

Deserved recipients conferred on honorary titles and medals



The SAC confers honorary titles and medals on individuals at home and abroad who have diligently contributed to Myanmar's interest, with the aim of strengthening international friendship and relations.

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

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General unveiled that those who dedicate themselves wholeheartedly under the leadership of the government, applying their knowledge and expertise with excellence, and those who selflessly contribute and make sacrifices for the nation, are honoured with well-deserved titles and medals on Independence Day and other significant occasions.

He added that those who participated

in building a peaceful, modern developed nation with excellent performances, made sacrifice of life in safeguarding the Our Three Main National Causes adopted as the national policy, endeavoured to ensure community peace and stability, rule of law and emergence of a modern and developed nation with significant performances, discharged diplomatic duties in the international arena with outstanding performances, carried out creation in science and arts as well as other subjects globally, and served the State with literary and fine arts expertise are idols of the State. As such, the State Administration Council honoured those outstanding persons who served the interests of the State.

SEE PAGE 3



Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing delivers speech at the ceremony to confer honorary titles on recipients at SAC Chairman Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

NATIONAL

National Prosperity: Building a Peaceful and Stable Future for All

NATIONAL prosperity involves creating a peaceful and stable country where citizens can live, learn, and work with confidence under the rule of law.

(Excerpt from the speech given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the Union government meeting 4/2024 on 22 April 2024)

Objectives of 80th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day 2025

- (a) To actively participate in serving three main functions of Tatmadaw national defence duty, training duty and public benefit duty upholding Our Three Main National Causes;
- (b) To steadfastly carry out measures for State development and genuine, eternal peace by ending the armed conflicts under the Constitution (2008) and NCA;
- (c) To protect the State and its citizens from dangers and provide sector-wise assistance for the safety and socioeconomic development of the people;
- (d) To provide necessary assistance to hold a free and fair multiparty democratic general election by Tatmadaw for the emergence of a Union based on democratic and federal systems after carrying out measures per the stipulations of the State of Emergency.

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WORLD WATER DAY 2025
၂၀၂၅ ခုနှစ်၊ မတ်လ ၂၂ ရက်

“ရေအရင်းအမြစ်များ တည်မြဲဖို့ ရေခဲမြစ်များ ထိန်းသိမ်းဖို့”
“Glacier Preservation”

အမျိုးသားအဆင့်ရေအရင်းအမြစ်ကော်မတီ



A Captivating view of Myanmar's rare golden deer in enclosed herd at Shwesettaw Wildlife Sanctuary. **PHOTO: ZEYAR NAING (SHWEKANMYAY)**

Mann Shwesettaw Wildlife Sanctuary conserves 62 native species golden deer

SHWESETTAW Wildlife Sanctuary in Minbu (Sagu) Township, Magway Region conserves 62 Myanmar native species golden deer, a rare and endemic species, according to the Shwesettaw Pagoda Board of Trustees.

The sanctuary is located on 213.4 square miles of land in Minbu (Sagu) Township, in central Myanmar.

The sanctuary is established in 1940 to conserve the watershed of Mone and Mann creeks and tropical forests.

The conservation of golden deer started in 2012 with five male and seven female deer from Nay Pyi Taw Safari Park and Bagan Lawkananda Park. At present, there are 18 male and 35 female deer, and

nine golden deer calves have been born, totalling 62 deer. In addition to providing feeds to them, they are also carefully nurtured with supplementary feeds.

“The golden deer are the world’s most endangered species. Moreover, the Myanmar golden deer is the resident species found only in our country. Therefore, we have to conserve

them to avoid extinction and ensure to raise deer population. During the Shwesettaw pagoda festival, the visitors to well-known tourist areas in Minbu (Sagu) can also observe the golden deer at Shwesettaw Wildlife Sanctuary,” said U Aye Ko, Chairman of the pagoda board of trustees. — Zeyar Naing (Shwekanmyay)/KZL

Top websites and web portals to access Military Service Rules

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

Gold Market Rate as of 16 March 2025

THE price of one tical (16.329325 grammes) of gold with density of 19.25 grammes per cubic centimetre and above is K5,480,000 as established by the Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee.

NATIONAL

Residents Urged to Prioritize Public Safety Amid Armed Terrorist Threats

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

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

Deserved recipients conferred on honorary titles and medals

FROM PAGE 1

The Senior General highlighted that the State Administration Council confers honorary titles and medals on individuals at home and abroad who have wholeheartedly and diligently contributed to Myanmar's interest, with the aim of strengthening international friendship and relations.

He noted that deserved persons were systematically chosen under the provisions of conferring the honorary titles and medals and they were deservedly honoured with titles and medals.

At the today's ceremony, he added that Sithu title, Thura title, Zeya Kyaw Htin title, Wunna Kyaw Htin title, Alinka Kyaw Swa title and Theikpa Kyaw Swa title in accord with the notifications issued on 4 January and 2 March 2025 will be conferred on 50 recipients.

The Senior General underscored that the government's ongoing implementation of the Five-Point Roadmap, nine objectives, and two national visions, among other initiatives, is being carried out in a comprehensive and in-depth manner.

He spotted that preparations are underway to hold a multiparty democratic general election. Therefore, it is necessary for the government and the people to work together in unity to ensure its successful implementation of the free and fair general election.

The Senior General urged all recipients to show off out-



SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing presents Sithu title to Vice-Chairman of Union Peacemaking Negotiation Work Committee (Retd) U Aung Min.

standing examples as honouring them for excellent performance of the State to new generations so as to strive for perpetuation of the State, peace and stability, and development of the nation.

The Senior General presented Sithu title to 13 recipients, Thura title to three recipients, Zeya Kyaw Htin title to 17 recipients, Wunna Kyaw Htin title to 14 recipients, Alinka Kyaw Swa title to one recipient and Theikpa Kyaw Swa title to two recipients, respectively.

The Senior General cordially greeted title recipients and

their families.

Also present at the ceremony were Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of the Senior General, SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Thiri Pyanchi Maha Thray Sithu Soe Win and his wife Daw Than Than Nwe, the Council Secretary and his wife, the Joint Secretary and his wife, council members and their wives, union-level dignitaries, union ministers and their wives, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives and deputy ministers. — MNA/TTA



SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing presents Thura title to Major Aung Thu of the Ministry of Defence.

SALIENT points in the speech delivered by the Senior General at the ceremony to confer honorary titles on recipients

1. Deserved persons were systematically chosen under the provisions of conferring the honorary titles and medals and they were deservedly honoured with titles and medals.
2. Preparations are underway to hold a multiparty democratic general election. Therefore, it is necessary for the government and the people to work together in unity to ensure its successful implementation of the free and fair general election.
3. Sithu title, Thura title, Zeya Kyaw Htin title, Wunna Kyaw Htin title, Alinka Kyaw Swa title and Theikpa Kyaw Swa title in accord with the notifications issued on 4 January and 2 March 2025 will be conferred on 50 recipients.

NATIONAL

Government cracks down on online gambling and telecom fraud in border areas

IN collaboration with neighbouring countries and international organizations, the government of Myanmar is taking decisive and effective action to combat online gambling and telecom fraud activities in the country's border regions.

As part of these efforts, authorities yesterday identified and detained 163 Chinese nationals who had illegally entered Myanmar through some neighbouring countries including Thailand, and were engaged in online gambling and fraud activities in Maehtawthalay, and KK Park areas of Myawady in Kayin State. Kayin State Minister for Security and Border Affairs Colonel Min Thu Kyaw and officials inspected the verification process of their personal records and made necessary suggestions to expedite their repatriation to their respec-

tive countries.

