

The **Global** **NEW LIGHT** of **MYANMAR**

10,000 more shade trees will be planted along roads in Magway, Yenangyoung, and Chauk this year

THE Yenantha Dinga Brothers Parahita has announced that it will plant 10,000 more shade trees along the roadsides of Magway, Yenangyoung, and Chauk in 2025.

More than 30,000 trees have been planted in the Philanthropic gardens in those areas in central Myanmar, and plans are underway to plant 10,000 more shade trees in vacant lands this year.

“We will water them. We are preparing to plant trees in the rainy season in 2025. We will plant tropical plants such as banyan and rain trees in the vacant spaces of the gardens that have already been planted along the left and right sides of the road in Magway, Yenangyoung and Chauk. Our goal is to plant 10,000 trees a year. We have started digging pits and selecting land. We will start planting when the rainy season arrives,” said Ko Yenantha Dinga, founder of the group.

Planting trees in these gardens began in 2022, and there are now nine gardens filled mainly with neem, tamarind, eastern gooseberry, mango and rain trees.

To ensure the survival of the plants, the gardeners are provided with houses in the gardens and financial support as maintenance fees. — Thit Taw/ZN



The Yenantha Dinga Brothers Parahita members were planting shade trees.

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Yangon’s marine exports flourish with over 80 products shipped to international markets

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Students on excursion tour of observing pottery industry, laterite culture in Twantay Township

**BUSINESS** **PAGE 12**



Myanmar imports 1.4M tonnes of fertilizers, over 26,000 tonnes of pesticides in Apr-Dec

**Shwethaungyan Beach welcomes more than 50,000 domestic, overseas visitors in December 2024**



This photo captures the beauty of Shwethaungyan Beach, along with some tourists visiting the beach.

Shwethaungyan Beach in Pathein Township, Ayeyawady Region, saw a total of 54,557 visitors, both domestic and international, in December 2024, according to Daw Cherry Myint, an Executive Officer of the Myanmar Tourism Entrepreneurs Association (Shwethaungyan Beach).

The beach has more than 20 hotels and guest houses offering service to visitors year-round.

“In 2024, Shwethaungyan Beach received 16,546 domestic and overseas visitors in September 2024, 17,857 in October, 24,545 in November, and 54,557 in December. Most of them made day trips. There is also an elephant camp near the beach, which attracts visitors year-round,” Daw Cherry Myint said.

Currently, measures are being taken at every hotel in Shwethaungyan Beach to ensure cleanliness along the beach in front of the hotel, beautify

the landscapes and roads within the hotel compound, and maintain overall cleanliness in public areas. Additionally, preparations are underway to offer local cuisine to guests staying at the hotels.

In addition to implementing security measures for visitors, local foods and products, as well as souvenirs, are sold along the beach, while bicycles, motorboats, and horse rental services are also provided. — ASH/TH



# NATIONAL

## From Sitting to Walking: The Journey of Reading

- ❖ Those who do not read books are like sitting.
- ❖ Literates who do not read are like standing.
- ❖ Literates who read books are like walking.
- ❖ We must encourage everyone, especially the youth, to read.
- ❖ We need to create environments that promote reading.

(Excerpt from the speech given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the ceremony to donate books and publications to libraries across the nation and libraries of military headquarters, regiments, and units on 3 April 2024)

## Cybersecurity Law (State Administration Council Law No 1/2025)

Continued from 4 January

### Chapter VI Responsibilities and authority of the department

- The department shall take responsibility for office works as the secretariat of the central committee and the steering committee.
- The department shall allow expenses and allowances for members of the steering committee who are not in-service.
- The department
  - can contact, coordinate and cooperate with international and regional cybersecurity organizations in accord with the directive of the ministry in implementing the cybersecurity cooperation measures internationally and regionally.
  - can issue recognition certificates by examining qualification of cybersecurity and skills or holding competitions in line with the international standards.
  - shall initiate sector-wise cybersecurity cooperation in the country under the directive of the ministry.
  - shall set disciplines for cybersecurity service and registration disciplines for digital platform service in accord with the approval of the ministry.
  - shall levy licence fees, registration fees, fine or other charges in line with the restrictions under this law.
  - shall take responsibilities for the implementation of cybersecurity policies, strategies, action plans and work guidelines adopted by the central committee.

### Chapter VII Protection of critical information infrastructure

- The critical information infrastructures are as follows: -
  - Electronic information infrastructures for defence and security of the State
  - e-government service infrastructure
  - e-financial information infrastructure
  - e-transport information infrastructure
  - e-communications information infrastructure
  - e-health information infrastructure
  - e-electric power and energy information infrastructure
  - Electronic information infrastructures set by the Central Committee from time to time in accord with the approval of the Union government
- The Central Committee shall instruct the relevant government departments and organizations to designate, revise and manage critical information structures to carry out the tasks of planning and maintaining critical information infrastructure.
- Relevant governments and organizations shall conduct measures for critical information infrastructures as follows: -
  - Scheming cybersecurity plans under relevant criteria
  - Formation of an Emergency Cybersecurity Incident Monitoring and Response Team
  - Assigning an appropriate person as an official to manage the critical information infrastructure
  - submission of a cybersecurity report to the Steering Committee at least once for every calendar year
- The official who is responsible for managing the critical information infrastructure
  - shall keep the data related to the critical information infrastructure in accordance with the standards depending on the standards of information.
  - shall manage publishing, releasing, sending, accepting and storing the data

- related to critical information infrastructures in accordance with the standards.
- shall submit the report of critical information infrastructures to the ministry via relevant government departments and organizations at least once every calendar year.
- The ministry shall oversee and inspect whether those responsible for managing critical information infrastructure have implemented cybersecurity readiness in accordance with the standards set by the steering committee.

### Chapter VIII Issuance of licence and registration

- The department can determine the validity period of licences for cybersecurity services and the registration period for digital platform services for a minimum of three years and a maximum of ten years.
- A cybersecurity service provider must be a company registered under the Myanmar Companies Law and must also apply for a business licence from the relevant department in accordance with the prescribed regulations.
- The department shall verify applications under the criteria in accord with Section 20 and conduct them as follows: -
  - if application is aligned with criteria, it needs to issue licence to applicant with paying licence fee
  - if application is not aligned with criteria, it needs to amend application or refuse to issue licence.
- The cybersecurity service provider must apply for a licence extension to the relevant authority at least six months before the expiration of the licence if they wish to continue their operations.
- The department
  - can allow the application for renewal of licence with verification in accord with the criteria or refuse it.
  - refuses to extend the licence, it shall not affect the remaining licence term.
- A digital platform service provider with over 100,000 users within the country must be a registered company under the Myanmar Companies Law, and in line with the registration criteria, an application must be submitted to the relevant department for approval.
- The department must review the application in accordance with the criteria set forth in Section 24 and proceed as follows: -
  - issuing the registration to an applicant with payment of registration fee if the application is aligned with relevant criteria
  - otherwise, it must allow the applicant to amend the application or refuse to issue the registration
- The digital platform service provider must apply for an extension of the registration before the expiration of the registration term, at least six months in advance, as per the specified conditions, if they wish to continue operating the business.
- The department -
  - can verify renewal of registration term in compliance with the relevant criteria and allow or refuse it.
  - refuse renewal of registration term, it shall not affect the remaining registration term.
- The cybersecurity team must obtain the approval of the steering committee in line with the criteria, to carry out cybersecurity activities within the country without making a profit.

To be Continued



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)

Illegal goods, vehicles and timbers worth more than K335 million seized

THE Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee supervises activities of effective preventing illegal trade and trafficking of smuggled goods under the law.

On 2 January, duty-assigned combined teams under Magway Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force seized 0.712 tonne of illegal timber worth K119,779 in Konzaung Village of Pwintbyu Township. On 4 January, a combined team under the management of the Customs Department impounded one intermediate goods worth K265.611 million without documents from three containers at Thilawa Port.

In Kayin State, a squad confiscated intermediate goods and personal goods worth K10 million carried by a Doh Shwe Myanmar Light Truck valued at K25 million without any documentation at Yethaya temporary checkpoint.

Likewise, a combined team nabbed personal goods worth K10 million without any documents piled on roadside on Kengtung detour near Kengphaung Village in Kengtung.

At Nyaungkhashay X-ray checkpoint in Bago Region, officials seized illegal foodstuffs worth K2.2 million carried by a King Long bus worth K20 million. Moreover, 200 tonnes of illegal charcoal, 1.409 tonnes of teak, 0.537 tonne of hardwood and 1.944 tonnes of other timber worth K2.23 million were confiscated in Bago, Nyaunglebin and Thayawady districts.

Authorities seized illegal intermediate goods, foodstuffs, personal goods and timbers approximately K335.161 million from 2 to 4 January and action was taken against offenders under the law. — MNA/TTA



Confiscated illegal timbers in Bago Region.

Confiscated illegal construction materials at Thilawa Port.



Bombay duck are pictured at the Kyimyindine Sanpya Fish Market in Yangon. PHOTO: ZWE MARN

Yangon’s marine exports flourish with over 80 products shipped to international markets

APPROXIMATELY 80 types of marine products regularly enter the Kyimyindine Sanpya Fish Market in Yangon for domestic consumption and export. According to sources at the market, these products are exported via cold storage facilities to countries such as Saudi Arabia, Bangladesh, China, and Thailand using maritime routes.

“Fish and prawns brought in from the sea are delivered to cold storage facilities from jetties at the Yangon ports.

