogrammes of ketamine, and 128,000 Ecstasy tablets.

Subsequent investigations led the police to the residence of Twan Long Phu, also

known as Ah Hwa, the alleged owner of the seized drugs. A search of his house at 5:30 pm on the same day resulted in the arrest of Twan Long Phu and Twan Shikwan. Additional confiscations included two kilogrammes of Happy Water, 16,000 Happy-5 pills, and nine kilogrammes of Ecstasy.

Legal action has been taken against offenders, and investigations are ongoing to identify and apprehend other individuals involved in the crime chain. — MNA/MKKS

Offenders are seen alongside seized drugs.

## Illegal trade crackdown seizes goods worth K724M on 16 Dec

SUPERVISED by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, action is being taken under the law against illicit trading across the nation.

During inspections on 16 December, the joint Customs on-duty teams impounded 32 barrels of informal diesel (worth K30.8 million) near Chindwin River in Monywa Township, eight unregistered motorbikes (worth K4.2 million) in Magway, Minbu, Pakokku and Thayet districts and smuggled crude oil 33 gallons (worth K115,500) in Minbu Township. The action was conducted under the Petroleum and Petroleum Product Law, the Export and Import Law and the Public Property Protection Law.

Similarly, the combined teams nabbed consumer goods (worth K19.91 million) without

official documents from a Scania bus (worth approximately K140 million) at Milepost-366/6 on Yangon-Mandalay expressway, a Toyota Voxy (estimated value of K5 million) carrying 0.953 tonne of illegal teak (worth K838,640) in Dagon Myothit (South) Township and five unregistered vehicles (estimated value of K32 million) in Thakayta, North Okkalapa and Dagon Myothit (South) Townships. The action was conducted under the Forest Law, the Export-Import Law, and Customs procedures.

Additionally, the combined on-duty teams seized a Mitsubishi Canter truck (estimated value of K25 million) carrying foodstuffs (worth K15 million) without official documents in Yetha temporary vehicle checkpoint compound and five unregistered vehicles (worth K45 mil-

lion) in Mawlamyine, Thaton, Ye and Thanbyuzayat Townships. The action was taken under the Export-Import Law and Customs procedures.

Similarly, the Customs on-duty teams confiscated a Yutong bus (worth approximately K60 million) carrying foodstuffs and consumer goods (worth K7.06 million) at the Mayanchaung permanent checkpoint, and industrial materials (worth K339.94 million) without official documents from nine containers at the Asia World Port Terminal container checkpoint. The action was carried out following Customs procedures.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported 34 arrests on 16 December, with an estimated value of K724.87 million. — MNA/MKKS

## Counter-argument to false information

## Security forces accused of detaining 50 locals in Monywa



This screenshot reveals false reports.

MALICIOUS media intentionally spread false news, claiming that security forces detained 50 locals of Gawgyi

village in Monywa Township, Sagaing Region.

According to a security official, PDF terrorists launched attacks in towns and villages and residents fled from these areas. Security forces conducted security measures following the rules and regulations and did not arrest any locals.

Subversive media outlets intentionally circulate misinformation to affect the peace and stability of the region and mislead the public about security forces. — MNA/KTZH



# NATIONAL

## Interview

### All cars within reasonable price ranges sell regularly, but sales are slack for unreasonably priced cars unless they reduce prices.

**(Excerpts from an interview with U Kyaw Swa Htun Myint, general secretary of the Myanmar Automobile Manufacturers and Distributors Association, by MT on current market conditions)**

**Let me know about the current car market situation.**

Currently, car prices are falling. Not all prices are falling. The car market started to rise in May 2024, until June, July, and August, and began cold again in September. In August, some raised to the highest unreasonable prices, based on the exchange rate although it was not a market price. From September till October, November and December, the cars with raised prices started to sell at lower prices. Some cars' prices haven't reached back to those in May, so we can say not all prices were falling.

**What types of cars are facing falling**

**prices?**

Brand-new SKB cars are falling because many people in Myanmar calculate prices based on the exchange rate, and the rate exceeded K7,000 in the external market in July and August. When the price of pure gold exceeded eight million kyats, they raised theirs to the highest price, all of which were falling. The cars whose prices are not falling include Japan-made right-hand drives. They are not among those that are raised to very high prices.