During the period between 30 January and 16 March 2025, a total of 6,599 foreign nationals who had entered Myanmar illegally were apprehended. Among them, 3,588 individuals have already been repatriated to their respective countries via Thailand in accordance with due legal procedures. The remaining 3,011 foreign nationals are now ready for repatriation, and they are being well cared for in the meantime.

The detained foreign nationals include individuals from China, Indonesia, Vietnam, Malaysia, Pakistan, India, Uganda, Ethiopia, Nepal, Thailand, Japan, Rwanda, Kenya, Kazakhstan, Cambodia, Ghana, Bangladesh, and Chinese (Taipei). The majority of those detained are Chinese nationals. — MNA/KNN



Myanmar Immigration and officials processing undocumented foreign entrants.

2-day illegal trade crackdown seizes goods worth K2.782 bln



Photos show confiscated illegal items across the country.

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

On 14 March, combined teams impounded 26 vehicles

worth an estimated value of K1.860 billion carrying 58 kinds of industrial materials and 26 kinds of consumer goods worth K803.58 million, all lacking official documents, near the Hpa-an Industrial Zone in Hpa-an Township. The action was tak-

en under Customs procedures.

Similarly, on 15 March, combined on-duty teams seized 59 kinds of abandoned consumer goods worth K11.90 million near the Sinphyu checkpoint in Muse Township, along with an Isuzu Giga truck valued at approximately K80 million carrying two kinds of industrial materials worth about K27.06 million near the cargo yard in Kengtung Township. The action was also taken under Customs procedures.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported 55 arrests on 14 and 15 March, along with the seizure of illegal goods worth approximately K2.782 billion. — MNA/TH

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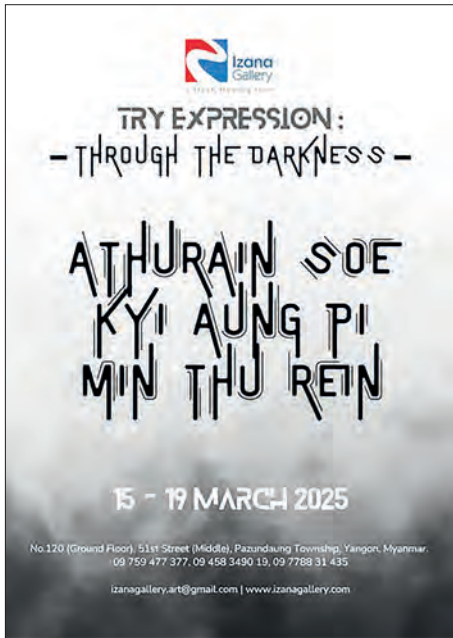
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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.



This photo showcases the exhibition catalogue.

Yangon to host Group Art Exhibition ‘Through the Darkness’

IZANA Art Gallery is organizing a Group Art Exhibition ‘Through the Darkness’ from 15 to 19 March in Pazundaung Township, Yangon Region, according to the gallery.

The exhibition is a collaboration by three artists from ‘Try Expression Studio’: Athurain Soe, Kyi Aung Pi, and Min Thu Rein, and will feature around 70 paintings in various subjects, media, and styles.

“This is the third art exhibition by the studio and the second art exhibition jointly organized by the studio and the gallery. The exhibition will not only showcase the works of the three artists, but we respectfully invite all friends to come and see the paintings,” said the manager of Izana Art Gallery.

The paintings come in a variety of sizes, including 24 inches by 24 inches, 36 inches by 24 inches, 18 inches by 24 inches, and 18 inches by 18 inches.— ASH/MKKS

Japan’s technical intern training adds laundry as a new work type

AS additional work type, Organization for Technical Intern Training (OTIT) has added laundry for Myanmar trainees, Myanmar Embassy to Japan announced.

Laundry is stated as additional work type in code No 7-14-2 under the title Others and Operation and it is laundry work for general households in replace of the linen supply in code No 7-14-1, it said. — MT/ZS



Laundry workers in Japan.

MAJA launches free summer course: Japanese Basics Speaking & Personal Development

A free Japanese basic speaking and personal development course will be conducted during the summer holidays, and students aged between 12 and 16 years are eligible to join, said MAJA Education Centre.

It aims to help young students get familiar with the Japanese language and in addition to speaking Japanese, and it will enhance their personal development, said MAJA.

Except for the cost of teaching materials worth K15,000, it is a free course that includes basic Japanese, general knowledge about Japan, basic leadership and management, public speaking and presentation skills and personal development. The duration is from 24 to 29 March.

Along with the guardian or parents and two passport-sized photos, interested students can apply in person at the MAJA Education Centre located at No 440-B, 14th Zeya Street, Ward 10 in Yan-



Students are present at the Japan Cultural Event organized by MAJA Education Centre every year.

gon Region’s South Okkalapa Township and the contact number 09-428613848. The selected candidates list will be released on 21 March. — MT/ZS

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 16 March 2025)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy over the South Andaman Sea and South Bay and a few cloud over the North Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 17 March 2025: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Taninthayi Region, Kachin State and isolated in Upper Sagaing Region. Degree of certainty is 80 per cent. Weather will be partly cloudy in Kayin, Mon and northern Shan states and generally fair in the remaining regions and states.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Taninthayi Region. The area along the cumulonimbus clouds

movement, the weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied with rain, thunder, lightning and hail may occur and therefore it is recommended to be aware in advance these phenomena.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about 4-6 feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated to scattered rain or thundershowers in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi regions and Kachin State.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 17 March 2025: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 17 March 2025: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 17 March 2025: Generally fair weather. — DMH

NATIONAL

MMPO organizes consecration ceremony of North Guni Pagoda in Bagan Ancient Cultural Zone

THE Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization (MMPO) offered alms to the monks and nuns at Alodawpyae Monastery as part of the consecration ceremony of the North Guni Pagoda in the

Bagan Ancient Cultural Zone on 15 March. The MMPO, which renovated the pagoda located southeast of the old city of Bagan and southwest of the Dhammayangyi

Temple, organizes a consecration ceremony every year. The pagoda was built by Queen Pwa Saw around 1241 AD during the reign of King Narathihapate. — ASH/TH



This photo shows members of the MMPO performing meritorious deeds during the consecration ceremony of North Guni Pagoda in Bagan Ancient Cultural Zone on 15 March.

Philanthropic group YGW warns of action against scammers

THOSE who are asking for funds using its name will be taken action against, said a well-known philanthropic organization, Yellow Generation Wave (YGW) Orphanage from Mandalay, in a statement.

The statement stipulates that there are people who are cheating money from donors by using YGW's pictures, YGW monks' pictures, and children's pictures, and it also requested donors inside the country and abroad to make a video call if they see YGW's fund-raising posts on social media pages.

YGW has also published scammed pages on its official social media page. — MT/ZS



Some fraudulent social media pages.

Over 2.5M+ stimulant tablets worth over K3.7 bln seized in Waw



Wai Phyo Maung (aka) Ko Phyo and Ma Malar Kyaw arrested together with seized stimulant tablets on 10 March in Waw Township.

A total of 2.53 million stimulant tablets worth over K3.7 billion were seized in Waw Township, Bago Region, as reported by the Myanmar Police Force.