From there, they are exported in containers via maritime routes. In some cases, foreign buyers come in person to place orders, while in others, agents handle the export process. Alongside marine fish, freshwater fishery products are also being exported. Marine fish are exported all year round,” explained Daw Tin Nwe, a businesswoman in the fishery industry.

Yangon has more than ten jetties where marine fishing vessels dock. In recent days, marine products such as Bombay ducks, croakers, ribbonfish, and prawns destined for export have been consistently arriving from Myanmar’s seas. As a result, sales of marine products are thriving during the New Year period. Additionally, fishery business owners predict that high-demand products such as hilsa and cuttlefish will enter the Yangon market in large quantities this month due to strong international demand. — Thitsa (MNA)/KZL

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# NATIONAL

## Registration for 10<sup>th</sup> round of Sitagu eyesight donation accepts this month



REGISTRATION will be accepted in January for 10<sup>th</sup> round of Sitagu eyesight donation, Sitagu Cakku Dana Hospital (Yangon) announced.

As of 1 January, registration can be made at the library of the Sitagu International Buddhist Academy (Yangon) by patients in person or someone else representing the patient, from 7:00 am to 11:00 am and from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm every day. Registering through phone or Viber won't be accepted, it warned. Date for commencing eye examination will be announced later and patients will be contacted back by phone, it said.

In the 10<sup>th</sup> round of Sitagu eyesight donation, eye patients across the country will be provided free medical examination and surgery.

These are the hospital's numbers – 09 420062227, 09 457771313 and 09 25914744. — MT/ZS

Sitagu Cakku Dana Hospital (Yangon).

## Actress donates K5M for new year charity to Myanmar film community

FILM actress Ei Chaw Po donated K5 million on 3 January to support the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization's programme of providing rice, cooking oil, and other food supplies to its members during the New Year period, according to the organization.

The organization announced that it would distribute these supplies to its members for the 15<sup>th</sup> time in the third week of January. Donations from film industry members and well-wishers, including cash and food items, are contributing to this initiative.

"The Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization will distribute rice and food supplies to film industry members as part of the 15<sup>th</sup> time of the New Year charity programme. On 3 January, actress Ei Chaw Po also contributed K5 million as part of her birthday donation," said U Aye Kyu Lay, Vice Chairman of the organization.

Previously, the organization provided similar support for the 14<sup>th</sup> time from 3 to 6 April 2024. During that period, members from various sectors of the organization — management and



Actress Ei Chaw Po and her husband Moe Sett Mone donating K5 million.

distribution, scriptwriting and production, technical, and acting — accepted the donated rice, cooking oil, and food supplies based on their respective categories. — ASH/KZL

## Students on excursion tour of observing pottery industry, laterite culture in Twantay Township

FACULTY members and students from National University of Arts and Culture (Yangon) made an excursion to observe pottery industries and laterite cultural works in Twantay Township of Yangon Region on 4 January.

A 69-member team comprising 25 teachers, administrative and research officials and 44 students from the Painting and Cultural Heritage

ease the process of putting the pottery industry of Myanmar on the cultural heritage list.

Those teachers and students also observed and conducted research on laterite cultural works at Maungtee Pagoda built of laterite which is an ancient pagoda decorated with the Mon architectural works in Twantay Township of Yangon Region.

The trip is intended to pre-



Female workers are seen in production process of pottery industry in Twantay Township.

Management departments, led by Rector Dr Kathy Htwe observed production process of pottery industry in Twantay Township.

Students asked about production process of pots and recorded the practical works whereas officials explained procedures of making pots.

Their observation aims to

serve the traditional craftsmanship of the Myanmar people, to practically teach production process of pottery industry and ancient laterite works to students and younger generations about tangible and intangible cultural heritage as a listed heritage item, and to enable youths to adore cultural heritage. — ASH/TTA

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NATIONAL

Notification 1/2025

Continued from yesterday

Aggamaha Pandita title

Title recipient Sayadaw abroad

20. Venerable Dr Akuretiye Nanda Nayaka Thero, Vidyodaya Pirivena, Maligakanda, Colombo 10, Sri Lanka

Aggamaha Ganthavacaka Pandita title

1. Bhaddanta Pannatikkha, Maha Jotikarama Monastery, Phonesoe Ward, Monywa, Sagaing Region
2. Bhaddanta Sujanindalankara Bhivamsa, Maha Thubawdayon Monastery, Htonbo Ward, Sagaing Sagaing Region
3. Bhaddanta Candavamsa, Kawleik Kokko Buddhism Learning Centre, Tatpyin Ward, Myeik, Taninthayi Region
4. Bhaddanta Candimadhaja, Gainghtauk Buddhism Learning Centre, Bayintnaung Ward, Tatkon Township, Nay Pyi Taw
5. Bhaddanta Tejobhasa, Yazadani Thamanaykyaw Buddhism Learning Centre, Zalaung Village, Ottarathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw
6. Bhaddanta Sitalacara, Withokdayon Varanasi Buddhism Learning Centre, Nawin Ward, Pyay, Bago Region
7. Bhaddanta Janita, Sasana Zawtika Buddhism Learning Centre, Myodwingyi Ward, Bago, Bago Region
8. Dr Bhaddanta Vinaya, Aungwaiyan Buddhism Learning Centre, Ward 1, Pyaloh, Aunglan Township, Magway Region
9. Bhaddanta Vasavasiri, Sasana Jawtikayon Brick Monastery, Dekkhinarama Phayagyi Monastery, Kyunlon Okshaung Ward, Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay Region
10. Bhaddanta Kosiyavudha, State Pariyatti Sasana University, Dawnabwa Ward, Aungmyaythazan Township, Mandalay Region
11. Bhaddanta Meghiya, Lawkananda Buddhism Learning Centre, Thiri Pyissaya Ward, NyaungU, Mandalay Region
12. Bhaddanta Uttara, Thatipahtan Buddhism Learning Centre, Ywaluk Village, Chaungzon Township, Mon State
13. Bhaddanta Nandavamsa, Sasana Manaung Webyan Buddhism Learning Centre, Shansu Ward, Mawlamyine, Mon State
14. Bhaddanta Visuddha, Sasanapala Monkyaung Buddhism Learning Centre, Aungzeya Ward, Thanbyuzayat, Mon State
15. Bhaddanta Candasiri, Sasana Wunhsaung Monastery, Yaypya Village, Hmawby Township, Yangon Region
16. Bhaddanta Sajjana, Jotanarama Buddhism Learning Centre, South Saw Yan Paing Ward, Ahlon Township, Yangon Region
17. Bhaddanta Candasiri, Aungpinlal Buddhism Learning Centre, Ward, 5, South Okkalapa Township, Yangon Region
18. Bhaddanta Cintavara, State Pariyatti Sasana University, Ward 7, Mayangon Township, Yangon Region
19. Bhaddanta Asabha, Pali Tekkatho Nyaungton Monastery, Kyatawya Ward, Bahan Township, Yangon Region
20. Bhaddanta Naninda, Zalun Buddhism Learning Centre, Ward 2, North Okkalapa Township, Yangon Region
21. Bhaddanta Sobhana, Aungmawsan Buddhism Learning Centre, Shukhintha Ward, Thakayta Township, Yangon Region
22. Bhaddanta Suddhamma, Naga Hnakaung Monastery, Samseng A Ward, Tachilek, Shan State
23. Bhaddanta Vijayananda, Yadanasi TatU Buddhism Learning Centre, Ward 4, Loilem, Shan State
24. Bhaddanta Nandiya, Kwinchaung Buddhism Learning Centre, Einmegyi Ward, Einme, Ayeyawady Region
25. Bhaddanta Aggavamsa, Monyo Buddhism Learning Centre, Myoma Ward 12, Mawlamyinegyun, Ayeyawady Region

Nuns

26. Daw Visingi, Zeyatheingi Corner Nunnery, Thawtapan Ward, Sagaing, Sagaing Region
27. Dr Daw Candasingi, Thameikdawdaya Pyapon, Bo Cho Ward 1, Bahan Township, Yangon Region

Mahaganthavacaka Pandita title

1. Bhaddanta Gunalankara, Thabyaybin Tawya Buddhism Learning Centre, Yadanabon Ward, Monywa, Sagaing Region
2. Bhaddanta Ujjota, Maha Ledi Monastery, Ledi Ward, Monywa, Sagaing Region
3. Dr Bhaddanta Kusala, Sitagu International Vipassana Academy, Thawtapan Ward, Sagaing, Sagaing Region
4. Bhaddanta Aloka, Gawthitarama Pali Tekkatho Monastery, Kanyoin Ward, Dawei, Taninthayi Region
5. Bhaddanta Arindama, Pali Tekkatho Mingalazeyon Monastery, Ywagauk Ward, Pyinmana Township, Nay Pyi Taw
6. Bhaddanta Indaka, WasoU Monastery, Ywama Ward, Okpo, Bago Region
7. Bhaddanta Janinda, Maha Thudatthanarama Buddhism Learning Centre, Hsandaw Ward, Pyay, Bago Region

