

SAC Chairman PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses the nation on severe earthquake



Esteemed people,

As you know, an earthquake jolted Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, Mandalay Region, Sagaing Region and other areas at about 12:51 pm Myanmar Standard Time on 28 March 2025. The earthquake centred at a depth of 10 kilometres, 20 kilometres northeast of Mandalay. It was a very strong earthquake with a magnitude of 7.7 on the Richter Scale, and the main earthquake was followed by three aftershocks.

Due to this incident, significant damage has been reported in Mandalay, Sagaing, and Nay Pyi Taw. According to the latest reports, a total of 144 people have died – 96 in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, 18 in Sagaing, and 30 in Kyaukse. Moreover, a total of 732 people have been injured – 432 in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area and 300 in Sagaing, and the number of the injured in Kyaukse is still under verification. The number of casualties is expected to rise further. In some areas, buildings have collapsed, and we are still carrying out rescue operations in those locations. I have personally visited and assessed the situation as well. I would like to request the public to provide aid and as much support as possible for the ongoing rescue efforts needed due to the impact of this earthquake.

I have declared a state of emergency in all affected areas and have opened all possible channels to receive international assistance. Just recently, I would like to reveal the AHA Centre confirmed that emergency relief supplies will be sent on 29 March, and India has also offered to send relief supplies on 29 March. I would like to invite any country or organization to come and assist the monks, nuns, and citizens in Myanmar who are in need. Thank you all.

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Myanmar joins sea salt suppliers to South Korea

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144 Chinese nationals deported, 39 more detained for telecom fraud

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YRIC approves two foreign ventures worth \$3.36M

SAC Chair PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits quake-hit Nay Pyi Taw, offers support to patients

SEE PAGE 3



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing shows care to patients receiving treatment after strong earthquake.

NATIONAL

Education: The Foundation of a Nation's Strength and Future

- The strength of a country lies in its education.
- Students with five key capabilities are not only the nation's strength but also the future of the State.

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

Urgent Blood Donations Needed for Earthquake Victims

A powerful earthquake struck Sagaing, Mandalay, and Magway Regions, as well as northeastern Shan State, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, and Bago Region, causing severe damage. As a result, several people have lost their lives, while many others have sustained injuries.

Hospitals in Sagaing and Mandalay Regions and Nay Pyi Taw Council Area are currently providing medical treatment to a large number of injured individuals. Due to the urgent need for blood donations, all eligible donors are requested to contact hospitals immediately and contribute to this life-saving effort.

Information Team
State Administration Council

State of Emergency Declared Under Disaster Management Law

Nay Pyi Taw, 28 March 2025

A very strong earthquake with a magnitude of 7.7 on the Richter Scale struck, centred at a depth of 10 kilometres. The epicentre was approximately 21 kilometres northeast of the Mandalay Seismic Station and about 20 kilometres northeast of Mandalay city, at coordinates 22.09° North Latitude and 96.23° East Longitude at 12:51:02 pm yesterday, followed by about three aftershocks.

Due to the hit of the strong earthquake, the National Disaster Management Committee declared a State of Emergency for the earthquake-affected areas in Sagaing Region, Mandalay Region, Magway Region, northeastern Shan State, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area and Bago Region.

The government will promptly investigate losses and damage in these areas as quickly as possible and quickly help and rescue operations. Moreover, efforts will be made to provide necessary help and rescue against natural disasters and supply humanitarian aid for the victims.

The Disaster Management Committee will also continue to release timely updates as new information. The people were urged to be mindful of potential rumours and to cooperate with the government and local authorities in disaster relief and rescue operations.

Information Team
State Administration Council



Statement of Condolences Release No 541/YMBA/2025

Date: 28 March 2025

The Young Men's Buddhist Association (YMBA) expresses its deepest condolences for the deaths, injuries, and damage caused by the earthquake that struck Myanmar at 12:51:02 pm Myanmar Standard Time on 28 March 2025, centred about 21 kilometres northeast of the Mandalay Seismic Station.