**How is the EV car trading situation?**

All cars, whether they are gasoline cars or EVs, are sold based on the exchange rate. Although the dollar is strong, if supply cannot meet demand, they do not have goods to pull the price up. Since they only get proportionally, they can sell proportionally. When the dollar is weak, goods do not enter in bulk, so prices do not fall too much.



became slow or stopped for them. All the cars within a reasonable profit margin sell regularly, although it is not a good trading compared to July and August.

**As the year has come to an end, how was the car market this year as a whole?**

In our opinion, the number of auto market fluctuations and changes has decreased compared to 2023. Year 2024 is a year of normal trading. Prices didn't return to the levels of 2023 where there were a lot of fluctuations and impacts. But, a car worth K 10 million in 2023 cannot be purchased at the same price in 2024 – the price has exceeded it. In terms of trading, about 70 per cent of the market had normal sales, and 30 per cent stopped trading.

Thank you for your answer, sir.

Interviewer: MT/Translated by ZN

**How many percentages did it fall?**

In terms of percentage, it fell at least between 10 to 20 per cent.

**How is the trading going when the car price is on the decline?**

Since all the cars that are priced higher than they should be cannot be sold unless they are lowered, trading

## Japan to recruit up to 1,100 Myanmar workers



This photo shows some officials and Myanmar migrant workers at the airport in 2023.

ACCORDING to a statement issued by the Myanmar Embassy in Japan on 16 December, more than 400 Japanese companies will employ up to 1,100 Myanmar workers.

The statement read that the embassy carried out timely verifications of demand letters received from the Ministry of Labour via the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The embassy verifies whether labour supervisory companies and factories that offered jobs in Japan are officially established or not and re-sub-

mits its findings and remarks to the Ministry of Labour through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The statement stipulated 403 demand letters received until 8 October, which had been submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs after verification.

According to it, more than 300 Myanmar male workers and more than 800 Myanmar female workers would be recruited. In a statement on 29 November, up to 290 Japanese companies provided job offers for about 1,000 Myanmar workers. — MT/ZS

## Kubota Fund Scholarship: Up to 100,000 yen/month for 2025-2026

THE Myanmar Embassy in Japan announced on 17 December that applications are open for the Kubota Fund scholarships for 2025-2026, which will provide 80,000 to 100,000 yen per month.

The Managing Committee of the Kubota Fund has notified the embassy about it and they will select 12 successful individuals, and the stipend will range from 80,000 yen to 100,000 yen per month from April 2025 to March 2026.

Engineering researchers, interns, and students from developing countries who are working or studying in private

businesses, research institutions, and universities in Japan are eligible for this scholarship.

Applicants must be citizens, or born and raised in a developing country, employed by a business in Japan, or officially registered with a research/education/training institution, or are doing a course in civil engineering, electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, agricultural engineering, environmental engineering, energy engineering, architecture, development and economics among others, as a student, researcher or intending to con-

duct research. Applicants must be able to reside in Japan during the grant period, except for travelling abroad for research, attending international conferences, and temporarily visiting their home country. They must submit a letter of recommendation from a supervisor from the institution where they are working.

The deadline for applications to <https://mypage.3050.iwebs.jp/kbt2023/> is 17 January 2025, and applicants can visit <http://www.kubota-fund.org/> for more information, the embassy said. — MT/ZN



This photo shows recipients for the 2024-2025 Kubota Fund scholarship.



# ECONOMY WORLD

## China's economic recovery gains momentum amid sustained policy support

CHINA'S economic recovery gained momentum in November, fuelled by a series of recent pro-growth policies that have contributed to an accumulation of positive factors.

In November, the impact of combined policy measures continued to unfold, yielding excellent results in key economic indicators such as industrial output, investment, consumption and services for the past month, said the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS).

"Boosted by a raft of policy measures, the Chinese economy has achieved generally stable growth while making progress, with positive factors further accumulating," NBS spokesperson Fu Linghui told a press conference Monday.