8. Bhaddanta Ukkamsalankara, Chanmyay Zeya Thamanaykyaw Tekkatho, South Zaingganaing Ward, Bago, Bago Region
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10. Bhaddanta Sutananda, Win Neinmitayon Buddhism Learning Centre, Kalyani Ward, Bago, Bago Region
11. Bhaddanta Aggadhamma, Hsugyipan Monastery, Ward 15, Pakokku, Magway Region
12. Bhaddanta Medhiya, Shwedaung Pali Tekkatho Monastery, Obo Ward, Yenangyoung, Magway Region
13. Bhaddanta Sumana, Maha Thutathawma Shwebontha Ward, West Pyigy Pyawbwe Ward, Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay Region
14. Bhaddanta Yanika, Maha Wizitayon Buddhism Learning Centre, Pakkon Pyawbwe Ward, Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay Region
15. Bhaddanta Khemasiri, Koenawin Buddhism Learning Centre, Aungzeya Ward, Meiktila, Mandalay Region
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17. Bhaddanta Nanadhaja, Nyana Wepunla Monastery, Maniyadanayama Myataung Monastery, West Yadanabumi Ward, Mahaaungmyay Township, Mandalay Region
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19. Bhaddanta Dhammananda, KanU Buddhism Learning Centre, GaungUba Kwethhit Ward, Mogok, Mandalay Region
20. Bhaddanta Vimala, Sein Hinthata Buddhism Learning Centre, Shwetaung Ward, Mawlamyin, Mon State
21. Bhaddanta Jotika, Nandawun Buddhism Learning Centre, Aungthaya Ward, Thanbyuzayat, Mon State
22. Bhaddanta Candasiri, Sandayama Buddhism Learning Centre, West Ward, Pauktaw, Rakhine State
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25. Bhaddanta Jotika, KanU Zaytawun Buddhism Learning Centre, Ward 5, Mayangon Township, Yangon Region
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27. Bhaddanta Nandavamsa, Mogaung Buddhism Learning Centre, Hnawgon Village, Hmawby Township, Yangon Region
28. Dr Bhaddanta Acinna, International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University, Ward 5, Mayangon Township, Yangon Region
29. Bhaddanta Candima, State Pariyatti Sasana University, Ward 7, Mayangon Township, Yangon Region
30. Dr Bhaddanta Ariyavamsa, State Pariyatti Sasana University, Ward 7, Mayangon Township, Yangon Region
31. Dr Bhaddanta Indavudha, Myitzima Gonyi Mahasi Tawya Yeiktha, Yemon Cantonment, Hlegu Township, Yangon Region
32. Bhaddanta Sasana, Sein Yadana Buddhism Learning Centre, Ward 5, South Okkalapa Township, Yangon Region
33. Dr Bhaddanta Narada, MyoU Buddhism Learning Centre, Myittanyunt Ward, Tamway Township, Yangon Region
34. Dr Bhaddanta Candamukha, International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University, Ward 5, Mayangon Township, Yangon Region
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37. Bhaddanta Pannacakkinda, Sasana Wiponlla Mingala Yanaung Buddhism Learning Centre, Zaytan Ward, Yaksawk, Shan State
38. Bhaddanta Kelasa, Atwin Padamya Buddhism Learning Centre, Letthama Ward, Hinthada, Ayeyawady Region

Nuns

39. Daw Vijjanandi, Sasanapala Nunnery, Thawtapan Ward, Sagaing, Sagaing Region
40. Daw Khemasingi, Yadanamanaung Nunnery, Kayatpyin Ward, Dawei, Taninthayi Region
41. Daw Candari, Rusira Pabawady Nunnery, Sanpya Nyaungbintha Ward, Tatkon Township, Nay Pyi Taw
42. Daw Kundalacari, Bawdi Yeiktha Nunnery, North Ywama Ward, Gyobingauk, Bago Region
43. Daw Therasi, Khemathiri Nunnery, Myathalun Hill, Magway, Magway Region
44. Daw Pantavi, Sasana Yaungchi Nunnery, Phyauxeikpin Village, NyaungU Township, Mandalay Region
45. Daw Singi, Wunthayama Nunnery, Ward 5, South Okkalapa Township, Yangon Region

To be continued

# NATIONAL

Notification 2/2025			26. U Thant Swe	Chairman Maravijaya Buddha Image Board of Trustees	Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture
Continued from yesterday			Excellent Performance Award in Administrative Field (Second Class)		
Honorary gallantry medal of Tatmadaw Gallantry medal			1. U Hlaing Oo	Permanent Secretary	Ministry of Hotels and Tourism
1. Maj-Gen Aung Nay Myo		Ministry of Defence	2. U Han Min Aung	Director-General	SAC Office
2. Brig-Gen Tun Tun Win		Ministry of Defence	3. U Win Hlaing	Director-General	Ministry of Transport and Communications
3. Colonel Kyaw San Oo		Ministry of Defence	4. U Khuk Khant Mong	Chief Executive Officer	Ministry of Transport and Communications
4. Colonel Phyu Win		Ministry of Defence	5. U Kyaw Naing Aye	Managing Director	Ministry of Transport and Communications
5. Colonel Naing Win		Myanmar Police Force	6. U Zaw Win Tun	Principal	Ministry of Transport and Communications
6. Police Brig-Gen Myo Thura Naung		Ministry of Defence	7. U Zaw Naing Win	Director-General	Ministry of Defence
7. Lt-Col Ye Win Tun		Ministry of Defence	8. U Myo Zaw Zaw	Dicector-General	Ministry of Defence
8. Lt-Col Kaung Myat Thu		Ministry of Defence	9. Daw Marlar Than Htaik	Ambassador	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
9. Captain Kyaw Kyaw Khant		Ministry of Defence	10. U Wunna Han	Ambassador	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Honorary gallantry medal of MPF Ye Bala medal			11. U Kyaw Tin Shein	Ambassador	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
1. U Naing Win	worker	Ministry of Transport and Communications	12. U Aung Thaik Tun	Rector	Ministry of Border Affairs
Honorary gallantry medal of MPF Ye Thurein medal			13. Dr Thida Kyu	Director-General	Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations
1. Police Captain Zaw Win		Myanmar Police Force	14. Dr Marlar Myo Nyunt	Director-General	Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations
2. Police Captain Aung Ko Min		Myanmar Police Force	15. U Kyaw Kyaw Naing	Director-General	Ministry of Legal Affairs
3. Police Inspector Kyaw Kyaw		Myanmar Police Force	16. U Aye Kywe	Director-General	Ministry of Information
4. Police Inspector Ko Ko Lin		Myanmar Police Force	17. U Soe Min Tun	Director-General	Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture
5. Police Inspector Min Yar		Myanmar Police Force	18. U Nyunt Win	Director-General	Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture
6. Police Inspector Win Kyaw Thu		Myanmar Police Force	19. U Aung San Oo	Rector	Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture
7. Police Inspector Lwin Oo		Myanmar Police Force	20. U Kyaw Tun Aye	Director-General	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation
8. Sub-Police Inspector Kyaw Naing Lin		Myanmar Police Force	21. U Thein Lwin	Director-General	Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development
9. Sub-Police Inspector Aung Ko Win		Myanmar Police Force	22. U Thura Aung Bo	Director-General	Ministry of Electric Power
10. La 193273 Police Warrant Officer Myo Min Aung		Myanmar Police Force	23. U Shwe Maw	Director-General	Ministry of Energy
International military cooperation medal Thiri Thihakyaw medal			24. U Aung Min	Managing Director	Ministry of Energy
1. U Aung Thaw	Chairman	Union Civil Service Board	25. U Thein Swe	Director-General	Ministry of Industry
Honorary medals for performances			26. U Htein Win	Director-General	Ministry of Immigration and Population
Excellent Performance Award in Administrative Field (First Class)			27. U Maung Maung Than	Director-General	Ministry of Labour
1. Daw Tin Nwe Soe	Director-General	Union Supreme Court	28. U Aung Htay Win	Director-General	Ministry of Labour
2. U Myo Swe	Director-General	Ministry of Transport and Communications	29. U Myint Thura	Director-General	Ministry of Commerce
3. U Myint Than	Director-General	Ministry of Home Affairs	30. Dr Moe Moe Thwe	Director-General	Ministry of Commerce
4. U Aung Khaing Tun	Director-General	Ministry of Planning and Finance	31. Dr Than Than Myint	Director-General	Ministry of Education
5. Daw Thida Tun	Director-General	Ministry of Planning and Finance	32. U Kyaw Swa Thwin	Director-General	Ministry of Education
6. U Aung Ko	Ambassador	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	33. U Kyaw Win	Director-General	Ministry of Education
7. U Thant Zaw	Director-General	Ministry 3 of the SAC Chairman Office	34. Dr Myat Nyunt	Rector	Ministry of Education
8. U Thant Sin Lwin	Director-General	Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations	35. Dr Myo Myo	Rector	Ministry of Education
9. Dr Swe Swe Aung	Director-General	Ministry of Legal Affairs	36. Dr Soe Soe Aye	Rector	Ministry of Education
10. U Myo Nyunt Aung	Director-General	Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture	37. Dr Kay Thi Thin	Rector	Ministry of Education
11. U Kyaw Swe Lin	Director-General	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation	38. Dr Phyu Phyu Win	Director-General	Ministry of Science and Technology
12. Dr Aung Win	Rector	Ministry of Education	39. Professor Dr Tin Tin Kyaw	Rector	Ministry of Health
13. Dr Kyawt Khin	Rector	Ministry of Science and Technology	40. Professor Dr Khin Win Sein	Rector	Ministry of Health
14. Dr Mie Mie Khin	Rector	Ministry of Science and Technology	41. Professor Dr Thein Zaw Lin	Rector	Ministry of Health
15. U Sein Win	Director-General	Ministry of Health	42. U Tun Myint Oo	Director-General	Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs
16. Dr Myint Myint Than	Director-General	Ministry of Health	43. Daw Lei Lei Aye	Director-General	Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement
17. Professor Dr Zaw Than Tun	Director-General	Ministry of Health	44. U Zaw Moe Win	Director-General	Union Civil Service Board
18. Dr Su Su Dwe	Director-General	Ministry of Health	45. U Myo Min	Director-General	Central Bank of Myanmar
19. Professor Dr Thein May Saw	Rector	Ministry of Health	46. Professor Dr Ye Myint	Medical Superintendent	Ministry of Health
20. U Win Naing	Director-General	Ministry of Ethnic Affairs	47. U Naing Myint Oo	Staff Officer (Mechanical/Electrical)	Ministry of Electric Power
21. U Min Aye Ko	Director-General	Ministry of Ethnic Affairs			
22. U Phone Kywe	Director-General	MyanmarNationalHuman Rights Commission Office			
23. U Yi Mon	Permanent Secretary (Retd)	Ministry of Hotels and Tourism			
24. U Tint Thwin	Director-General (Retd)	Ministry of Hotels and Tourism			
25. Daw Khin Hla Htay	Pro-Rector (Academic) (Retd)	Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture			