Central Executive Committee
Young Men's Buddhist Association (Central)

Singer to helm 'Maya Area Pyinpa' film

VOCALIST Moe Moe will take on the role of director for the film 'Maya Area Pyinpa' (Beyond the Illusion Zone), according to sources close to him.

Moe Moe himself wrote the story, while Sue Khet Min handled the screenplay. As director, Moe Moe will produce the film for the Mahar Application.

"I have been planning this film for quite some time since last October. However, a major film production came up in between. This will be my second project as a director. It's a light-hearted fantasy film with a touch of romance.

The story revolves around people who make wishes at sacred trees – some wishes come true, while others do not. It explores the thoughts and emotions of those whose wishes remain unfulfilled. The film will be released on the Mahar Application," said director and singer Moe Moe.

The cast of 'Maya Area Pyinpa' includes Academy Kyaw Kyaw Bo, Nay Lin Shain, Wai Lar Ri, Moe Pwint Phyu, Zwe Naing Win, Swan Htet Aung, Maung Kin, and Piya, among others. The film's opening ceremony was held on 27 March at the Shwephonepawint Pagoda in Pazundaung Township, Yangon. — ASH/KZL

A TEAM of researchers from Myanmar and China has been jointly conducting biodiversity conservation activities along Inlay Lake in southern Shan State. Freshwater Mollusca was recorded as per the survey.

Researchers of the Southeast Asian Wildlife Biodiversity Research Group of the Chinese Academy of Sciences Kunming Institute of Zoology and Myanmar researchers joined hands to conduct a survey for the conservation of aquatic animals especially Mollusca along Inlay Lake in June-July 2024.

Zoosystematics and Evolution recently announced the

Myanmar-China collaboration for biodiversity conservation in Shan State (South)



Leg-rowing fisherman and residents in Inlay Lake.

findings from the research and there are Bithniidae species (small freshwater snails) recorded from the Inlay Lake basin and surrounding area. Some of them are endemic species to

Inlay Lake, according to research outcomes. This will help accelerate biodiversity conservation activities of the two countries along the Lake.

Inlay Lake is home to differ-

ent species of freshwater snails (Mollusca). There are 36 types of Mollusca discovered so far as per the research's findings and 18 of them are endemic species. It has been one century since

researchers have not worked on freshwater snail surveys.

Inlay Lake, the second largest lake in Myanmar, is located in Nyaungshwe, Taunggyi Township, southern Shan State, nestled between two mountain ranges extending from south to north, in Nyaungshwe basin of southern Shan State, with an estimated surface area of 116 kilometres. The average water depth is about seven feet in summer and the deepest point is 12 feet in the rainy season. The surface elevation is 2,900 feet above sea level. Inlay Lake stretches nine miles in length and four miles in width, spreading an area of 248 square miles. — ASH/KK

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)

SAC Chair PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits quake-hit Nay Pyi Taw, offers support to patients



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing observes damage and debris after powerful earthquake in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

AT 12:51:02 pm on 28 March, a very strong earthquake with a magnitude of 7.7 on the Richter Scale struck, centred at a depth of 10 kilometres. The epicentre was approximately 21 kilometres northeast of the Mandalay seismic station and about 20 kilometres northeast of Mandalay City, at coordinates 22.09° North Latitude and 96.23° East Longitude. Following the main quake, about three aftershocks

were recorded.

The strong earthquake destroyed roads, bridges and buildings in Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Bago regions and northeastern Shan State and Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

A few hours after the earthquake, Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspected the earthquake-affected areas in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area. The Senior

General and party inspected damage to roads and bridges caused by the earthquake from Pinlaung junction to the traffic light of the Nay Pyi Taw Command Headquarters damaged roads and bridges on Yazahtani Road and Pynmana-Taungnyo Road. The Senior General gave guidance on priority to be given to ensuring convenient travel of the people and improvement of the routes with the use of manpower and heavy machinery as

quickly as possible.

The Senior General viewed providing medical treatment to the patients who sustained injuries in the earthquake at the Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital (1,000-bed) and comforted patients. He instructed officials to provide necessary healthcare services to the injured as soon as possible through cooperation between the Ministry of Health and the Directorate of Medical Services.