The NBS spokesperson



An employee works at a workshop of a textile enterprise at Manzu Township of Zunhua City, north China's Hebei Province, 16 December 2024. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

said that value-added industrial output, an important economic indicator, expanded 5.4 per cent year on year in November, showing steady growth, driven by the large-scale equipment upgrades and consumer goods trade-in programmes. The equipment manufacturing sector's output climbed 7.6 per cent from a year ago in November, one percentage point higher than the previous month, contributing nearly half of the overall industrial output growth, the NBS data showed. The purchasing managers' index for the manufacturing sector came in at 50.3 last month, up 0.2 percentage points from the previous month and surpassing the boom-or-bust line of 50 for the second time since it returned to expansion in October after five consecutive months of contraction. — Xinhua

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Agricultural Expo kicks off in Laos to boost crop yields, trade

THE Lao Agri-Food Expo 2024 kicked off on Monday, showcasing sustainable agricultural practices and modern technologies aimed at boosting agricultural production in Laos and increasing exports.

The event, running from Monday to Friday, includes networking sessions designed to foster closer relationships between investors, agribusinesses, and the Lao government, according to a report from the Lao Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry on Tuesday.

Speaking at the event, Lao Minister of Agriculture and Forestry Linkham Douangsavanh emphasized the expo's role as a significant opportunity to advance agricultural production in Laos.

Linkham said the ministry aims to strengthen agricultural production in order to minimize imports and preserve foreign currency reserves, and foster market-oriented agricultural production and processing capabilities to develop value-added export products that will strengthen foreign currency earnings. — Xinhua

#### Singapore's exports rebound strongly in November

SINGAPORE'S external trade rebounded strongly in November, reversing October's decline, according to data released by Enterprise Singapore on Tuesday.

Total exports rose by 10.7 per cent in November to 58.8 billion Singapore dollars (about US\$43.5 billion) compared to the previous month, following a 2.7 per cent contraction in October, said Enterprise Singapore, a statutory board under the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

Year-on-year, non-oil domestic exports grew by 3.4 per cent in November, overturning October's 4.7 per cent decline. The increase was driven by a rise in electronic exports, although non-electronic exports saw a decrease. — Xinhua

## German business morale slips to lowest point in over four years

GERMAN business confidence fell in December, a closely watched survey showed Tuesday, reaching its lowest level since the start of the coronavirus pandemic.

The Ifo institute's confidence barometer, based on a survey of around 9,000 companies, declined to 84.7 points from 85.6 points in November.

The indicator was at its lowest level since May 2020, when Europe was reeling from the impact of pandemic shutdowns.

"The weakness of the German economy has become chronic," Ifo president Clemens Fuest said in a statement.

Overall, companies in Germany assessed the current situation as better, but were more pessimistic about the outlook for Europe's largest economy.

Sentiment in the key manufacturing sector pursued its downward trend. Businesses were "less satisfied" with current conditions and "sig-

nificantly gloomier" about the future.

Order intake had faltered and production cutbacks had been announced, the Ifo said.

In the service sector and in trade the mood also became darker. Only in construction did businesses' overall confidence improve, according to the survey.

With industry struggling,

Germany is sliding towards a second straight year in recession, according to government forecasts.

Manufacturers "lack a light at the end of the tunnel, which is why the years-long downward trend in production is now increasingly leading to job cuts", said Philipp Scheuermeyer, analyst at the public lender KfW. — AFP



Aerial view shows new cars of various brands that are parked ready for sale at a car logistics terminal in Essen, western Germany, on 22 November 2024. **PHOTO: AFP**



# SoftBank CEO Son with Trump vows \$100 bln investment in US

US President-elect Donald Trump and SoftBank Group Corp CEO Masayoshi Son said Monday that the founder of the Japanese technology giant has committed to investing \$100 billion in US projects, centring on artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies, over the next four years.

Trump, standing with Son at Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida, praised the investment, saying it will create at least 100,000 jobs in the United States.

"My confidence level to the economy of the United States has tremendously increased with his



US President-elect Donald Trump (R) and SoftBank Group Corp CEO Masayoshi Son hold a joint press conference at Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate in Palm Beach, Florida, on 16 December 2024. PHOTO: GETTY/KYODO

(presidential) victory," Son told a press conference, without disclosing how he intends to finance the investment or how much of it will be fresh spending.