To be continued



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Continued from yesterday			115. U Myint Swe	Assistant Director (Rtd)	Agricultural Planning Department of Cooperative Domestic Vocational Training Centre Commercial School (Mandalay) Ministry of Defence Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization Myanmar Academy of Agriculture, Forestry, Livestock and Fishery Sciences
74. Lt-Col Soe Thein (Rtd)		Ministry of Defence	116. Daw San Lay	Principal (Rtd)	Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association (Central)
75. Lt-Col Myint Thein (Rtd)		Ministry of Defence	117. U Chit Hlaing	Principal (Rtd)	Myanmar Language Commission
76. U Ko Ko Gyi	Director (Rtd)/Advisor	Office of the President	118. U Saw Tun Sein		Kachin State
77. Daw Saw Kyi Kyi	Director (Rtd)	Union Government Office	119. U Myint Thein Pe	Chairman (Rtd)	Kachin State
78. U Ba Han	Director (Rtd)	High Court			Kachin State
79. U Maung Maung	Director (Rtd)	High Court			Kachin State
80. U Khin Maung Myint	Deputy General Manager (Rtd)	Myanma Posts and Telecommunications	120. Dr Myint Thein	President	Kachin State
81. U Aung San Win	Chief Pilot (Rtd)	Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems	121. Dr Tin Tin Hmun	Chairperson (Rtd)	Kachin State
		Myanma Port Authority			Kachin State
82. U Myint Aung	Chief Pilot (Rtd)	Ministry of Transport	122. Daw Myint Than	Member (Rtd)	Kachin State
83. U Myint Thaung	Advisor (Rtd)	Department of Planning			Kachin State
84. Daw Than Myaing	Director (Rtd)	Myanma Economic Bank	123. U Kuan Kyal Taung		Kachin State
85. U Aung Kyaw Soe	Deputy General Manager (Rtd)		124 U Mangu Tha Tang		Kachin State
86. Police Colonel Win Kyi	Deputy Commander	Police Battalion Command Commander Office	125. U Seng Naw		Kachin State
87. U Wam Tin	Regional Commissioner (Rtd)	Ministry of Home Affairs	126. U Nyunt Win		Kachin State
			127. U Haung Jones		Kachin State
88. U Kyaw Hlaing	Director (Rtd)	Development Department	128. U Swam Luk Naw		Kachin State
89. U Ba Hein	Director (Rtd)	Department for the Promotion and Propagation of Sasana	129. U Wawlaw Hawng Khaung		Kachin State
		Department of Irrigation	130. U Manxi Zaung Khaung		Kachin State
90. U Maung Maung Thwin	Director (Rtd)		131. U Haw Law Gyi		Kachin State
91. U Tin Win	Director (Rtd)	Department of Fisheries	132. U Malan Tu		Kachin State
92. U Myint Thein	Department Head (admin) (Rtd)	University of Cooperative and Management (Thanlyin)	133. U Likya Tar		Kachin State
		Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise	134. U Byar Wul		Kachin State
93. U Aung Kyi	Director (Rtd)	Industrial Services Enterprise	135. U Oo Rel	MRTV Technician 3 (Rtd)	Kayah State
94. U Soe Hlaing	Director (Rtd)	Myanmar Fritz Werner Industries Co Ltd	136. U Kyaw Nyunt (aka) U Nyunt Lwin		Kayah State
95. U Mya Thaung	Director (Rtd)	Myanmar Heavy Industries Enterprise	137. U Gabriel Byan		Kayah State
96. U Than Tun	Director (Rtd)	Psychology Department	138. U Paw Lu		Kayah State
97. Daw Aye Than	Professor (Rtd)	Ministry of Education	139. U Htoo Kaw		Kayah State
98. U Khun Ba Yin	Education Officer (Rtd) (Shan State)		140. U Rel Moe Nyein		Kayin State
99. Prof Dr Maung Maung Sein	Advisor (Rtd)	Ministry of Education	141. U Saw Thein Zin		Kayin State
100. Dr Khin Maung Htoo	Prof, Orthopaedic Specialist (Rtd)	University of Medicine (1) Yangon	142. U Saw Eddy Htwe		Kayin State
101. Dr Han Saw	Prof, Department Head (Rtd)	Surgery Department	143. U Aung Ngwe		Chin State
102. U Tin Nyo	Deputy General Manager (Rtd)	Myanmar Hotels and Tourism Services	144. U Gae Khwi Shein		Chin State
103. U Thein Lwin	Deputy General Manager (Rtd)	Myanmar Hotels and Tourism Services	145. U Htet Line		Sagaing Region
104. U Aung Min	Department Head (Rtd)	YCDC	146. U Win Tint		Taninthayi Region
105. Daw San Myint	Deputy Director (Rtd)	State Peace and Development Council Office	147. U Than Kywe		Taninthayi Region
		Telecoms and Postal Training Centre	148. Dr Aung Tha		Taninthayi Region
106. U Kyaw Soe	Vice-Principal (Rtd)	Department for the Promotion and Propagation of Sasana	149. U En Shein		Bago Region
107. U Kyi Lwin	Deputy Director (Rtd)	Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department	150. U Than Oo		Bago Region
108. U Maung Ko	Deputy Director (Rtd)	Myanma General and Maintenance Industrial Enterprise	151. U Kyaw Soe		Bago Region
109. U Tin Tun	Deputy General Manager (Rtd)	Shwetaung Advanced Textile Factory	152. U Htin Kyaw		Bago Region
		Immigration and National Registration Department	153. U Yin Maung		Magway Region
110. U Myint Thein	Assistant Factory Manager (Rtd)	No 1 Basic Education Department (Yangon)	154. U Kyaw Myint		Magway Region
111. U Kyi Win	Deputy Director (Rtd)	Office of the President	155. U Aung Htoo		Magway Region
112. U Thein Aung	Deputy Director (Inspection) (Rtd)	Department of	156. U Nyan Lin		Magway Region
113. U Thein Zan	Assistant Director (Rtd)		157. U Pyay Kyaw		Magway Region
114. Captain Kyaw Lwin	Assistant Director (Rtd)		158. U Thaung Han		Magway Region
			159. U Sein Han		Magway Region
			160. U Soe Maung		Magway Region
			161. U Aung Nay Than		Magway Region
			162. U Soe Myint		Mandalay Region
			163. Major Mya Thein (Rtd)		Mandalay Region
			164. U Hla Tun		Mandalay Region
			165. U Soe Win		Mandalay Region
			166. Dr Aung Wai		Mandalay Region
			167. U Aung Kyaw Oo		Mandalay Region
			168. U Saw Shwe		Mandalay Region
			169. U Khin Maung Nyo		Mandalay Region
			170. U Pe Tin		Mandalay Region
			171. U Ko Ko Lay		Mandalay Region
			172. U Aung Mon		Mandalay Region
			173. U Aye Shein		Mon State
			174. U Khun Pe Mya		Mon State
			175. Daw Phyu Phyu Win		Mon State
			176. Daw Yi Yi Myint		Mon State
			177. U Shwe Myint Oo		Mon State
			178. U Myint Lwin		Mon State
			179. U Aung Than		Mon State
			180. U Myint Oo		Mon State

To be continued



## Strict control of TB virus infection essential for public health

MYANMAR is one of the 30 countries with the highest rates of tuberculosis (TB), TB/HIV co-infection, and drug-resistant TB globally. According to the World Health Organization's 2023 report on global TB trends, there are 475 TB cases per 100,000 people in Myanmar, with 80 per cent of those affected potentially losing their lives.

As such, the National TB Control Project, part of the Public Health Department under the Ministry of Health, collaborates with both internal and external partner organizations to implement

Everyone should prioritize their health. Tuberculosis (TB) can be fatal if neglected. Therefore, it is crucial for people in Myanmar to follow the health guidelines provided by the Ministry of Health to protect themselves from TB. Furthermore, they should cooperate with government health organizations in implementing the TB control project.

Moreover, individuals with nutritional deficiencies, weakened immune systems, those who smoke excessively or drink heavily, older adults, children under five, patients with a history of diabetes, kidney disease, or cancer, as well as people working in poorly lit or ventilated environments, and those living in poverty, are at a higher risk of contracting TB.