The Senior General viewed rescue and relief operations for housing damaged by the earthquake at Khayay staff housing near Nay Pyi Taw Myoma Market and the collapse of shops in Thab-yaygon market. He instructed officials to prioritize expeditious rescue of the people enclosed in the damaged buildings, providing full equipment for volunteers to perform rescue and relief measures, and take care of safety and others. — MNA/TTA

Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanmar Alinn, the Kyemon and The Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit www.moi.gov.mm/mal, www.moi.gov.mm/km, www.moi.gov.mm/nlm and www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper.

News and Periodicals Enterprise

NATIONAL



The Russian delegation led by Deputy Minister for Defence Col-Gen Aleksandr Vasilyevich Fomin pays a courtesy call on State Administration Council Chairman Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

Myanmar and Russia unite on global stage

Myanmar and the Russian Federation emphasize the promotion of cooperation in military technology and aerospace technology.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received a delegation led by Deputy Minister for Defence of the Russian Federation Col-Gen Aleksandr Vasilyevich Fomin who attended the 80th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day parade at the parlour of Zeyathiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

At the meeting, the Senior General expressed his thanks to the Russian Deputy Minister for attending the 80th Anniversary of the Armed Forces Day Parade and the orchestra

of the Russian Federation for performing entertainment in Myanmar, and welcomed them warmly. The Russian Deputy Minister for Defence said that he was grateful to the Senior General for extending the invitation to his delegation and himself to attend the 80th Anniversary of the Armed Forces Day Parade and took pride in their attendance at the ceremony.

Their discussions focused on Russia's standing with Myanmar in the international arena while Myanmar is standing with Russia, and the promotion of cooperation in military technology and aerospace technol-

ogy.

They cordially exchanged views on long-lasting diplomatic relations between the two countries and the promotion of cooperation and cementing friendly relations, discussions on bilateral cooperation between the two countries during the official State visit of the Senior General to the Russian Federation in a meeting with President Mr Vladimir Putin of the Russian Federation, exchange of goodwill visits of naval vessels of two armed forces, learning of military and civilian scholarship students from Myanmar in Russian to produce necessary human resources for Myanmar,

exercising independent, active and non-aligned foreign policy by Myanmar, activities of Myanmar in following the five-point principles of Peaceful Co-existence, further promotion of cooperation in all sectors including defence, economic, cultural and religious sectors, cooperation in humanitarian measures, and endeavours between Russia and Myanmar to further strengthen friendly relations for many years.

After the meeting, the Senior General presented a medal in commemoration of the 80th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day and gifts to the Russian Deputy Minister for Defence

who returned gifts to the Senior General. They all then had documentary photos taken together.

Also present at the call together with the Senior General were SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Council Joint Secretary General Ye Win Oo, Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Kyaw Swa Lin and senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief. The Russian Deputy Minister for Defence was accompanied by the Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Myanmar Mr Iskander Kubarovich Azizov, Chairman of the Public Council of the Russian Federation Mr Pavel Nikoleaevich Gusev, Military Attaché of the Russian Federation to Myanmar, high-ranking military officers from Russia and officials. — MNA/TTA

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NATIONAL

Myanmar and Belarus strengthen ties across sectors, including defence technology

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and Minister for Defence of the Republic of Belarus Lt-Gen Viktor Gennadievich Khrenin cordially discussed further enhancement of friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries after turning the 25-year diplomatic relations.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received a delegation led by Minister for Defence of the Republic of Belarus Lt-Gen Viktor Gennadievich Khrenin who attended the 80th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day parade at the parlour of Zeyathiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

At the meeting, the Senior General expressed thanks to the Belarusian Defence Minister for attending the 80th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day ceremony and warmly welcomed them. The Belarusian Minister for Defence said that he took pride in attending the 80th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day ceremony at the invitation of the Senior General and presented a message of felicitations for the 80th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day of Myanmar sent by Belarusian President Mr Alexander Lukashenko to the Senior General.