Son made a similar

announcement in December 2016 when he met Trump in New York ahead of his first term in the White House.

The dollar amount of the planned investment

and the anticipated number of jobs are both double the figures announced at that time by the billionaire entrepreneur.

"President Trump is a double-down president, I'm going to have to double down," Son said, adding that he believes the incoming president will bring "peace again" to the world, in addition to knowing that economic and technology issues are crucial.

Calling Son "one of the most accomplished business leaders of our time", Trump said the "historic" commitment was "a monumental demonstration of confidence in America's future". — Kyodo

# Indonesia's rice import rises 62% in 11 months

INDONESIA imported 3.85 million tonnes of rice from January to November this year, marking a 62 per cent increase compared to the same period last year, Statistics Indonesia (BPS) reported on Monday.

The rice imports were valued at US\$2.36 billion. This has marked a continued upward trend since 2022 when the import value was \$0.15 billion. In 2023, the country recorded \$1.45 billion in rice import value.

"The rice imports this year mainly came from Thailand, with a volume of 1.19 million tons, followed

by Vietnam with 1.12 million tonnes, Myanmar with 663,410 tonnes, Pakistan with 642,140 tonnes, and India with 205,800 tonnes," said Amalia Adininggar Widyasanti, acting head of the BPS, during a press conference.

Indonesia faced challenges in ensuring its domestic rice supply due to harvest failures caused by El Nino this year.

However, the Indonesian government recently set a target to produce 32 million tonnes of rice next year to achieve food self-sufficiency. — Xinhua

## Notice for change of distributor

We, **Pilarquim (Shanghai) Co., Ltd.** would like to change the Distributor of the following product, which registered under Pesticide Registration Board, Myanmar, from **Marga Min Co., Ltd** to **HTET MYANMAR'S LAND AGRICULTURE CO., LTD.** If any objection or enquiry, please contact to Co-Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, West Gyogone, Insein township, Yangon from here to next two weeks.

No	Old Distributor	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Type	Registration number	New Distributor
1	Marga Min Co., Ltd	Pilarvin	Carbaryl 85% WP	Full	F2015-513	HTET MYANMAR'S LAND AGRICULTURE CO., LTD

HTET MYANMAR'S LAND AGRICULTURE CO., LTD. (Address: THAN TA DA STREET, NO.6, THAN TA DA QUARTER, SANCHAUNG TOWNSHIP, YANGON REGION, MYANMAR. Ph: 09446193392, 09403723854)

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC ZHENGDE VOY.NO. (2418S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC ZHENGDE VOY.NO. (2418S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **18-12-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD.

**Advertise**  
with us / Hotline



**09 454237515**  
**09 255597511**

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC JUNDE VOY.NO. (2423N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC JUNDE VOY.NO. (2423N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **18-12-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD.

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BBC LEER VOY.NO. (1367004)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BBC LEER VOY.NO. (1367004)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **18-12-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT-4** 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: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES (S'PORE) PTE LTD

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V KENZEN VOY.NO. (0524)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V KENZEN VOY.NO. (0524)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **18-12-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **WILMAR** 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: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S RAFFLES SHIPPING INTERNATIONAL PTE LTD



# ROLLING UPDATES

## WORLD

## Japan drops mantra of reducing nuclear dependency in new draft plan



A meeting of experts on Japan's energy policies is held at the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry in Tokyo on 17 December 2024. **PHOTO: KYODO**

JAPAN will utilize nuclear power as much as possible along with renewable energy, a draft government plan showed Tuesday, departing from its earlier resolve to minimize dependence on atomic energy following the 2011 Fukushima crisis.

The Economy, Trade and Industry Ministry presented the draft basic energy plan, a medium- to long-term policy guideline, to a meeting of experts. Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba's

Cabinet is expected to approve the energy plan by around February.

It is estimated that nuclear power will account for around 20 per cent of the country's total energy output in fiscal 2040, the same level as the fiscal 2030 target of 20 to 22 per cent, according to ministry projections. It is based on the assumption that around 30 reactors, or the majority of existing ones, will be restarted.