Acting on a tip-off, a combined team, including members of the Anti-Drug Police Force, conducted a search of a 22-wheel Dong Feng vehicle, which head to Hpa-an from Mandalay, driven by Wai Phyo Maung (aka) Ko Phyo, accompanied by Ma Malar Kyaw, at 5:30 am on 10 March near Nyaungkhashay village, Waw Township. Police seized 2.53 million stimulant tablets worth more than K3.7 billion, which were hidden inside radiator. According to the investigation, the seized tablets were transported from Mongyai, northern Shan State to Hpa-an by Yan Kyar Shau (aka) Kalar.

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

Eint Chit's Birthday Show to feature star-studded performance

SINGER Eint Chit's Birthday Show will take place at The Square Theatre Bar in Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay Region, at 7 pm on 23 March, according to the singer.

The concert will feature performances by Eint Chit, together with popular artistes such as Ye Lay, Bobby Soxer, Phoe Kar, Chan Myae Maung Cho, Nine Wan and other famous singers. The Daily Gita Band

will provide instrumental support for the show.

"I invite Mandalay fans to join me at the Eint Chit Birthday Show. You'll see Phoe Kar, Nine Wan, Ye Lay, Bobby Soxer and Chan Myae Maung Cho performing with me, plus more special guests. The Daily Gita Band will deliver an incredible musical experience," said Eint Chit. — ASH/KZL



Eint Chit performing at a concert.

The people are urged to receive vaccination of COVID-19 without fail as full-time vaccination of COVID-19 and receiving booster shots can effectively mitigate infection of the virus, severe suffering from the disease and increase of death rate due to the disease.

NATIONAL



The terrace of Shwemawdaw Pagoda was crowded with pilgrims and vendors at opening of Buddha Pujaniya festival last year.

Shwemawdaw Pagoda in Bago to host 2607th Buddha Pujaniya Festival

THE 2607th Buddha Pujaniya Festival of the Shwemawdaw Pagoda in Bago, Bago Region, will be held with great festivity, according to the pagoda's board of trustees.

The festival will take place for ten days, from the 10th waxing to the 4th waning of Tagu. The opening ceremony is scheduled for the afternoon of the 10th waxing day of Tagu and will be held at the Shwekyaungdaw Kyaukpadaung

Dhammayon on the terrace of the pagoda.

"The 2607th Buddha Pujaniya Festival of the Shwemawdaw Pagoda will be an event featuring meritorious activities, trade fairs, and entertainment programmes. On the full-moon day of Tagu, offerings, including rice and other alms, will be respectfully donated to 500 members of the Sangha," said U Shwe Thein, a member of the board

of trustees.

The festival, which will be organized in line with tradition, will include Buddha, Dhamma, and Sangha Pujas, traditional Myanmar trade exhibitions, and the sale of consumer goods, beauty products, and household items from factories across various regions and states. Moreover, entertainment programmes will be part of the celebration. — ASH/KNN

Seasonal Shan cucumbers sell well at Taunggyi green market

SEASONAL Shan cucumbers are selling well at Taunggyi green market in Shan State, according to market sources.

Shan cucumbers are currently in season and are mainly supplied to Yangon Region. Unlike Bamar cucumbers, Shan cucumbers have a better taste and are more popular.

"The Shan cucumber is the most popular. It is different from the Bamar cucumber. The Shan cucumber is available only here. Now it is its season. It is widely consumed in mixed salads in Shan State and other areas including Yangon. The Shan cucumber's sales are good. After a little time, muskmelon will enter

the market. The harvest season starts in very hot weather and it has just started," said Ma Sandi Taya, a fruit wholesaler in Taunggyi.

In March last year, only a few muskmelons were planted in Shan, so there was a shortage but the sales were good. Its harvest starts in March, and is a one-crop per season fruit in the areas near Hopong.

In August 2024, the price of muskmelons fell, and although they were exported, their major destination was domestic markets, and consumers had them in abundance, according to the Pindaya's farmers. — Thit Taw/ZN



Seasonal Shan cucumbers seen at the Taunggyi green market.

Ngwehsaung, Chaungtha beaches crowded with travellers on long office holidays

SOME 2,500 travellers visit Ngwehsaung and Chaungtha beaches in Ayeyawady Region on a daily basis during the long office holidays, according to the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism in Ayeyawady Region.

"About 2,500 travellers per day pay visits to prominent beaches in Ayeyawady Region such as Chaungtha and Ngwehsaung on weekends. Some 2,000 travellers visit Ngwehsaung Beach daily whereas about 500 visitors per day tour Chaungtha beach. As now is time of holding the Buddha Pujanuya festival of

Mawtinson Pagoda, the number of pilgrims to the pagoda is on the rise. Hence, pilgrims take relax-

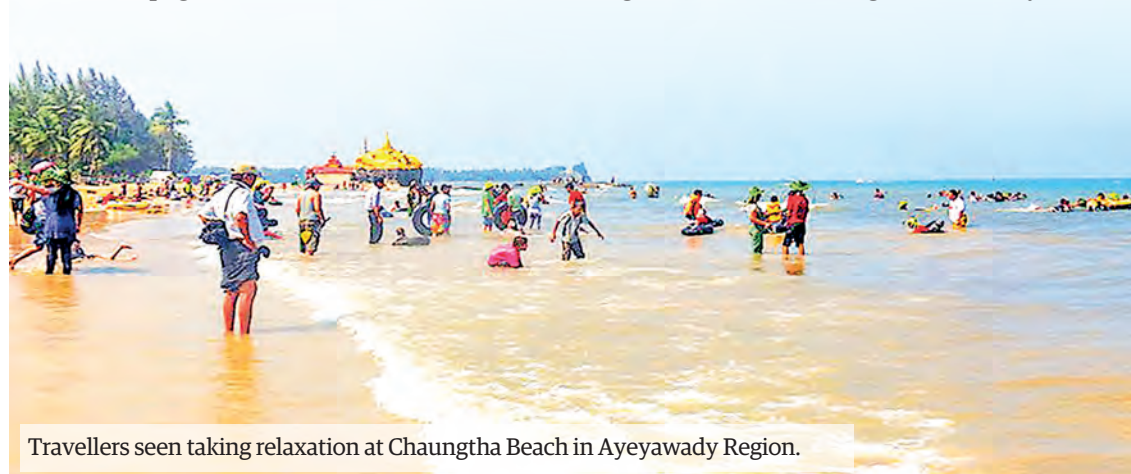
ation at the beach of Hainggyikyun where Mawtinson Pagoda is located. According to the re-

ports, more than 50,000 pilgrims paid visit to the pagoda up to the Taboung full moon day," said U

Aung Thu Oo, the Director of the Ayeyawady Region Directorate of Hotels and Tourism.

In 2024, the statistics reported that some 440,000 travellers at home and abroad visited Chaungtha beach while some 600,000 visitors took relaxation at Ngwehsaung beach.

Currently, a total of 26 hotels, motels and lodges are operational at Chaungtha beach to give service to travellers. At the same time, a total of 32 hotels, motels and lodges are being operated at Ngwehsaung beach. — ASH/TTA



Travellers seen taking relaxation at Chaungtha Beach in Ayeyawady Region.

OPINION

Emphasize the operation of special economic zones

THE primary objective of attracting investments in Myanmar's special economic zones (SEZs) is to align with the national strategy set by the government, which focuses on increasing exports. When inviting investments into these SEZs, priority is given to businesses that produce export-oriented goods.