Hence, individuals who are experiencing symptoms of suspected TB should seek medical checkups. Government health units, along with private hospitals and clinics participating in the National TB Control Project, provide medical treatment to people with TB until they are free from the disease. Without proper medical treatment, TB can worsen, spreading from the lungs to other organs, leading to serious and unacceptable consequences.

In 2023, approximately 10.8 million people worldwide were infected with tuberculosis (TB), and 1.25 million patients lost their lives. According to the World Health Organization's TB-Free Strategy, efforts are underway to reduce the TB incidence rate by 50 per cent by 2025, compared to the number of cases in 2015. Moreover, the goal is to reduce the TB-related fatality rate by 75 per cent.

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the project in line with the National Strategic Plan 2021-2025. Thanks to the efforts of health workers, over 120,000 TB patients received treatment in 2023, achieving an 88 per cent success rate in medical treatment.

Patients with TB disease need to begin medical treatment as soon as possible for effective recovery. TB is transmitted through the air when infected individuals cough, sneeze, or speak loudly. As a result, the disease can spread to family members, as well as in public places such as offices, schools, factories, and other shared spaces.

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## Global Trends: The Emergence of Smaller Regional Alliances in a Multipolar World

By Hla Myet Chell (International Law)

AS the global geopolitical order evolves towards a more multipolar framework, one of the most significant developments is the proliferation of smaller regional coalitions. These alliances, characterized by their focused and often localized nature, are increasingly regarded as essential mechanisms for countries to protect their sovereignty, pursue shared economic and security objectives, and navigate the complexities of a rapidly transforming global power structure. While traditional global institutions such as the United Nations (UN) and the European Union (EU) continue to play important roles, the formation of these smaller, region-specific groupings is becoming a defining feature of modern international relations.

### Transition to Multipolarity and the Rise of Focused Alliances

The world is gradually shifting away from a unipolar global system dominated by a singular superpower towards a more multipolar order, where several regional powers exert significant influence. The theoretical framework of structural realism, particularly as articulated by Kenneth Waltz, posits that in a multipolar environment, states are more inclined to form alliances based on shared security concerns and economic interests. Smaller, more targeted coalitions allow states to focus on pressing regional challenges – such as trade, security, climate change, and infrastructure – without being overshadowed by the rivalries between global superpowers. These compact alliances offer enhanced flexibility, allowing states to respond rapidly and effectively to immediate concerns.

### Southeast Asia: A Paradigm of Regional Cooperation

Southeast Asia offers a compelling illustration of the rise of focused regional alliances. Strategically situated between the Indian and Pacific Oceans, the region has historically been a theater of geopolitical competition, particularly between the United States and China. Countries such as Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, and Thailand are

compelled to balance economic partnerships with China while maintaining security ties with the United States, leading to a delicate diplomatic balancing act.

China's rapid economic ascendancy has led many Southeast Asian nations to strengthen their engagement with Beijing, particularly through initiatives like the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which facilitates trade, infrastructure development, and investment. Nevertheless, these countries, despite their economic dependence on China, also maintain substantial security relationships with the US, as evidenced by longstanding agreements like the US-Philippines Mutual Defence Treaty and the US-Thailand Security Cooperation Agreement. These arrangements ensure a US military presence in the region, which serves as a counterweight to China's expanding influence.

To navigate this complex geopolitical terrain, many Southeast Asian countries have increasingly turned to compact, issue-specific groupings like the Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS) and the Cambodia-Laos-Vietnam Development Triangle Area (CLV-DTA). These alliances address specific regional issues, including infrastructure, trade, and security, allowing countries to collaborate on critical matters without becoming embroiled in the broader geopolitical rivalry between the US and China. The rise of such smaller associations underscores the region's preference for pragmatic, issue-based cooperation, rather than broad geopolitical alignment.

### The Global Phenomenon of Regional Alliances

The trend towards the formation of smaller regional groups is not confined to Southeast Asia; it is a global phenomenon. Around the world, countries are increasingly opting for these coalitions to address regional challenges without being drawn into the larger, often destabilizing, power struggles between global superpowers.

### Europe: The Rise of Regional Groupings in Response to EU



Southeast Asian countries have increasingly turned to compact, issue-specific groupings like the Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS) and the Cambodia-Laos-Vietnam Development Triangle Area (CLV-DTA). The Mekong River is the longest river in Southeast Asia. PHOTO: VCG/GLOBAL TIMES

### Challenges

In Europe, smaller alliances have gained prominence as countries seek to assert their national interests, particularly in areas where broader EU policies may not align with their priorities. Notable examples include the Visegrád Group – comprising the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia – which has taken a more assertive stance on issues such as immigration and economic integration, challenging EU consensus. Likewise, the Nordic-Baltic Alliance, which includes Sweden, Finland, Denmark, and the Baltic states, focuses on security cooperation and regional stability in response to perceived threats, particularly from Russia.

These smaller groupings enable countries to address specific challenges in a more flexible and responsive manner, which is often not feasible within the larger, more bureaucratic EU framework. The emergence of such alliances reflects the growing desire for greater autonomy and adaptability

in a rapidly changing geopolitical environment.

### The Middle East: Fragmentation and Regional Realignment

In the Middle East, smaller alliances have emerged in response to longstanding regional power struggles, particularly between Saudi Arabia and Iran. The Abraham Accords, which saw Israel normalize diplomatic relations with the UAE, Bahrain, Sudan, and Morocco, represent a significant shift in the region's geopolitical landscape, fostering cooperation in areas such as security, trade, and political alignment. Similarly, the Arab Quartet, consisting of Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain, and Egypt, was formed to counter Qatar's growing regional influence and present a unified stance against perceived destabilizing forces.

These smaller groupings provide a mechanism for countries in the region to pursue specific geopolitical and economic interests, while mitigating the influence

of external powers, such as Iran and Türkiye, which often play a disruptive role in regional affairs. **Africa: Regional Cooperation as a Solution to Local Challenges**

In Africa, smaller alliances such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the East African Community (EAC) have proven instrumental in addressing a range of local challenges, including conflict resolution, economic integration, and trade facilitation. These regional organizations allow member states to collaborate on security issues, promote economic growth, and manage natural resources effectively, offering solutions that are more tailored to local contexts than broader global organizations might provide.

Given the political instability, terrorism, and economic challenges facing many African states, these smaller alliances are increasingly viewed as essential for addressing the region's most pressing concerns.

### Latin America: Fragmented Alliances in a Politically Diverse Region

In Latin America, political fragmentation has led to the formation of smaller alliances that reflect the region's diverse political landscape. The Pacific Alliance, which includes Chile, Colombia, Mexico, and Peru, is primarily focused on economic integration and trade, while the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America (ALBA), which includes Venezuela and Bolivia, espouses anti-imperialist and socialist ideals. These groupings allow countries to pursue their respective political and economic goals, providing platforms for cooperation amid the region's political fragmentation.

### Asia-Pacific: Strategic Partnerships and Balancing Global Powers

In the Asia-Pacific, smaller alliances are increasingly common, as countries seek to balance relations with both regional powers and global superpowers. The Quad (United States, Japan, India, and

Australia), for example, is a strategic alignment designed to promote a free and open Indo-Pacific, particularly in response to China's growing influence. Additionally, regional organizations such as the South Pacific Islands Forum provide smaller Pacific island nations with a platform to collaborate on issues such as climate change, security, and sustainable development, while managing their relationships with global powers like the US, China, and Australia.

### The Promise and Perils of Smaller Alliances

The formation of smaller regional alliances offers significant advantages, as well as notable risks. From the perspectives of international political economy and realist theory, these alliances provide countries with the opportunity to assert their autonomy and pursue specific economic, political, or security goals without being constrained by larger, more bureaucratic organizations. They facilitate faster decision-making and more effective responses to regional challenges.

However, smaller pacts are not without their drawbacks. One of the primary concerns is the potential for regional instability. These groupings can become arenas for great power competition, particularly when external powers use them to counterbalance each other's influence. Furthermore, smaller alliances may struggle to maintain cohesion over time, especially when member states have divergent priorities. This lack of unity can limit the effectiveness of these groupings in addressing long-term regional issues. Moreover, such alliances may marginalize countries that are excluded, leading to feelings of exclusion and inequality.

### Conclusion: Smaller Regional Alliances as Catalysts in a Multipolar Global Order

The rise of smaller regional alliances is a defining feature of the emerging multipolar world order. Countries are increasingly turning to focused coalitions to address regional issues and safeguard their national interests. While these alliances present valuable opportunities for cooperation, they also carry risks of fragmentation, instability, and external interference. As the global geopolitical environment continues to evolve, smaller regional groups will play a critical role in shaping future international relations. Nations

will need to navigate the delicate balance between cooperation and competition within these groupings to effectively manage the complexities of the modern world.

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# NATIONAL

## Over 7,000 visitors enter Inlay area during October and December 2024



This photo showcases some sceneries and visitors in the Inlay region.

ACCORDING to the Shan State Directorate of Hotels and Tourism, over 7,000 domestic and foreign travellers visited Inlay region in Nyaungshwe Township, Shan State (South), in October and December 2024.

Among the local and international travellers visiting Inlay region, the majority

comes from the Yangon and Mandalay regions, while foreign visitors primarily come from Russia. Public holidays saw the highest number of travellers.

Visitors come to Inlay region not only to pay homage to the PhaungdawOo Pagoda and other pagodas but also to

visit weaving sites.