Since electricity demand is ex-

pected to rise further due to the prevalence of artificial intelligence and data centres, among other reasons, the government aims to meet high demand by easing requirements for rebuilding nuclear plants.

As part of such efforts, utilities will be able to replace reactors destined for decommissioning with next-generation reactors on the premises of any of their plants, according to the draft. — Kyodo

## German Chancellor Scholz loses confidence vote, snap elections to follow

GERMAN Chancellor Olaf Scholz lost in a vote of confidence in the Bundestag, the lower house of parliament, on Monday.

The move would dissolve Scholz's minority coalition government and trigger a process that would lead to early federal elections.

The confidence vote saw 207 parliament members expressing confidence in Scholz, with 394 voting against him and 116 abstaining.

Such a vote has not taken place in Germany for almost two decades.

Scholz had requested the confidence vote last week, in-

voicing Article 68 of the Basic Law, as the currently only viable way to trigger early elections. Major opposition parties have long been calling for this.

Although theoretically, Scholz could have continued in office without a majority, it would have been politically untenable as the Bundestag would have been unable to pass legislation.

Concerns had arisen that Scholz could unexpectedly win the vote. This scenario could have materialized if members of Scholz's SPD and the Greens voted in favour, while the AfD voted to support him to create chaos.



This photo taken on 16 December 2024 shows the German Bundestag in Berlin, Germany. German Chancellor Olaf Scholz lost in a vote of confidence in the Bundestag, the lower house of parliament, on Monday. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

To prevent this possibility of unintended support from the AfD's 76 members potentially pushing Scholz over the required 367 votes, the Green party leadership advised its members to abstain. — Xinhua

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### S Korean president to express position in court when hearings are held

IMPEACHED South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol will express his position in court when public hearings are held, Yonhap news agency said Tuesday citing Yoon's legal defence counsel.

The counsel was quoted as saying that when public hearings are held, Yoon will confidently make himself heard in court, indicating Yoon will appear at the constitutional court's impeachment trial when the hearings begin.

The constitutional court planned to hold the first preliminary hearing on the impeachment on 27 December.

From Yoon's point of view, he was not worried about the insurrection charge at all in legal terms, but the counsel would respond to the ongoing criminal investigations, according to the counsel.

Yoon said in his televised address on 12 December that his martial law imposition was an "act of governance" to protect against the "legislative dictatorship" of the majority opposition.

Yoon's defence counsel will be formed separately for the criminal investigation and the impeachment trial. — Xinhua

#### 4 cases of new Mpox variant reported in Germany

GERMAN authorities reported on Monday four cases of the new Clade Ib variant of the Mpox virus, including two infections in school-age children, in a western community near Cologne.

The initial case was confirmed following a family member's trip to Africa. Subsequent testing identified the virus in three other family members, according to a press release from the community. The family is currently under quarantine.

As a precaution, classrooms at the school attended by the two infected children have been closed, and students will switch to remote learning until Friday.

Germany recorded its first case of the new Clade Ib variant in October. No deaths related to Mpox have been registered in the country to date.

Mpox, caused by an orthopoxvirus, was historically prevalent in West and Central Africa. The first case of the Clade Ib variant outside the African continent was reported in Sweden in mid-August.

Symptoms of the disease include fever, swollen lymph nodes, sore throat, muscle aches, skin rash, and back pain. — Xinhua



# SPORTS

## AFF Mitsubishi Electric Cup 2024 to be broadcast live on MRTV

THE men's group match of the AFF Mitsubishi Electric Cup 2024 tournament between the Myanmar National Team and the Laos National Team will be held at 5 pm on 18 December at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon.

The match will be aired live at 4:45 pm on MRTV-HD Channel, MRTV Parliament Channel and MRTV Radio on that day. — MNA/KTZH

## Mbappe a doubt but Real Madrid clear favourites for Intercontinental Cup final

REAL Madrid arrived in Doha just after midnight local time on Tuesday to prepare for Wednesday's Intercontinental Cup final.