Currently, Myanmar has three SEZs: the operational Thilawa SEZ, the future Kyaukpyu SEZ and the Dawei SEZ. Given the country's geopolitical and economic landscape, the implementation of these SEZs must consider not only economic factors but also political aspects. The development of SEZs is based on the Myanmar Special Economic Zone Law enacted in 2014, along with its related rules, ensuring compliance with legal frameworks while adapting to the current economic situation.

Regarding the Dawei SEZ, senior officials from Myanmar's government have engaged with Russia and Belarus to explore investment opportunities. Authorities must now take proactive measures to facilitate investments and streamline business operations. As Myanmar's SEZs play a vital role in national economic development, all stakeholders must work towards their smooth and successful implementation.

those in the Promotion Zone encounter some challenges of foreign exchange, which the relevant authorities are addressing. To reduce reliance on foreign currency, import-substituting MSMEs should be encouraged to minimize import expenditures.

The government is implementing SEZs with the overarching goal of economic growth, and MSMEs are expected to play a significant role in this initiative. To ensure SEZs contribute effectively to national development, efforts must be made to enhance their success. Economic growth is essential for every country, and Myanmar is actively striving for progress in this area.

Currently, Myanmar is advancing the development of the Kyaukpyu and Dawei SEZs. In the 2024-2025 financial year, the project is crucial from both economic and geopolitical perspectives and would greatly benefit local communities and the nation. It is necessary for efficient implementation and the successful execution of the deep-sea port project, which will contribute to the Myanmar-China Economic Corridor under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Regarding the Dawei SEZ, senior officials from Myanmar's government have engaged with Russia and Belarus to explore investment opportunities. Authorities must now take proactive measures to facilitate investments and streamline business operations. As Myanmar's SEZs play a vital role in national economic development, all stakeholders must work towards their smooth and successful implementation.

MARCH 17 marks the beginning of the 8th "Lancang-Mekong Week". Since the launch of the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (LMC), it has grown rapidly with remarkable achievements, becoming a "golden platform" for regional cooperation. Over the past six months as China's Ambassador to Myanmar, I have attended activities for seven LMC projects and visited multiple project sites. I have seen firsthand the tangible LMC outcomes in Myanmar, a land rich in potential. I have experienced the speed, impact, and depth of this mechanism, and the "golden platform" has proven its worth in every sense.

The LMC has always prioritized development and people's livelihoods, staying rooted in local needs, delivering tangible benefits, and yielding real results. Funded by China, the LMC Special Fund has supported 118 projects in Myanmar, 72 of which have been completed, addressing critical issues such as access to clean water, electricity, poverty alleviation, and income generation. With the fund's support, nearly 2,000 villagers in Kone Chan, Sin Taung, and

Kyauktaw villages in Shan State now have access to clean drinking water. In Kan Maw Gyi and Yea Ngan Gyi villages of Bokpyin Township, Tanintharyi Region, 2,700 villagers now have access to 24-hour electricity through solar microgrids, reducing electricity costs by over 60 per cent. Additionally, tens of thousands of farmers have received free high-quality seedlings and training for coffee, rubber, fruit, silkworm, and aquaculture farming, helping them boost production, increase income, develop skills, and expand employment opportunities. These "small and beautiful" projects are not only fulfilling the aspirations of Myanmar's people for a better life but also helping them build a brighter future.

The LMC is firmly rooted in the principle of good neighbourli-

ness and friendship, emphasizing mutual consultation and sincerity. It fully respects the comfort levels of all parties, imposes no political conditions, and supports each country in pursuing a development path suited to its national conditions. The implementing agencies of LMC projects in Myanmar carry out cooperation based on the real needs of the Myanmar people, enjoying full autonomy in their operations. The Chinese Embassy, based on the needs of project implementing agencies, participants, and beneficiaries, works closely with the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation National Coordination Unit (Myanmar) and coordinates Chinese experts, technical personnel, and enterprises to provide support and drive greater project achievements.

The LMC is committed to the spirit of mutual benefit, win-win outcomes, openness, and inclusiveness. It does not form closed or exclusive "small circles" but instead embraces openness, advances cooperation, and fosters synergies with mechanisms such as the Greater Mekong Subregion Economic Cooperation and the Three Rivers Basin Mechanism. Promoting coordinated development, it contributes to regional community building and offers "Lancang-Mekong solutions" and "Lancang-Mekong wisdom" to enhance regional governance.

Over the past nine years, under the strategic guidance of the leaders of the six countries, the LMC mechanism has become increasingly refined, with expanded areas of collaboration and growing internal momentum, effectively

strengthening regional unity and development. Political mutual trust among the six countries has deepened, achieving comprehensive coverage in building a community with a shared future on bilateral and multilateral levels, positioning them at the forefront of efforts to build a global community with a shared future for mankind. The drive for common development has gained strong momentum, with trade between China and the five other Mekong countries surpassing US\$200 billion – doubling from a decade ago. Key infrastructure projects, including China-Laos Railway, China-Thailand Railway, and Phnom Penh-Sihanoukville Expressway, are paving a "golden corridor"

of connectivity, while high-speed rail integration, airport linkages, and digital advancements are accelerating the modernization of the LMC. The "Lancang-Mekong friendship" has grown even stronger, with initiatives such as the "Sun Village Project" bringing light to thousands of families, the "Sweet Spring Action" providing clean drinking water to tens of thousands of villagers, and the "Lancang-Mekong Bright Project" restoring sight to thousands of cataract patients. China's introduction of the "Lancang-Mekong Visa" has further strengthened ties among the six countries, fostering closer people-to-people exchanges. The "Safe Lancang-Mekong" initiative has made solid

progress, and the 2024 joint operation "Seagull" conducted by the Lancang-Mekong Integrated Law Enforcement and Security Cooperation Centre (LMLECC) led to the arrest of over 70,000 criminal suspects, effectively safeguarding the lives and property of people in the region and ensuring regional security and stability.

The recently successfully concluded National People's Congress and Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (Two Sessions) reaffirmed China's unwavering commitment to opening up, emphasizing the steady expansion of institutional openness and the orderly advancement of autonomous and unilateral opening to drive reform and development. At the press conference of Two Sessions, Foreign Minister Wang Yi highlighted

that China will continue expanding its openness towards neighbouring countries, including unilateral measures, to share more development dividends with its neighbours. This will inject fresh momentum and opportunities for LMC. This year marks the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Myanmar, marking a new historical starting point for bilateral ties. As we deepen LMC, I am confident that we will also usher in new progress in China-Myanmar relations.

As a Myanmar proverb goes, "Be ambitious in thinking but down-to-earth in action." China stands ready to work hand in hand with all sectors of Myanmar, supporting each other in the historical journey towards modernization. Together, we will write a new chapter in the shared future of the China-Myanmar and Lancang-Mekong communities, forging an even brighter future for China-Myanmar relations and LMC.

(The views and opinions expressed in this article are solely those of the author.)

Jointly Building a Better Tomorrow for Lancang-Mekong Cooperation

BY Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Ma Jia

Study shows how climate change affects rain and floods

CLIMATE change may lead to more precipitation and more intense floods. A new study shows that to understand the details of this relationship, it is important to distinguish between different types of rainfall and flood events — namely, between short-term events that occur on a time scale of hours, and longer-term events that last several days. In each case, climate change has a different impact.