They cordially discussed further enhancement of friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries after turning the 25-year diplomatic relations,



The Belarusian delegation led by Defence Minister Lt-Gen Viktor Gennadievich Khrenin pays a courtesy call on SAC Chairman Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

continuous implementation of the agreements conducted on the official State visit of the Prime Minister to the Republic of Belarus, and promotion of cooperation in all sectors including defence and military technology, science and technology, agriculture and livestock, manufacturing, investment, bilateral trade, industrial, economic and manufacturing of pharmaceutical sectors.

They also exchanged views on cooperation in the develop-

ment of human resources, efforts to further strengthen cooperation between the two countries in future, exchange of goodwill visits of high-ranking officers between the two countries, political progress of Myanmar, repeatedly preventing internal and external dangers by the Tatmadaw in experiencing various political systems in successive eras, and preparations to hold a free and fair multiparty democratic general election.

The Senior General pre-

sented a medal in commemoration of the 80th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day to the Belarusian Minister for Defence who returned gifts to the Senior General.

Also, present at the meeting were SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Council Joint Secretary General Ye Win Oo, Union Minister for Defence General Maung Maung Aye, Chief

of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Kyaw Swa Lin and senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief. The Belarusian Minister for Defence was accompanied by Belarusian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Uladzimir Baravikou, Deputy Minister for Defence Maj Gen Andrei Valerianovich Burdyko, senior military officers from Belarus, the Military Attaché of Belarus to Myanmar and officials. — MNA/TTA

SAC Member, DPM and MoD Union Minister holds talks with Belarusian counterpart

MEMBER of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Defence General Maung Maung Aye received a delegation led by Minister for Defence of the Republic of Belarus Lieutenant-General Viktor Gennadievich Khrenin at the Minister's Office of the Ministry of Defence yesterday morning.

At the meeting, they cordially exchanged views on military relations between the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Republic of Belarus, cooperation in military training and education, potentials for cooperation in bilaterally military technology, explo-



SAC Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Defence Minister General Maung Maung Aye receives the Belarusian delegation yesterday.

ration of potential sectors for enhancement of cooperation in defence sector

between the two countries and further cooperation.

Officials of the Ministries of Defence between the two countries also discussed logistic measures, and cooperation in military training and education sectors in separate meetings to exchange views in detail.

After the meeting, Union Minister General Maung Maung Aye and Belarusian Minister for Defence Lieutenant-General Viktor Gennadievich Khrenin signed the approvals for discussions and exchanged notes of meetings.

The meeting was also attended by officials from the Ministry of Defence of Myanmar. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

SAC Information Team Leader addresses impact of strong earthquake



SAC Information Team Leader Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun.

AT 12:51 pm on 28 March, an earthquake with a magnitude of 7.7 on the Richter scale struck, centred 21 kilometres northeast of the Mandalay Seismological Station. In response to the impact of this earthquake, the National Disaster Management Committee has declared a state of emergency in the affected areas, including Sagaing Region, Mandalay Region, Magway Region, northeastern Shan State, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, and Bago Region. The government will promptly carry out investiga-

tions and relief efforts. We kindly urge the public not to believe in any rumours that may arise but to follow the official announcements continuously released by the Disaster Management Committee. Moreover, based on estimates, aftershocks may still occur following this earthquake. Therefore, we strongly advise everyone to stay in safe locations.

This urgent announcement is being made due to the current critical situation. The Chairman of the State Administration

Council Prime Minister is currently at Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital (1,000-bed) to comfort patients. The main message I want to convey is that hospitals in Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw, and Sagaing have received a large number of patients injured due to the earthquake. There is also a significant need for blood donations. Therefore, I sincerely request blood donors in Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw, and Sagaing regions to urgently contact hospitals and donate blood as soon as possible.

Strong earthquake hits central Myanmar

A strong earthquake hit central Myanmar at 12:51 pm yesterday.

The earthquake was initially reported to have a magnitude of 7.7 at a depth of 10.0 km (6.2137 miles) near Sagaing in central Myanmar. According to the GFZ Institute for Geosciences in Germany, the strong quake that struck yesterday afternoon was centred in Myanmar.