Carlo Ancelotti's men will kick off as clear favourites in the Lusail Stadium against Mexican side Pachuca, who had to battle through a quarterfinal against Brazil's Botafogo, before beating Al Ahly of Egypt 6-5 on penalties in Saturday's semifinal after 120 minutes ended goalless.

The big question mark over Real Madrid is if Kylian Mbappe will play on Wednesday night. The French forward suffered a hamstring injury a week ago against Atalanta in the Champions League and missed the 3-3

draw away to Rayo Vallecano at the weekend. The injury was a setback for Mbappe, who looked to be returning to form after struggling to adapt in his first few months at Real Madrid. He had scored Madrid's opener and was looking dangerous before being forced off the pitch. Despite doubts about Mbappe, he has nevertheless netted 12 goals in all competitions since arriving.

There is little doubt that Real Madrid president Florentino Perez would like to showcase his star signing in Doha, but it seems more likely he will start on the bench, with Rodrygo, Vinicius Jr and Jude Bellingham leading the Madrid attack. — Xinhua

## Myanmar to face Laos today



This photo depicts the Myanmar team during a training session. PHOTO: MFF

THE Group B fixture of the 2024 ASEAN Cup continues today, with Myanmar set to host Laos. The match will take place at 5 pm at the Thuwunna Youth Training Centre in Yangon. Special ticket prices are set at K5,000, while regular tickets will cost K2,000. Shuttle buses will be provided for fans to ensure easy transportation.

This match is crucial for both teams. Myanmar has a

good chance of advancing to the next round and moving up from the bottom of the group. Meanwhile, Laos will be playing their final group match today. Currently, Myanmar has one point from two matches, while Laos has two points from three games. In their previous encounter during the group stage of the 2022 tournament, the two teams played to a 2-2 draw.

Myanmar's squad features key players returning from injury, such as defender Soe Moe Kyaw and midfielder Win Nang Tun, who has been playing for the Thai club. Most regular players are back in action. Laos' national team is coached by South Korean Ha Hyeokjun, who was previously an assistant coach for the Myanmar U-23 team from 2021 to 2023. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

WORLD Cup winners Spain will play Italy, Belgium and Portugal at Women's Euro 2025, while England face a tough path to defending their title at the tournament in Switzerland.

Reigning European champions and 2023 World Cup runners-up England were drawn alongside France, the Netherlands and debutants Wales in a challenging Group D of the tournament, which runs from 2-27 July.

The Netherlands won the tournament on home soil in 2017 under current England boss Sarina Wiegman.

Wiegman will take on her native country on 9 July, before England conclude their group-stage campaign against local rivals Wales.

"We're neighbours so there's a rivalry on the pitch, which is good," Wiegman said to the BBC, looking forward to her team's clash with Wales, who are making their bow at a major international tournament.

"I expect them to get



## Spain handed kind Women's Euro 2025 draw but holders England get tough group

UEFA head of women's football and German former football player Nadine Kessler speaks on stage during the draw for UEFA Women's Euro 2025 in Lausanne, on 16 December 2024. PHOTO BY FABRICE COFFRINI / AFP

everything out of themselves that they have in them and fight for every yard in the game and enjoy it."

France, beaten semifinalists in the last edition of the Euros, have never won a major tournament in the women's game.

"I think the other teams must be dreading being in the same group as France," said coach Laurent Bonadei.

"At this level, all the groups are tough, like Germany's, and even Spain's is an equal group," he added, looking at the rest of the draw.

Germany, who have won eight of the previous 13 editions, meet 1984 winners Sweden, Denmark and newcomers Poland in Group C.

The Germans won six successive titles between 1995 and

2013 but lost to England after extra time in the final two years ago at Wembley.

Hosts Switzerland kick off the tournament against two-time former champions Norway in Group A, which also includes Iceland and Finland.

Spain have reached the quarter-finals of the last three European Championships. They made the last four on their debut in 1997.

Spain coach Montserrat Tome told Teledeporte that she was "very happy" with her team's draw, as the tournament favourites avoided their bigger continental rivals.

However, she said that Spain "have to be humble", adding that "at international level every match is a problem".