An Austrian research team

has now shown for the first time that short-term precipitation and flood events on the scale of a few hours are particularly affected by the temperature increase caused by climate change.

For events on a longer time scale, the relationship is more complicated. This finding was made using detailed data collected in Austria over more than a century — but it can also be applied to other regions of the world.

It also allows conclusions to

be drawn about which regions will experience changes in the probability of flooding, and how they will be affected. The results have now been published in the journal Nature.

Climate change is affecting water cycles all over the world. A look at Austria is particularly revealing: "We are in the very fortunate situation of having excellent data available," says Prof. Gunter Bloeschl of TU Wien (Vienna), who led the research project. Since

1900, precipitation in Austria has been recorded by two separate institutions: by the meteorological service, now Geosphere Austria, and by the Austrian Hydrography, which is managed by the Ministry of Agriculture.

The Austrian data are therefore particularly reliable and can be used to make forecasts for other countries.

These data sets have now been analysed in a cooperation of TU Wien, the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management (BML), GeoSphere Austria and the University of Graz.

The analysis showed that short-term precipitation events lasting only a few hours have increased significantly in the last 30-40 years — by about 15 per cent. "This had already been predicted by climate models, albeit with uncertainties. We have now been



The death toll from Storm Boris in central Europe rose to 22 on Tuesday, 17 September 2024, as reported by authorities. The storm caused severe flooding and devastation across multiple countries, including Poland and Austria. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

able to confirm it," says Gunter Bloeschl.

However, if longer-term rainfall events lasting several days are analyzed, a different picture

emerges. In that case, global weather phenomena such as El Niño, a climate process influenced by ocean temperatures, play a much more decisive role.

Rainfall events on this timescale are therefore not changing everywhere in the same way.

In the Mediterranean, in some regions of Italy, Spain and

Greece, long periods of precipitation may even become rarer as a result of climate change.

SOURCE: ANI

SCI/ENVIRON WORLD

Johns Hopkins University announces over 2,000 layoffs due to federal funding cuts

This represents the largest layoff in the university's history, impacting 247 domestic employees and 1,975 positions across 44 countries.



Johns Hopkins University is cutting jobs in the United States as well as 44 other countries. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

JOHNS Hopkins University (JHU) announced Thursday that it has begun laying off more than 2,000 workers worldwide after 800 million US dollars in funding were cut by the US administration of President Donald Trump.

This marked the largest layoff in the history of the leading scientific research university, affecting 247 domestic workers and an additional 1,975 positions across 44 countries.

"The largest layoffs in the university's history," JHU said, will affect its medical and public health schools, programmes and a nonprofit organization.

"This is a difficult day our entire community," the university said in a statement.

The Baltimore-based university is also the largest private employer in Maryland and appears to be among the hardest-hit research institutions by the federal cuts.

Thursday's layoffs follow the Trump administration's push to reshape the federal government, including major cuts to the US Agency for International Development (USAID).

This week, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio announced that 83 per cent of USAID's programs will be canceled, with the remainder folded into the State Department. — Xinhua



Starship (pictured during a test flight) — the world's largest and most powerful rocket — is key to Elon Musk's long-term vision of colonizing Mars. **PHOTO: AFP**

Musk says Starship to depart for Mars at end of 2026

SPACEX founder Elon Musk said Saturday its massive Starship rocket would leave for Mars at the end of 2026 with Tesla humanoid robot Optimus onboard, adding that human landings could follow "as soon as 2029."

"Starship departs for Mars at the end of next year, carrying Optimus. If those landings go well, then human landings may start as soon as 2029, although 2031 is more likely," Musk said on his X social network.

Musk, who is also the Tesla CEO, brought out the company's Optimus robots at an event last year.

He said the dancing robots

would one day be able to do menial tasks, as well as offer friendship, and expected them to retail for \$20,000 to \$30,000.

Starship — the world's largest and most powerful rocket — is key to Musk's long-term vision of colonizing Mars.

Standing 403 feet (123 metres) tall — about 100 feet taller than the Statue of Liberty — Starship is designed to eventually be fully reusable.

NASA is also awaiting a modified version of Starship as a lunar lander for its Artemis programme, which aims to return astronauts to the Moon this decade. — AFP

From oil spills to new species: how tech reveals the ocean

THE ocean, covering nearly three-quarters of our planet, remains largely unexplored, with scientists estimating that we have only identified about 10 per cent of its inhabitants. However, advancements in technology are transforming our understanding of marine

ecosystems. For instance, organizations like SkyTruth utilize machine learning to analyze satellite imagery, enabling the detection of hidden oil spills that would otherwise go unnoticed, thus providing an early warning system for environmental monitoring. — AFP

Hundreds of Olympians call on IOC candidates to make climate top priority

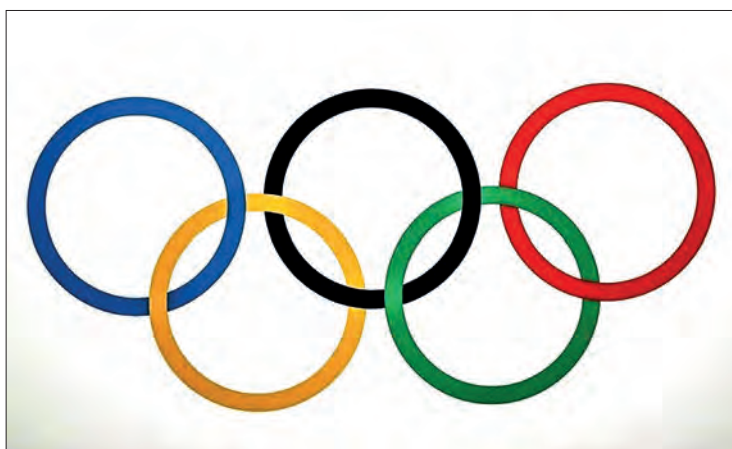
JUST days before the International Olympic Committee (IOC) elects a new president in Greece more than 400 athletes on Friday called on the future leader of the body to strengthen its action for the environment.

"To the incoming President, we ask that over the coming years and the course of your presidency one issue be above all others: the care of our planet," Olympic athletes including British sailing great

Ben Ainslie, Kenyan sprinter Ferdinand Omanyala and Australian swimmer Emma McKeon said in a statement.

"Rising temperatures and extreme weather are already disrupting competition schedules, putting iconic venues at risk and affecting the health of athletes and fans," the statement read.

"Extreme heat is raising real concerns about whether Summer Games can be held safely in future years," it con-



More than 400 Olympic athletes have called on the new IOC president to focus on the environment. **PHOTO: AFP**

tinued, pointing to the devastating wildfires this year in 2028 Games host city Los Angeles.

As for the Winter Olympics in Italy in 2026 and France in 2030 they "are becoming harder to organise with reliable snow and ice conditions diminishing annually", the athletes insisted.

"This is no longer a distant threat, but a current and growing harm to the sports we love and to the countries that make up our Olympic family." — AFP

UAE expands healthcare access with state-of-the-art clinics in Afghanistan

IN a landmark humanitarian initiative, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has launched a transformative project to establish ten state-of-the-art maternity and paediatric centres across Afghanistan.

Guided by the humanitarian vision of the UAE's founder, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, and supported by Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE President, the initiative aims to address critical healthcare needs while fostering stability, development, and prosperity in Afghanistan.