The earthquake was felt across Myanmar, as well as in Thailand, China, and Laos.

The earthquake caused

the collapses of the old Sagaing Bridge, and several buildings in Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw, Pyinmana, Aungban, and Inlay. Damages also include the collapses of the Dokhtawady Bridge on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway, and some portions at and around 362-mile Yangon-Mandalay Expressway causing some road closures along the route.

The Sagaing Fault is an important earthquake-prone fault in Myanmar, running from central to northern My-

anmar. This fault is caused by the movement of the Indian and Eurasian plates, and the cities along which are included in the most earthquake-prone areas in Myanmar.

The authorities have warned that the Sagaing Fault is one of the most geologically dangerous areas in Myanmar, and it is important to be prepared for the risk to be reduced by building earthquake-resistant buildings and educating the public about earthquake hazard protection. — Htun Htun/ZN



Inspection of reservoirs in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory underway.

Status update on reservoirs following earthquake

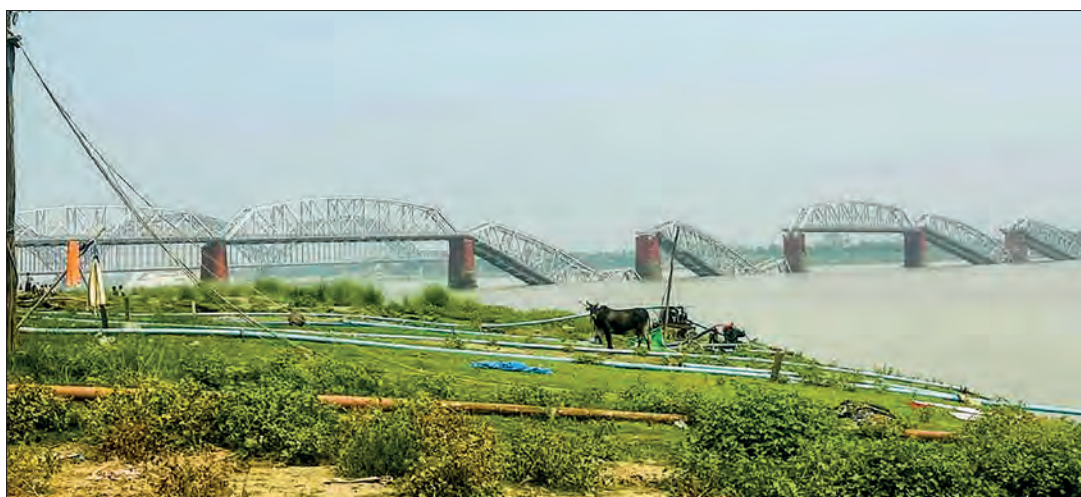
THE Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation has stated the condition of reservoirs following the earthquake that struck on 28 March 2025.

After the earthquake, relevant officials promptly inspected the safety and structural integrity of reservoirs in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory. Preliminary inspections of 12 reservoirs managed by the Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems confirmed that all remain structurally sound. While minor surface damage was observed on some earthen embankments, experts from the dam safety inspection team confirmed that there is no risk

of failure.

Among the 12 diversion weirs located downstream of the reservoirs, only the Sinthay diversion weirs, measuring 930 feet in width and 20 feet in depth sustained damage over a length of approximately 150 feet. Further detailed assessments are ongoing.

Similarly, engineers are conducting inspections on major dams across all regions and states. Initial findings indicate no significant damage and further assessments are underway. Authorities will continue to release updates as needed and the public is advised that there is no cause for concern. — MNA/KZL



Collapse of the old Sagaing Bridge.



Debris in Meiktila.



Damage in the compound of the Nagabwet.

Myanmar joins sea salt suppliers to South Korea

MYANMAR is included in the list of countries that the Republic of Korea gave the green light for sea salt importation, according to the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization in Mon State.

The Ministry of Food and Drug Safety revealed the lists of the 32 sea salt importing countries including Myanmar on 21 March 2025.