As a major tourist attraction, the traditional boat races on Inlay Lake will be held twice in 2025 – once in January and another in February. The Inlay traditional boat race is a significant festival and a world-famous event that attracts many tourists. — ASH/MKKS

## FDA to regulate production, distribution of blended oil

THE Food and Drug Administration under the Ministry of Health will check blended oil to ensure food safety for the consumers.

The rules regarding production, storage, transport and distribution of the blended oil were announced on 29 March 2024. The blended vegetable oil must be a mixture of only two types of oil containing 40 per cent of vegetable oil. They are prohibited to add artificial flavour, animal oil and raw cotton seed oil.

Oil crops such as peanut,

sesame, sunflower, niger and oil palm are cultivated in the country. Some locally produced blended oil of inferior quality are found in the market. Thus, FDA will combat those low-quality cooking oil containing harmful substances to ensure food safety for the consumers.

Myanmar has a growing demand of 1.1 million tonnes of cooking oil per year. Beyond domestic production, about 900,000 tonnes of oil are yearly imported. — ASH/KK



This photo shows some types of cooking oil bottles being sold in the domestic market.

## Over 44,000 visitors throng to Ngwetaung Beach in Dec

NGWETAUNG Beach, located in Hainggyikyun, Ngaputaw Township, Ayeyawady Region, welcomed over 44,355 travellers in December 2024, as tourists have been visiting the beach year-round to relax and unwind, according to the Myanmar Tourism Entrepreneurs Association (Ngwetaung Beach).

The Ngwetaung Beach, situated near the prominent Mawtinsun Pagoda, is a popular destination for domestic tourists throughout the year. Most visitors come from Yangon Region and Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory.

Daw Ni Ni Mar, an execu-

tive of the Myanmar Tourism Entrepreneurs Association (Ngwetaung Beach), stated, “In 2024, Ngwetaung Beach saw 35,455 visitors in January, 36,555 in February, and 38,955 in March. The numbers peaked in April with 48,955 visitors, followed by 54,555 in May.

During the rainy season, there were 17,455 visitors in June, 15,455 in July, and 14,155 in August. In September, the figure rose to 17,566, followed by 21,155 in October, and 34,455 in November. The beach remains a year-round destination for domestic tourists seeking relaxation.”

To ensure visitors enjoy a



Visitors are enjoying their vacation on Ngwetaung Beach in December 2024.

safe and pleasant experience, the Ngwetaung Beach offers a range of services, including bi-

cycle rentals, motorboat trips, and horseback riding. Local markets provide regional del-

icacies, souvenirs, and handicrafts for visitors to purchase. — ASH/KZL



NATIONAL

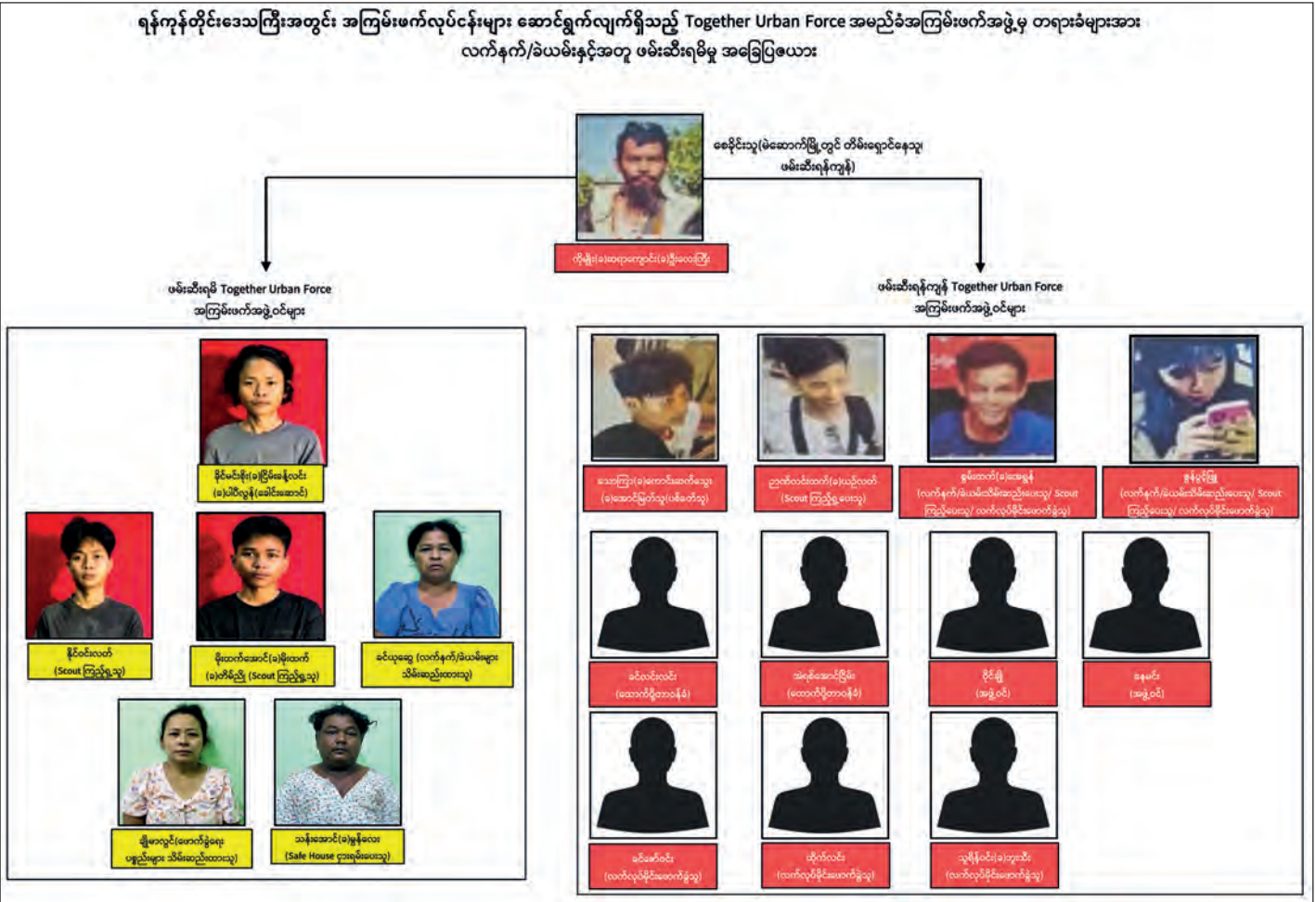
Authorities arrest Together Urban Force terrorist group along with weapons

The CRPH, NUG, and their affiliated PDF terrorist groups, which have been declared terrorist organizations by the State government, along with their associated organizations and individuals, are carrying out various acts of terrorism, including the assassination of innocent people, bombings and destruction of public places, and robbing public property. Their aim is to destabilize the state, instill fear in the public, and undermine government institutions.

On the afternoon of 22 December 2024, a Tatmadaw officer returning from PyinOoLwin on leave attended his younger brother's wedding at the Apollo Hotel on Upper Baho Road, Ward 2, Mayangon Township. While returning by car with his younger sister, two terrorists shot him three times with a pistol in front of the hotel and then fled. The officer sustained a puncture wound to his right forearm (not serious), and his younger sister sustained a wound to her left thigh (also not serious).

In connection with the above incident, efforts were made to identify and arrest the suspects. Based on information provided by the public, who did not want further violence, the security team arrested the following individuals on the morning of 29 December: Moe Htet Aung (aka Moe Htet, aka Tein Nyo), Naing Win Latt, Khine Min Soe (aka Nyein Khant Lin, aka Papilon), Than Aung, and Cho Mar Lwin (Moe Htet Aung's parents). They were arrested at the Super Power Ko Mon Lay car workshop, located in the precinct of the Yadana Theingkha Monastery on Insein Road, West Gyogon Ward, Insein Township. During the arrest, authorities seized 500 detonators, one roll of gunpowder (200 feet), 0.5 viss of nitro kalazine, one homemade bomb, three visses of mixed gunpowder, 50 visses of pearls, and 0.2 viss of black powder.

According to the statements of the arrestees, it was learned that weapons and ammunition were being stored inside the Yadana Theingkha Monastery. A search



The chart shows offenders from terrorist group Together Urban Force that commit terrorist activities in Yangon Region.

was conducted, and a 0.38 Special revolver, 25 rounds of ammunition, two TNT cartridges, 35 detonators, 0.5 viss of pink gunpowder, and other explosive materials were seized from a room on the second floor of the Ananta Gonyi Monastery.

Further investigation revealed that the weapons and ammunition used in the crime were found in the possession of suspects Swan Htet (aka Aaron) and Zun Pwint Phyu, who lived at No 528 (ground floor), U Kaung Street, Kayin Amyotha Ward, Kyimyindine Township. A search was conducted for them, but the suspects fled. Khin Yu Swe, the mother of Swan Htet (aka Aaron), was arrested in the kitchen of her home, where authorities seized two Sig Sauer pistols, three magazines, 15 rounds of 9mm Thai Arms ammunition, 9 rounds of 9mm Luger ammunition, and one homemade bomb. Following the testimony of Moe Htet Aung, Htet Aung Hlaing was arrested near the entrance to the railway diesel locomotive factory on Baho Street, Insein Township, on the afternoon of 2 January.