The maternity clinics are located in Afghan provinces where the need is greatest, including Nangarhar, Balkh, Herat, Ghazni, Paktika, Paktia, Kandahar, and Helmand. Each centre is equipped with two specialist beds and has dedicated doctors and nursing staff.

With an estimated 115,000 women expected to benefit in the

With an estimated 115,000 women expected to benefit, the project includes modern facilities and essential services, such as vaccinations, to combat Afghanistan's high infant mortality rate.



UAE has launched a significant humanitarian initiative to establish ten advanced maternity and pediatric centers across Afghanistan. **PHOTO: ANI**

coming years, alongside wider community impact, the initia-

tive seeks to elevate healthcare standards, empower women and children, and strengthen local communities. The project

features cutting-edge facilities, solar power, satellite-linked stations, mobile clinics, and ambulances.

The medical centre in Baghbani district of Jalalabad is already providing essential care to expectant mothers and young children. Previously, local families had no access to reliable vaccines due to supply shortages and inadequate refrigeration.

Now, thanks to the centre's modern facilities, essential immunizations, including tuberculosis vaccines, are available to over 20 people daily. Baby Ayesha Qamari is among the children receiving vital health checks and vaccinations. Afghanistan has one of the highest infant mortality rates, with approximately 43 deaths per 1,000 live births, primarily due to infectious diseases, respiratory infections, diarrhoea, malaria, pre-term birth complications, and birth asphyxia. — ANI

Telegram founder Durov allowed to temporarily leave France: sources

TELEGRAM founder Pavel Durov has been allowed to temporarily leave France, where he is charged with multiple infractions linked to allegedly enabling organised crime, sources told AFP.

"He departed France this morning," a source familiar with the case told AFP, adding Durov had left with the authorities' permission.

According to another source, an investigating judge

had authorised him to leave France for "several weeks."

A third source said Durov had departed for Dubai.

A Telegram spokeswoman declined to comment when reached by AFP, saying the company would later issue a statement.

The investigating judge accepted Durov's request to modify conditions of his supervision several days ago, said the source close to the case. — AFP



Telegram founder Pavel Durov has been allowed to temporarily leave France for Dubai on Saturday. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Sean 'Diddy' Combs pleads not guilty to new indictment

SEAN "Diddy" Combs pleaded not guilty Friday to a new indictment that added accusations to his US federal sex trafficking and racketeering case.

The superceding indictment says that as the hip hop magnate sexually abused people and coerced them into drug-fueled sex parties using threats and violence, he forced employees to work long hours while demanding their silence.

The 55-year-old wore a tan shirt and pants in the Manhattan courtroom to enter the plea in the criminal case scheduled to go to trial this spring, with in-person jury selection to tentatively begin 5 May and opening statements expected 12 May.

Combs has denied all charges.

Public allegations have been building against the Grammy winner since late 2023, when singer Cassie, whose real name is Casandra Ventura, alleged



Sean 'Diddy' Combs's children Chance Combs (L) and Christian Combs (R) and his mother Janice Combs depart a pre-trial hearing in Manhattan on 14 March. **PHOTO: AFP**

Combs subjected her to more than a decade of coercion by physical force and drugs as well as a 2018 rape.

Along with the federal criminal case, Combs faces a mountain of civil suits, complaints that allege harrowing abuse by the artist with assistance from a loyal network of employees and associates.

The one-time rap superstar has been incarcerated since September, during which time he's started to look noticeably aged, with a crop of salt-and-pepper hair.

During Friday's hearing he smiled, waved and blew kisses to a row of supporters including two of his children and his mother. — AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

ECB chief warns of severe economic damage from US-led trade wars

European Central Bank (ECB) President Christine Lagarde warned that a trade war initiated by US President Donald Trump would negatively impact the global economy, including the US itself.



Significant trade dampening would have severe consequences for growth and prices worldwide. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

A trade war initiated by US President Donald Trump would harm the global economy, including that of the country imposing the measures, European Central Bank (ECB) President Christine Lagarde warned on Friday.

“If we were to go to a real trade war, where trade would be dampened significantly, that would have severe consequences” for growth and prices around the world, “particularly in the United States,” ECB President Christine Lagarde told the BBC in an interview released on Friday.

She expressed concern over Trump’s decisions and counter-decisions, describing them as “a cause for concern and a reason for us to be extremely vigilant.” She added that this has created “a level of uncertainty we have not seen for a

long time.”

“Every trade war will harm the global economy,” noted the ECB president. “Everyone will suffer, that’s a constant in the history of trade.”

The ECB president noted that such measures are already dampening business activity by increasing uncertainty for companies, consumers, and investors.

Speaking at an ECB conference on Wednesday, Lagarde acknowledged that maintaining stability in an era of exceptional uncertainty is a “formidable task,” noting that the ECB “cannot provide certainty about the rate path”, as the environment is different now. Last week, the ECB decided to slash key interest rates by 25 basis points in a bid to wind down the restrictive monetary policy. — Xinhua

RBI confirms IndusInd Bank is well-capitalized and stable

AMID the ongoing crisis in the IndusInd bank, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Saturday released a statement stating that the bank is well capitalised and financially stable.

The RBI said, “The Reserve Bank would like to state that the bank is well-capitalized and the financial position of the bank remains satisfactory.”

The apex bank further added in the statement that as per auditor-reviewed financial results of the bank for the quarter ended 31 December 2024, the bank has maintained a comfortable Capital Adequacy Ratio of 16.46 per cent and Provision Coverage Ratio of 70.20 per cent. — ANI

Yemeni banks headquartered in Sanaa to relocate to Aden: central bank

SEVERAL Yemeni banks headquartered in the capital city of Sanaa have decided to relocate their operations to the temporary capital, Aden, to avoid sanctions imposed by Washington on the Houthi group, the Central Bank of Yemen said Saturday.

In a statement, the central bank welcomed the commercial banks’ relocation decision, noting that it is ready to provide all possible support and protection to ensure the continuity of their services to Yemeni citizens at home and abroad.

The central bank expressed its readiness to work with all international and regional financial and relief institutions to safeguard the country’s banking system and enable their smooth operation. — Xinhua

Global coffee prices surge amid adverse weather conditions: FAO

GLOBAL coffee prices surged by nearly 40 per cent in 2024 due to adverse weather conditions affecting key producing countries, according to a report released by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on Friday.

FAO data showed that Arabica coffee prices in December 2024 were 58 per cent higher compared to the same period in 2023, while Robusta prices jumped by 70 per cent.

The report warned that further price increases could occur in 2025 if major coffee-producing regions continue to face significant supply constraints.

Severe weather conditions have disrupted coffee production in major supplying nations, including Brazil, Vietnam, and Indonesia, the report stated.

In addition to weather-related supply shocks, rising shipping costs have also



An attendant of an exhibitor presents coffee products to visitors at the Vietnam International Cafe Show 2018 in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, on 4 May 2018. **PHOTO: HOANG THI HUONG/XINHUA/FILE**

contributed to the increase in global coffee prices.

“High prices should serve as an incentive to invest more in technology and research to enhance climate resilience in the coffee sector, which remains heavily reliant on smallholder farmers,” said Boubaker Ben-Belhassen,

director of FAO’s Markets and Trade Division. He emphasized that climate change remains a long-term challenge for global coffee production and reaffirmed FAO’s commitment to working with producing countries to help farmers adopt climate-resilient techniques. — Xinhua

China's SF Airlines expands fleet to 90 freighters

Currently more than 30 per cent of its freighter fleet consists of widebody jets—which are key players on its air route networks, reaching destinations both domestically and globally.