The quality of Myanmar's salt and food safety is recognized by large salt-importing countries like South Korea, providing a great opportunity for Myanmar's salt to penetrate Korean markets.

Mon State's Salt Farmers Association came and met an official of the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization assigned in Mon State on 14 September 2023,

regarding salt export to South Korea. Then, they discussed that matter with Myanmar's economic attaché in the Republic of Korea via Viber on 15 September 2023. Under the guidance of the Economic Affairs Ministry of Mon State government, Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization, the Salt division under the Ministry of Mines and Mon State's related department, Monko International Services Company Limited from Myanmar and South Korea's Mobydick Development Co Ltd have agreed to bring in 20 tonnes of sundried salt to Korea.

The director of Monko International Services Co Ltd informed Myanmar officials of the inclusion in the list of salt-importing countries. — NN/KK



Workers harvesting salt at the salt farm.

Shrimp exports bag \$26M in 11 months of FY2024-2025

DEPARTMENT of Fisheries stated that shrimp exports swelled to US\$26.35 million in the past 11 months of the current financial year 2024-2025.

Myanmar's shrimp exports by sea earned over \$18 million from 6,465 tonnes, while shrimp exports at borders were estimated at \$8.28 million from over 1,500 tonnes during the April-February period, totalling 7,968 tonnes worth \$26.35 million.

Myanmar exports fishery products to 40 international countries, including Japan, Bangladesh, China and Thailand, through maritime and land borders. — NN/KK



Myanmar's export shrimp.

Technical Seed Committee backs use of local seeds

THE increasing use of domestically produced seeds helps cut reliance on imported seeds and reduce foreign currency outflows, Dr Ye Tint Tun, chairperson of the Technical Seed Committee said.

He gave that remark at the Technical Seed Committee at the 30th meeting held on 19 March in Nay Pyi Taw (Office 43).

He emphasized enhancing seed production research activities of the Agriculture Department, Agricultural Research Department and University of Agriculture, systematic use of imported hybrid seeds, selecting only domestic pedigree seeds for high yields in our country with



rice self-sufficiency, need to explore the competitive dynamic of the global seed industry despite advancement in hybrid technology, production of robust and quality seed and new seed varieties, supporting hybrid seed production, and seed

import permit to be granted depending on availability of domestically produced seeds.

He also highlighted the need to bolster the production of Pawsan rice seed for exports beyond self-sufficiency. Experts will select only the right and pure seeds among Pawsan seed varieties, he continued.

Private committees also discussed seeking new seed registration and general matters at the meeting and the members of committee members coordinated some matters and responded to them in detail. — NN/KK

Indonesia tops Myanmar rice imports from Apr to Feb

ACCORDING to the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF), Indonesia is the top importer of Myanmar's rice with over 605,000 tonnes in the past eleven months of the current financial year 2024-2025 beginning 1 April.

China is the second largest importer of Myanmar rice with 468,000 tonnes, followed by 325,000 tonnes to Belgium, over 131,000 tonnes to the Philippines, 105,000 tonnes to Bangladesh, over 96,600 to Senegal, 52,200 to Poland, 46,900 to Cote d'Ivoire, 44,200 to Mozambique, 41,600 to Spain, 27,100 to Cameroon, 21,300 to the UK, 17,500 to the Netherlands, 17,000 to Togo, over 16,100 to Italy, and over 13,900 to Ivory Coast.

Myanmar's rice and broken rice exports hit over 2.37 million tonnes in the past 11 months (April-February) of the current financial year 2024-2025, with an estimated value of US\$1.087 million,

statistics of Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) showed.

The federation aims to achieve 2.5 million tonnes of rice exports in the 2024-2025 financial year (April-March).

The Ministry of Commerce has been cooperating with departments and institutions concerned to achieve monthly export targets and beyond depending on the supply volume of rice, broken rice, pulses, corn, rubber and fisheries from the respective companies.