A total of seven individuals—five males and two females—who were involved in terrorist activities in Yangon Region, were arrested along with two Sig Sauer pistols, three magazines, 24 rounds of 9mm ammunition, one 0.38 Special revolver, 25 rounds of ammunition, two homemade bombs, two TNT cartridges, 535 detonators, 3.5 visses of gunpowder, 0.5 viss of nitrochlorine, 50 visses of pearls, 0.2

viss of black powder, one roll of gunpowder (200 feet), and explosive accessories.

The investigation revealed that the terrorist group called Together Urban Force was initially formed by Khine Min Soe and consisted of five members: Moe Htet Aung, Naing Win Latt, and the remaining suspects, Swan Htet (aka Aaron) and Zun Pwint Phyu in addition to other remaining suspects.

The terrorist group, Together Urban Force, under the command of Ko Myo (aka Sayar Kyaung, aka U Lay Gyi), carried out six bombings and two unprovoked assassinations in public places with the aim of undermining the State's governance and instilling fear among innocent people. — MNA



Photos show explosive materials and its related items and arms and ammunition seized in the precinct of the Yadana Theingkha Monastery on Insein Road, West Gyogon Ward, Insein Township.

Photo shows a restaurant where hundred-household head U Saw Win Lwin being shot in West Gyogon Ward, Insein Township on 30 May 2024.



# NATIONAL

## BUSINESS

### Myanmar imports 1.4M tonnes of fertilizers, over 26,000 tonnes of pesticides in Apr-Dec

MYANMAR brought in over 1.4 million tonnes of fertilizers in the past nine months of the current financial year 2024-2025 beginning 1 April, according to the Urea Fertilizer Purchasing and Distribution Steering Committee.

Union Minister for Cooperatives and Rural Development U Hla Moe who chaired the committee stated that the committee will continue evaluating and recommending import of the remaining fertilizers and pesticides.

Myanmar Fertilizer, Seed and Pesticide Entrepreneurs Association (MFSPEA) must monitor each company whether they can import as per the set import volume or not. The permit should be granted to only those companies that can actually and completely import them,

he added.

The steering committee is asked to govern shops in each region and state if they follow the set reference prices of fertilizers after adding transport cost and set profit margin, to report overcharging, to monitor market manipulation with stocks piled up and to cooperate with the officials concerned and the relevant departments. The Union minister also addressed the departments concerned to ensure no delay in import of agricultural inputs, quality assurance and price fairness.

At present, the Fertilizer Committee holds a quarterly meeting to ensure quality fertilizers for growers without facing shortages. Under the approval of Fertilizer Technology Group, 11,573 fertilizer registrations



Bags of imported fertilizers in the domestic market.

have been granted after the 41<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Fertilizer Committee. With individuals' consent, 1,957 registrations were voluntarily cancelled. The department revoked 2,793 registrations for expiration of validity and 6,823 registrations are still under processing for now. — NN/KK



The Central Bank of Myanmar.

### CBM sells over 510,000 yuan on 3 Jan

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) injected over 510,000 yuan on 3 January after sales of US\$25 million, over 670,000 yuan and 2.45 million baht on 2 January.

CBM pumped \$144 million, 321 million baht and over 12 million yuan in December 2024, 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

### YSX stock trading value exceeds K466M in Dec

THE grand trading value of the eight listed companies on the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) reached hit over K466 million with 132,866 shares in December 2024, according to the monthly report released by the exchange.

At present, shares of eight listed companies – First Myanmar Investment (FMI), Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH), Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB), First Private Bank (FPB), TMH Telecom Public Co Ltd (TMH), the Ever Flow River Group Public Co Ltd (EFR), Amata Holding Public Co Ltd. (AMATA) and Myanmar Agro Exchange Public Co Ltd (MAEX) are traded in the security market.

FMI topped the trading with 19,092 shares worth K157.7 million, followed by 33,007 shares of MTSH worth over K104.49 million, 19,982 shares of MAEX worth over K62.95 million, 30,692 shares of FPB worth over K59.71 million, 18,281 shares of EFR worth K30.87 million, 5,705 shares of AMATA worth over \$25.03 million, 4,778 shares of TMH worth over K14.48 million and 1,329 shares of MCB worth over K10.84 million respectively last month.

The trading value in November was over K933 million with 24,783 shares. Trading volume in December is down by 100,000 shares worth K466.979 million. — NN/KK

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# Russia’s Rosatom to sue Siemens for failure to deliver prepaid equipment

*Siemens’ refusal to deliver the manufactured equipment led to additional costs and delays for Rosatom.*

RUSSIAN state nuclear corporation Rosatom will file a lawsuit against German company Siemens over its failure to deliver the prepaid equipment for unit 1 of the Akkuyu nuclear power plant (NPP) Rosatom is building in Turkey, CEO Alexey Likhachev said on Saturday.

Siemens “demonstratively refused” to deliver the equipment that had already been manufactured and paid for, Likhachev

said in an interview with the Rossiya 24 broadcaster. “There will obviously be court proceedings. The prepaid equipment was not delivered. This resulted in additional costs for us as we had to purchase the equipment elsewhere and adjust the installation deadlines. These claims will be made,” he said.

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak announced in October that Germany’s Siemens Ener-

gy had violated its contractual obligations to supply switchgear equipment to the first unit of Akkuyu NPP. The replacement was promptly found and reordered from friendly countries. The Russian and Turkish sides jointly assess how the situation has affected the realization of the project, director of construction and production organization at Akkuyu Nuclear Denis Sezemin said. — SPUTNIK



People gather at the stand of Russian State Atomic Energy Corporation Rosatom during the 2023 Russian Energy Week international forum at the Manezh Central Exhibition Hall in Moscow, Russia. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

## S Korean carmakers’ sales of eco-friendly models hit fresh high in 2024



Sales of electric vehicles, on the other hand, dropped 21.2 per cent to 91,385 units in 2024, the data showed. **PHOTO: ANI**

SOUTH Korean carmakers’ domestic sales of eco-friendly cars hit a new record last year, driven by the popularity of hybrid

models, data showed Sunday, Yonhap News Agency reported.

The country’s five carmakers recorded

eco-friendly car sales of 450,194 units last year, up 11.3 per cent on-year, according to separate data from Hyundai Motor, Kia,

GM Korea, KG Mobility and Renault Korea Motors.

Of the total, hybrid models accounted for 356,058 units, up 25 per cent from a year earlier, taking up 88 per cent of total eco-friendly car sales.

Sales of electric vehicles, on the other hand, dropped 21.2 per cent to 91,385 units in 2024, the data showed.

Domestic sales of hydrogen fuel cell cars also plunged 36.4 per cent to just 2,751 units.

“Despite the sluggish sales of electric vehicles, demand for eco-friendly cars remained solid, fuelled by the soaring sales of hybrid models,” an official of the automotive industry said. — ANI

## Sri Lanka holds jewellery exhibition to promote exports

SRI Lankan President Anura Kumara Disanayake on Saturday inaugurated an international gem and jewellery exhibition.

The event aimed to create business opportunities for traders, exporters and industry professionals, with a goal of promoting

gem and jewellery exports, according to a statement from the President’s Media Division.

Official data showed

that Sri Lanka currently generates approximately 400 million dollars annually from its gem and jewellery sector. — Xinhua

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CAPE FELTON VOY.NO. (925N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CAPE FELTON VOY.NO. (925N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **6-1-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

**Shipping Agency Department**  
**Myanma Port Authority**

Agent For:

**(ONE) OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS LINE**

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V HONG JIA 21 VOY.NO. (2450)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V HONG JIA 21 VOY.NO. (2450)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **6-1-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

**Shipping Agency Department**  
**Myanma Port Authority**

Agent For:

**M/S OCEAN SALUTE SHIPPING PTE LTD**



ROLLING UPDATES  
WORLD

Nehammer says will resign as Austrian Chancellor after coalition talks collapse

*Despite efforts to form new coalitions, negotiations with the Freedom Party and others ended in failure.*

AUSTRIAN Chancellor Karl Nehammer said on Saturday he would resign from his positions as the country’s leader and the head of the Austrian People’s Party (OVP) after coalition talks collapsed.

Nehammer said that it was not possible to reach an agreement during coalition negotiations between his OVP party and the Social Democrats.

“I will resign as the federal chancellor and OVP chair in the coming days,” Nehammer said in a statement.

The Austrian leader added that it had been an honor for him to serve his country as chancellor and as interior minister before that.

Austria’s political future has been in limbo since September’s parliamentary elections, where the populist anti-mass immigration, anti-Brussels, pro-neutrality, anti-Ukraine conflict Freedom Party of Austria (FPO) nearly doubled its standing, garnering over 29 per cent of the vote and causing Nehammer’s ruling People’s Party/Green coalition to lose its parliamentary majority.

Nehammer refused to form a coalition with the Freedom Party, and has sought to cobble together a new government with the New Austria and Liberal Forum (NEOS) and the SPOe, respectively, with both attempts ending in failure. — SPUTNIK



Austrian Chancellor Karl Nehammer attended a news conference after the Informal Summit and Meeting within the European Political Community at Prague Castle, in Prague, Czech Republic. PHOTO: SPUTNIK

Tuna fetching \$1.3 mil in New Year auction fuels Japan economy hopes



Photo shows the bluefin tuna that fetched 207 million yen (\$1.3 million) during the year’s first auction at Tokyo’s popular Toyosu fish market on 5 January 2025. PHOTO: KYODO

A bluefin tuna fetched 207 million yen (\$1.3 million) during the year’s first auction at a popular fish market in Tokyo on Sunday, the second highest price on record and fueling hopes for a continued economic recovery in Japan.