SF Airlines, China's largest air-cargo carrier in terms of fleet size, has increased its fleet to 90 freighters, notable progress for the company in strengthening its service capacity in the global market, the cargo carrier announced on Sunday.

The 90th member of the SF Airlines fleet, a B767-300BCF widebody freighter, arrived at the Shenzhen Bao'an International Airport on Sunday to join the fleet, the cargo carrier said.

The company disclosed that currently more than 30 percent of its freighter fleet consists of widebody jets — which are key players on its air route networks, reaching destinations both domestically and globally.

The expansion of the scale and improved structure of its transport capacity will support SF Airlines in its endeavors to broaden its air-cargo transport route network, which reaches over 100 destinations at home and

globally. It also enhances the airline's services for logistics supply chains and customers, the cargo carrier added.

Headquartered in Shenzhen in south China's Guangdong Province, SF Airlines received its first freighter and launched its first cargo route back in 2009. — Xinhua

SF Airlines, China's largest air-cargo carrier in terms of fleet size, has increased its fleet to 90 freighters.
PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE



India's merchandise trade deficit will be under pressure in fiscal 2026

INDIA'S merchandise trade deficit will be under pressure in the fiscal year 2026, as domestic private consumption is expected to remain strong, maintaining imports up, the rating agency Crisil said in its recent report.

According to the rating agency, India's exports could also come under pressure due to the slowing economy and tariff related conditions in the United States.

However, as per the report, the service trade, which has proven to be more resilient and where India runs a surplus, will provide some cushion.

"Slowing global growth (3.0 per cent in



India's merchandise trade deficit will be under pressure in the fiscal year 2026.

PHOTO: AFP/FILE

calendar 2025 from 3.3 per cent in calendar 2024, as per S&P Global's November 2024 forecast) — particularly of the US (2.0 per cent vs. 2.7 per cent),

our largest export destination — could hit India's exports," the report added.

As per the report, the global trade volume growth is also expected to

moderate to 3.2 per cent in calendar 2025 from 3.4 per cent in calendar 2024 according to the United Nations, which could impact the overall trade. — ANI

Indonesia's Jakarta-Bandung HSR prepares for Eid surge

THE Jakarta-Bandung High-Speed Railway (Whoosh) was gearing up for a surge in passengers during the Eid holidays in Indonesia, a 20 per cent increase per day, the company PT KCIC announced Saturday.

Eva Chairunisa, general manager corporate secretary of PT KCIC, said that during the 2025 Eid transportation period, which runs from 21 March

to 11 April, Whoosh will operate 62 regular trips per day, up from 52 per day last year.

With the increase, daily seating capacity will rise to 37,262 seats, compared to 31,252 seats per day last year. In total, the company has prepared 808,946 seats across 1,346 Whoosh trips for the Eid holiday period, anticipating peak travel demand, particularly on 5 April. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

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

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC ZHENGDE VOY.NO. (2504S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **17-3-2025** 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**

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Agent For:

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The following three pesticides distributed by **Aventine Co.,Ltd** and here we would like to pesticide trade name change advertising. Anyone who would like to object or inquiry about new trade name contact within 14 days to Joint-Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon. **Aventine Co.,Ltd** Tel:09-401573814

Sr.	Old Trade Name	New Trade Name	Active Ingredients	Registration No.
1.	Max Sote Sar	Armo Sote Poe Bayin	Spirotetramat 24% SC	P2024-6487

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Water route connecting Kyoto, Osaka reopens after lock construction

This facility, known as the "Yodogawa Gateway," aims to enhance disaster response by facilitating transportation when land routes are disrupted and to boost tourism in Osaka Prefecture.

A waterway connecting Kyoto and Osaka Bay, long closed for flood control, reopened Sunday as Japanese transport authorities began operating a lock on the Yodo River.

The water route between the major areas in western Japan is expected to support the transportation of supplies and debris during disasters when land connections are cut, while also helping to revitalize tourism along the main river in Osaka Prefecture.

According to the local bureau of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, the completed facility, located 10 kilometres from the river's mouth, is one of the biggest in Japan. It has been nicknamed the "Yodogawa

Gateway."

The governors of Osaka and Kyoto, Hirofumi Yoshimura and Takatoshi Nishiwaki, participated in a ceremony marking the reopening on Sunday. The lock can accommodate four large tourist boats, each carrying about 100 passengers.

The lock on the Yodo River, 20 metres wide and 70 metres long, can raise and lower vessels up to 2 metres.

During the Edo period (1603-1868), transportation by boat on the Yodo River was the primary means of travel between Osaka Bay and Kyoto, but navigation had been restricted since 1983. Calls grew for the installation of a lock to improve disaster response. — Kyoto



A ceremony is held in Osaka on 16 March 2025, as a waterway connecting Kyoto and Osaka Bay reopens and the operation of a lock begins on the Yodo River. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Peruvian fisherman saved after three months stranded at sea

A Peruvian fisherman was found alive after drifting at sea for 94 days, a navy official said Saturday, as he was discharged from hospital following his ordeal.

Maximo Napa, 61, was rescued in his small fishing boat on Tuesday after being spotted by an Ecuadoran vessel off the coast of Chimbote in northern Peru.

He told local media in a tearful interview that he survived at sea by eating cockroaches, birds and a turtle.

"I didn't want to die, for my mother. I have a two-month-old granddaughter — I clung to that. Every day I thought about my mother," Napa said.

On Saturday, he was discharged from hospital in the coastal city of Païta.

"Mr Napa arrived in good



Maximo Napa was shocked but in good physical condition after being rescued, an official with Peru's navy said.

PHOTO: PERUVIAN NAVY/AFP

physical condition. He could walk, wash himself. Shocked, but in good physical condition," said Peruvian Navy port captain Jorge Gonzalez.

The fisherman had set sail on 7 December from the

port of San Juan de Marcona but bad weather conditions and the current caused him to lose course.

His small boat, which had no radio beacon, ended up on the high seas. — AFP

BRIEF: WORLD

Trump administration invokes 18th-century law to deport Venezuelan gang members

THE Donald Trump administration on Saturday (local time) invoked an 18th-century law, the Alien Enemies Act of 1798, to speed up the deportations of migrants affiliated with the Venezuelan gang Tren de Aragua, CNN reported.

This rarely used law, which has been invoked only three times before, grants the president broad authority to target and remove undocumented immigrants.

The Alien Enemies Act of 1798 can be invoked if the US is at war with another country or a foreign nation has invaded the US or threatened to do so. — ANI

Israel says will pursue indirect talks with Hamas on ceasefire

ISRAEL'S Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has told his negotiating team to continue indirect talks with Hamas on maintaining the fragile ceasefire, a statement from his office said Saturday.

The prime minister "instructed the negotiating team to prepare for the continuation of the talks" and for the release of the remaining hostages, the statement said, in line with a proposal by US President Donald Trump's envoy Steve Witkoff. —AFP

SPORTS

MIU crowned champions as MFF Futsal League-1 concludes

THE 2024-2025 Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) Futsal League-1 season concluded on 16 March with Matchweek 18 at the MFF Futsal Court, where MIU secured the championship with an unbeaten record.