Ministry of Commerce is working together with the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Myanmar Rice Federation, Myanmar Rice Federation, Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association, Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association, Myanmar Industries Association, Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Asso-

ciation, Myanmar Fisheries Products Processors and Exporters Association to meet monthly export targets and facilitate exports.

The federation is projected to achieve 2.5 million tonnes of rice export in the FY 2023-2024, generating earnings of US\$1 billion. However, rice exports fell short of the target with 1.6 million tonnes worth \$845 million.

The Central Bank of Myanmar's monetary policy to control export earnings impeded rice exports, hurting exporters financially. The El Nino weather condition also hampered rice export, the president of the Myanmar Rice Federation affirmed.

Myanmar exported 2,261,203 tonnes of rice and broken rice to foreign trade partners in the past 2022-2023 FY (April-March), bagging \$853.472 million. — NN/KK

OPINION

Ensure safety and stability for earthquake survivors

NATURAL disasters are not to tremble, but everyone must be aware of essential measures such as preparing based on reliable information and forecasts from relevant authorities, taking proper shelter, conducting timely search and rescue operations, and ensuring effective relief and rehabilitation efforts in the aftermath of incidents.

At 12:51:02 pm on 28 March, a very strong and regrettable earthquake with a magnitude of 7.7 on the Richter Scale struck, centred at a depth of 10 kilometres. The epicentre was approximately 21 kilometres northeast of the Mandalay seismic station and about 20 kilometres northeast of Mandalay city, at coordinates 22.09° North Latitude and 96.23° East Longitude. Following the main quake, about three aftershocks were recorded.

A lot of buildings, including the old Sagaing Bridge across the

Ayeyawady River, were damaged, leaving some casualties. Hospitals in the Mandalay and Sagaing Regions are full of patients who sustained injuries in the earthquakes as it was an unprecedented experience. These hospitals urgently need blood for patient care. Authorities have urged volunteers to donate blood to help save lives and treat the injured in time. Hence, people have to lend a helping hand to each other. That is why the Information Team of the State Administration Council stated that the National Disaster Management Committee has declared a state of emergency in the earthquake-affected areas of Sagaing Region, Mandalay Region, Magway Region, northeastern Shan State, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, and Bago Region. The government has stated that it will promptly investigate the damages and losses in the affected areas and swiftly carry out relief and rescue operations. Necessary disaster relief and humanitarian assistance will be provided for the victims. The Disaster Management Committee will also continue to release timely updates as new information becomes available, according to the information team. The people have been urged to be mindful of potential rumours and to cooperate with the national government and local authorities in disaster relief and rescue operations.

Such an earthquake jolted not only parts of Myanmar but also some areas of China, Thailand, Laos, Bangladesh, and India. Hence, local and global donors need to provide necessary aid to earthquake victims of Myanmar to help rehabilitate their lives and ensure timely medical treatment for those affected. Only when everyone is united in conducting the search, rescue, relief, and rehabilitation efforts in a timely manner can they overcome the challenges posed by the powerful earthquake and aftershocks, ultimately creating a safe and stable environment for the people.

Such an earthquake jolted not only parts of Myanmar but also some areas of China, Thailand, Laos, Bangladesh, and India. Hence, local and global donors need to provide necessary aid to earthquake victims of Myanmar to help rehabilitate their lives and ensure timely medical treatment for those affected. Only when everyone is united in conducting the search, rescue, relief, and rehabilitation efforts in a timely manner can they overcome the challenges posed by the powerful earthquake and aftershocks, ultimately creating a safe and stable environment for the people.

Let's Prevent Illegal Trade to Help MSMEs Develop



The development of MSMEs will not only create job opportunities but also increase income for entrepreneurs by processing local raw materials into finished products, contributing to regional development. **ILLUSTRATIVE IMAGE: CONCEPT ART**

TO improve the country's economy, prioritizing the production of agricultural products has been encouraging and the country is implementing plans to export new export items, and striving hard to develop micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

Organizing Union-level MSME Product Exhibitions and Competitions

While the MSME product exhibitions and competitions are being organized by the state for the benefit of local entrepreneurs and consumers, the development of MSMEs will not only create job opportunities but also increase income for entrepreneurs by processing local raw materials into finished products, contributing to regional development. At the Union-level MSME product exhibitions and competitions,