UEFA announced ahead of Monday's draw that it would award 41 million euros (\$43 million) in prize money for the tournament, more than doubling the amount from 2022. The team that wins the final in Basel will receive up to 5.1 million euros — England pocketed 2.085 million as champions in 2022 — with each of the 16 participating teams receiving 1.8 million euros.

Group stage draw in full:  
Group A: Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, Finland  
Group B: Spain, Portugal, Belgium, Italy  
Group C: Germany, Poland, Denmark, Sweden  
Group D: France, England, Wales, Netherlands — AFP



Japan drops mantra of reducing nuclear dependency in new draft plan  
PAGE 14



THE war in the Palestinian territories is having a catastrophic impact on the local economy, the World Bank said Monday, noting that all sectors have been badly affected by Israel's attacks.

Economic output in the Gaza Strip plummeted by 86 per cent in the first half of this year, and by 23 per cent in the West Bank, according to recent Bank data, leaving the Palestinian economy on track to contract by 26 per cent in inflation-adjusted terms this year.

"The ongoing conflict in the Middle East continues to have a catastrophic impact on the Palestinian economy, pushing the territories into a crisis of unprecedented magnitude," the bank said in a statement.

"The continuation of the hostilities has led to a sharp reduction in economic output and a collapse of basic services in both the West Bank and Gaza, amid skyrocketing poverty across the territories," it added.

The war in Gaza was sparked by Hamas's 7 October 2023 attack on Israel that resulted in the deaths of 1,208 people, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally of Israeli official figures.

Since then, Israel's retaliatory offensive has killed at least 44,976 people in Gaza, a majority of them civilians, according to figures from the Hamas-run territory's health ministry that the United Nations considers reliable. — AFP

## Palestinian economy facing unprecedented crisis: World Bank



A Palestinian boy inspects the damage at the site of an Israeli airstrike on a building in Gaza City's Daraj neighbourhood on 17 December 2024, amid the ongoing war between Israel and Hamas militants. PHOTO: AFP

## Major quake crushes buildings in Vanuatu capital, bodies seen

A powerful earthquake hit the Pacific nation of Vanuatu on Tuesday, smashing buildings in the capital Port Vila including one used by foreign embassies, with a witness telling AFP of bodies lying in

the city.

The 7.3-magnitude quake struck at a depth of 57 kilometres (35 miles), some 30 kilometres off the coast of Efate, Vanuatu's main island, at 12:47 pm (0147

GMT), according to the US Geological Survey.

A 5.5-magnitude aftershock struck minutes later, followed by a string of lesser tremors — shaking the low-lying archipelago of 320,000 people that lies in the quake-prone Pacific Rim of Fire.

The ground floor of a four-storey concrete block in Port Vila — used by US, French, British, Australian and New Zealand diplomatic missions — was flattened, AFP photos showed.

US and French embassy staff are safe, the two countries said. The United States closed its embassy until further notice. France said its mission was "destroyed".

"There's people in the buildings in town. There were bodies there when we walked past," resident Michael Thompson told AFP by satellite phone after posting images of the destruction on social media. — AFP



This screengrab taken from handout video footage posted on the Facebook account of Michael Thompson on 17 December 2024 shows people inspecting a damaged car trapped underneath a collapsed building in Vanuatu's capital Port Vila after a powerful earthquake hit the Pacific island. PHOTO: MICHAEL THOMPSON / FACEBOOK ACCOUNT OF MICHAEL THOMPSON / AFP

## New York judge denies Trump's bid to throw out hush money conviction

A judge in New York denied on Monday US President-elect Donald Trump's motion to throw out a jury's conviction of him in the hush money case on the grounds of presidential immunity.

Juan Merchan, justice of the New York State Supreme Court in Manhattan, ruled that Trump's 34-count felony conviction in May for falsifying business records should not be overturned. Trump should receive broad immunity for official acts during his time in office does not mean the conviction should be dismissed and the evidence presented by the Manhattan District Attorney's office is not related to Trump's official conduct as president, according to Merchan.

Trump's lawyers sought to dismiss the conviction via several avenues and the judge hasn't ruled on another similar motion on the grounds that Trump has been elected president. — Xinhua