In the final matches, MIU defeated SGF 4-1, MH Dream Team won 2-1 against VUC, YRG whitewashed Generations 9-1, YCDC Marga edged Winner Soccer 4-3 and Futsal Chit Thu crushed M2K 4-3.

MIU finished the league with 52 points from 17 wins and one draw, followed by MH Dream Team with 44 points in second place and YRG in third with 33 points. VUC secured fourth place with 27 points, while Generations, M2K, Winner Soccer, YCDC Marga, Futsal Chit Thu and SGF followed in the standings.

The award ceremony saw Generations winning the Fair Play Award with a K500,000 prize, while Mai Soe Myat Htwe (MIU) was named the Best Goalkeeper and Nyein Min Soe (MH Dream Team) was awarded the Best Player, each re-



AFC Senior Vice President and MFF President U Zaw Zaw presenting the championship trophy to MIU team. PHOTO:MFF

ceiving K500,000 and medals.

VUC earned K3 million for fourth place, YRG claimed K5 million for third, MH Dream Team took K10 million for second, and champions MIU received K15 million and the championship

trophy.

Yangon Region Social Affairs Minister U Htay Aung, AFC Senior Vice President and MFF President U Zaw Zaw and other officials presented the awards to winners. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



Wan Wan (Eagle Club) fights against William (Holy Power Club).

Myanmar Fight New Generation Lethwei matches held

THE Myanmar Fight New Generation Lethwei event took place yesterday at 1 pm at Theinbyu Gymnasium in Yangon, featuring eleven bouts. Organized by the Myanmar Traditional Lethwei Federation and MMAG Company, the event showcased intense matchups between skilled fighters.

Some matches ended in draws, including Kaung Gyi (Yan Gyi Aung) versus Leltamala (Ray Club), Sa Aing Lah (MK-1) versus Kyar Marn Hein (MFC Club), Danu (Phoe La Pyae) versus Ye Marn Thwe (Pay Club) and Wan Wan (Eagle Club) versus William (Holy Power Club).

Other fights had clear winners, with Naing Lin Soe (MK-1), Toe Aung (MK-1), Nyi Nyi Naing (Ray Club), Kyaw Thiha (Wan Chone Club), Aung Aung Hein (MFC Club), Saw Mighty (Italy) from (Lethwei Warrior Club) and Mike Khe (Eagle Club) securing victories in different rounds.

Organizers announced that monthly New Generation Lethwei matches will be held with support from Myanmar Economic Holding Public Co Ltd from March 2025. — Arkar Linn/KZL



Chile's Joaquin Niemann of Torque GC team lifts the trophy after winning the individual final round of the LIV Golf Singapore. PHOTO: AFP

Niemann closer to US Open berth after LIV Singapore win

JOAQUIN Niemann won LIV Golf Singapore by five shots on Sunday to rise to the top of breakaway league's standings and stay on course for a place at the US Open.

The United States Golf Association (USGA) will this season award a berth in the season's third major to the top-ranked player from the Saudi-backed series who is not otherwise exempt.

The US Open is the only 2025 major for which Niemann is not yet already qualified.

"It's one of my goals to qualify for the majors," said the Mexican, who closed with a six-under-par 65 to win on 17 under par at Sentosa Golf Club.

Five-time major champion Brooks Koepka was second on 12-under par after also shooting a final round of 65. — AFP

Uruguay among World Cup favourites, says Forlan

FORMER Manchester United and Atletico Madrid striker Diego Forlan believes Uruguay will be among the favourites—along with defending champion Argentina—to win next year's FIFA World Cup in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Argentina currently sits atop the South American qualifying zone standings with 25 points from 12 games, five points ahead of second-placed Uruguay.

The rivals will meet each other in Montevideo next Friday. A victory for Argentina



would all but secure the Albiceleste a berth in football's showpiece tournament, while a Uruguay win would leave Marcelo Bielsa's men on the cusp of earning a place with five qualifiers to spare.

"I think the match against Argentina will be a great test for Uruguay because they are the teams that will be protagonists at the World Cup,"

Canada, Mexico and the United States will host the 2026 World Cup. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

the retired Uruguay star told DSports radio. "This qualifier will be a very competitive and hard-fought duel".

The last time the teams met in a World Cup qualifier was in November 2023, when Uruguay prevailed 2-0 at La Bombonera in Buenos Aires.

"At La Bombonera, Uruguay played a great game, both physically and tactically. Uruguay won that match well, and having such an important test against an opponent like Argentina is important". — Xinhua



PM Narendra Modi to inaugurate Raisina Dialogue

The event will host representatives from approximately 125 countries, including prominent figures from government, industry, academia, and media. The dialogue aims to address critical global challenges.



Luxon's visit will include his participation as the Chief Guest at the inaugural session of the 10th Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi on 17 March. PHOTO: DD NEWS

THE 10th edition of the Raisina Dialogue is set to be inaugurated on 16 March by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, where the chief guest, New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon, will deliver the keynote address.

Luxon, who will attend the inaugural session, will deliver the key note address

with the theme "Kalachakra" (wheel of time).

The Raisina Dialogue is India's flagship conference on geopolitics and geo-economics, committed to addressing the most challenging issues facing the international community.

Representatives from about 125

countries, including ministers, former Heads of State and heads of government, military commanders, captains of industry, technology leaders, academics, journalists, scholars on strategic affairs, experts from leading think tanks, and youth will participate in the Raisina Dialogue. — ANI

LMC SPECIAL FUND

Archaeologists restoring ancient temple's causeway in Cambodia's Angkor park

ARCHAEOLOGISTS have been restoring the eastern causeway of the centuries-old Beng Mealea temple in the UNESCO-listed Angkor Archaeological Park in northwest Cambodia, the APSARA National Authority (ANA) said in a news release on Saturday.

The restoration project was funded by the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (LMC) Special Fund, the news release said. The fund, initiated by China in March 2016, aimed to support small- and medium-sized cooperation projects put forward by six LMC countries.

ANA engineer Boeut Sopak said the project aimed to revitalize the eastern causeway of the temple, which had suffered considerable damage.

She added that the restoration work began on 20 July 2024, and was projected to be completed by August 2025.

"The restoration team has successfully repaired various structural elements of the causeway, including pillars, beams, Naga balustrades, and Naga heads on both sides," Sopak said.

"They have also addressed a substantial portion of the collapsed causeway floor. Currently, efforts focused on installing Naga heads on the southern side and repairing the damaged stones of the causeway," she added. — Xinhua

Trump freezes VOA, other US-funded media outlets

HUNDREDS of staffers at Voice of America (VOA), Radio Free Asia, Radio Free Europe and other outlets received a weekend email that they will be barred from their offices and should surrender press passes and equipment, local media reported Saturday.

The cuts followed an executive order by US President Donald Trump on Friday, which

listed US Agency for Global Media (USAGM), as part of "unnecessary" federal bureaucracy.

USAGM, VOA's parent agency, employs about 3,500 staff and has an 886 million-US dollar budget for 2024, according to its latest report to Congress.

The agency has severed all contracts for the privately incorporated international broadcasters it funds, including Radio

Free Europe and Radio Free Asia, local media reported.

VOA director Michael Abramowitz said on social media that nearly his entire staff of 1,300 journalists, producers and assistants had been put on administrative leave.

The White House said the cuts would ensure "taxpayers are no longer on the hook for radical propaganda." — Xinhua



A journalist from Voice of America reports near Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida on 13 December 2024. PHOTO: AFP/FILE