With an array of tuna on

the block, the lively auction began at 5:10 am at the Toyosu market, which has become one of the capital’s major tourist spots in recent years.

The 276-kilogramme tuna, caught off the coast of Oma in the northeastern prefecture of Aomori, was joint-

ly bought by an intermediate wholesaler and a company that operates the Sushi Ginza Onodera chain of restaurants.

“The year’s first tuna brings good luck. We want to make people smile with food,” said Shinji Nagao, the president of the sushi restaurant operator.

In 2019, a bluefin tuna fetched 333.6 million yen, the top price since comparable data became available in 1999, in the first New Year auction since the iconic Tsukiji fish market was relocated to Toyosu.

But with advent of the COVID-19 pandemic, the price for 2021 plunged to 20.8 million.

The price then increased to 36.0 million yen in 2023 and 114.2 million yen in 2024.

“It was as fat as a cow,” said 73-year-old fisherman Masahiro Takeuchi, recalling the moment he saw the giant tuna caught on a longline on Saturday morning. — Kyodo

WORLD: TOP HEADLINES

UAE job market thrives, attracting global professionals

THE UAE’s job market has solidified its position as a global destination for professionals seeking opportunities across various sectors. This achievement is attributed to the country’s thriving and diversified national economy, supported by an investment-friendly environment that enhances its attractiveness.

The UAE is increasingly becoming a top destination for skilled professionals, attracting

global talent through its advanced infrastructure, diverse opportunities, and forward-looking strategies focusing on digital transformation and sustainability. The country is also recognized for its commitment to protecting workers’ rights and ensuring a stable work environment. As 2025 unfolds, demand for highly skilled professionals, especially in AI and related technologies, is expected to rise. — ANI

S Korea security chief vows to block Yoon’s arrest

CHIEF of South Korea’s presidential security service, Park Jong-joon, on Sunday vowed to keep blocking an attempt to arrest the impeached President Yoon Suk-yeol.

If the security service, which puts its top priority on

the president’s absolute safety, complied with the execution of the arrest warrant against Yoon, it would have been a dereliction of duty and an abandonment of presidential security, Park said in a statement. — Xinhua



SPORTS

MIU clinches third consecutive win in MFF Futsal League I

THE fixture III matches of the 2024-2025 Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) Futsal League I took place at Thuwunna Youth Training Centre in Yangon on 5 January, where MIU maintained its top position with a third consecutive victory.

In the matches, MIU triumphed over SGF with a score of 3-0. MH Dream Team defeated VUC 4-3, while M2K overcame Futsal Lovers 3-2. YCDC Marga edged out Winner Soccer 2-1 and

YRG and Generations ended in a 3-3 draw.

Defending champions VUC faced their first loss of the season, despite heavy pre-season preparations and the addition of new players. Newly promoted YRG still battling against stronger teams and has secure just two points in three games.

Meanwhile, MIU showcased consistent performance with a full win record, and MH Dream Team also delivered a strong

showing by defeating the reigning champions VUC.

After fixture III, MIU leads the standings with nine points, followed by MH Dream Team with seven points.

Generations are in third place with five points, while VUC and M2K share four points each. YCDC Marga and SGF have three points each, YRG and Winner Soccer have two points each and Futsal Lovers has one point. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



MIU and SGF futsal teams in action during the Futsal League.  
PHOTO:MFF



Dawit Wolde of Ethiopia crosses the finish line during the men's event of the Xiamen Marathon 2024 in Xiamen, southeast China's Fujian Province, 5 January 2025. PHOTO:WEI PEIQUAN/XINHUA

Ethiopian runners sweep Xiamen Marathon titles with new course records

ETHIOPIA'S Dawit Wolde and Ruti Aga claimed the respective men's and women's titles, both with new course records, at the 2025 Xiamen Marathon on Sunday.

Wolde clocked a winning time of two hours, six minutes and six seconds, shattering the previous record of 2:06:19 set by Kenya's Moses Cheruiyot Mosop in 2015. Tebello Ramakongoana of Leso-

tho took silver, 12 seconds back, while another Ethiopian runner Asefa Boki Kebebe secured bronze in 2:06:32.

"The course is amazing and nice. We are lucky to have [competed in the Xiamen Marathon] this season and the weather is nice. I like this race because the atmosphere is good and it is well organized. I will come back," said Wolde. — Xinhua

Speed climber Miroslaw wins Polish Sports Personality of the Year award

SPEED climber Aleksandra Miroslaw was awarded the Polish Sports Personality of the Year in Warsaw on Saturday.

With her gold medal at the Paris Olympics, Miroslaw un-

surprisingly became the latest winner of the award, which is believed to be the most prestigious sports prize in Poland.

"I would especially like to thank my coach, who is my husband in my private life. He

supported me in the most difficult moments. We experienced a lot together. I wouldn't have won the Olympic gold without his work," the 30-year-old said at the award ceremony. — Xinhua

Man Utd hold Liverpool to end losing streak

MANCHESTER United rallied to snap a four-game losing streak and halt Liverpool's romp towards the Premier League title in a thrilling 2-2 draw at Anfield on Sunday.

Liverpool move six points clear at the top of the table, with a game in hand to come, over second-placed Arsenal.

But this was an opportunity lost for Arne Slot's men after they came from behind to lead 2-1 through Cody Gakpo and Mohamed Salah's penalty.

United broke their six-year goal drought at Anfield to open the scoring in spectacular fashion through Lisandro Martinez and got the point a much-improved performance deserved when Amad Diallo levelled on 80 minutes.

A point edges the Red Devils

up to 13<sup>th</sup> in the table and seven clear of the relegation zone.

Liverpool boss Slot warned that United were "much better" than their shocking league position suggested ahead of the game and so it proved.

United had been carved open at will by Newcastle in a dismal 2-0 defeat on Monday that left manager Ruben Amorim declaring they were in a relegation battle.

Amorim's hand was strengthened by the return of captain Bruno Fernandes and Manuel Ugarte from suspension, while Kobbie Mainoo also returned to the starting line-up.

The Portuguese's plan to frustrate Liverpool worked but the home side did have the chances early on to make the breakthrough. — AFP



Manchester United's Ivorian midfielder #16 Amad Diallo (C) celebrates with teammates after scoring their second goal during the English Premier League football match between Liverpool and Manchester United at Anfield in Liverpool, north west England on 5 January 2025. PHOTO:AFP





# China's largest offshore solar-hydrogen farm starts operation

*It integrates photovoltaic power generation, hydrogen production, refueling, and energy storage.*

A LARGE integrated solar-hydrogen farm, located in the tidal flat area of eastern China, has officially commenced operations, according to its owner, Guohua Energy Investment Co., Ltd., under the CHN Energy Investment Group (CHN Energy).

The largest of its kind in China, the energy farm is officially known as the Rudong offshore photovoltaic-hydrogen energy storage project. It has been successfully connected to the grid and began operations on 31 December 2024, in Rudong county, Jiangsu province, CHN Energy said in a press release on Friday.

This marks the launch of China's first comprehensive energy utilization and coastal ecological management project, integrating photovoltaic power

generation, hydrogen production, hydrogen refueling and energy storage, according to the press release.

With a total installed capacity of 400 megawatts, the Rudong project, spanning 4,300 mu (about 287 hectares), features a newly constructed 220 kV onshore booster station, a 60 MW/120 MWh energy storage facility, and a hydrogen production and refueling station with a production capacity of 1,500 standard cubic metres per hour and hydrogen refueling capability of 500 kilogrammes per day. Once fully operational in 2025, the project is expected to generate an average of 468 million kilowatt-hours of electricity annually, equivalent to saving approximately 151,000 tonnes of standard coal each year. — Xinhua



A drone photo taken on 3 November 2024 shows a photovoltaic power project in Rudong County of Nantong City, east China's Jiangsu Province. **PHOTO: LI BO/XINHUA**

## Major winter storm disrupts travel, impacting over 60 million in US

*States like Missouri, Kentucky, and Arkansas have declared states of emergency.*

OVER 60 million people in the United States are bracing for the first major winter storm of 2025, according to the US National Weather Service (NWS).

The storm spans from the Central Plains to the East Coast, bringing heavy snow, freezing rain, and severe thunderstorms.

The NWS has warned of significant travel disruptions due to snow and ice, particularly along the Interstate 70 corridor, which runs through major cities like St Louis and Indianapolis.

In response to the worsening weather, states including Missouri, Kentucky, and Arkansas have declared states of emergency.

In central Kansas, icy roads caused multiple truck



The major winter storm of 2025 is bringing heavy snow, freezing rain, and severe thunderstorms from the Central Plains to the East Coast. **PHOTO: ANI**

accidents, leading to highway closures. Kansas City Inter-

national Airport temporarily suspended operations due to

icy conditions, delaying dozens of flights. — ANI

### Canada's Online News Act

Google pays Canada media Can\$100 mn to use content

GOOGLE said Friday it had paid Can\$100 million to Canadian news outlets to use their content on its platform, as part of a deal with the government to offset loss of advertising revenues.

Canada passed the Online News Act in 2023, joining Australia and a few countries in Europe in establishing policies to force tech platforms to compensate struggling news publishers.

Google and Meta, which together control about 80 per cent of all advertising revenue in Canada, had been accused of draining cash away from traditional news organizations while using news content for free.

The Google funds (US\$69 million) were transferred to the Canadian Journalism Collective, a non-profit set up to distribute the money, a spokesperson for the tech giant confirmed. — AFP