MSME products, locally produced products, and agricultural and industrial equipment from various regions and states are displayed and sold. Since many products from different regions are showcased in one place, business engagement and supply chains can be strengthened. In addition, through the use of innovative digital technologies, locally produced value-added products could meet quality standards and penetrate the international market rather than self-sufficiency for domestic. Moreover, foreign exchange earnings can be increased by the exports of products manufactured from MSMEs and that can lead to the economic development of the country through the practical implementation of two national objectives: national prosperity and food security.

If domestic MSMEs use illegally imported raw materials

By Alinn Yang (Tun)

without quality assurance in the production of goods, the finished products will not meet standard quality, the lack of competition in the market, and consequently making negative impact on exports. Moreover, this will incur extra costs for the state to prevent and combat counterfeit goods and illegal trade. Illegal trade will greatly affect the economic development of the state, hinder legitimate businesses, and make it difficult for micro, small, and medium enterprises to compete and survive in the long term due to the entry of illegal goods. Therefore, checkpoints are being established along trade routes to prevent and combat illegal trade. Relevant departments are implementing security measures to inspect vehicles entering and

exiting the city, ensuring they are not carrying illegal goods or prohibited items. To ensure the smooth and efficient flow of trade and goods, efforts are being made to increase illegal trade arrests under the supervision of regional/state anti-illegal trade special teams to facilitate and expedite the process.

Actions To Combat Illegal Trade

To improve the living standards of the population and develop the economy, various trade methods have been widely used. However, some businesses have turned to illegal trade as a form of illegal business, and, goods are also being imported and exported illegally, both domestically and internationally. Per state policy, information is being collected, and illegal trade is being investigated, identified, prevented, and ar-

rested. The entry of illegal goods from border areas has made it difficult for local micro, small and medium enterprises to survive. Additionally, the lack of taxes on illegal goods, the presence of foreign investors, and challenges in technology and market competition have further complicated the situation. To prevent and control illegal trade, and to take action based on collected information, special teams have been formed in regions, states, districts, and townships. These teams conduct regular inspections, carry out random checks, and cooperate with relevant

departments to prevent illegal trade more effectively based on reports. Illegal trade, which slows down and hinders the development of the national economy, reduces the production capacity and market competitiveness of ethnic entrepreneurs engaged

in domestic manufacturing, thus weakening the overall economic performance. We must firmly prevent illegal trade and make concerted efforts to stop goods from entering our country through illegal means, while also increasing efforts to reduce the flow of illegal goods without corruption. To develop and sustain MSME manufacturing, increase exports, protect consumers and the public, and prevent losses to national finances, I sincerely hope that the fight against illegal trade can be carried out under the guidance of the Steering Committee for Combatting Illegal Trade.

Life, Wisdom, and Human Capital Development

By Dr Zeyar Win

THE concept of "life" embodies the essence of growth and fulfillment. In Buddhist philosophy, life is categorized into two dimensions: Kammabhava (the accumulation of karma) and Upapattibhava (the consequence of karma). Regardless of its origin, once life emerges, it persists only through the continuity of existence. Life is the interval between birth and death — without life, existence ceases. The fundamental aspect of life is survival, and the key to survival is health. To sustain a healthy life, wisdom serves as an indispensable foundation. Empirical observation reveals that families who prioritize health and education tend to flourish and advance. Likewise, nations that invest in the health and education of their citizens cultivate a resilient human capital, thereby driving national progress and prosperity.

Life

Life is a profound and multifaceted journey, defined by the diverse experiences encountered between birth and death. As we age, we accumulate wisdom and experience; yet, in the process, we may lose the ability to appreciate

the simplicity and spontaneity of life. Although life is finite, how it is lived remains within our control. Therefore, it is imperative to cherish each moment and imbue our existence with purpose and meaning.

A fulfilling life requires not only health and longevity but also intellectual and emotional growth. Education plays a pivotal role in this regard, equipping individuals with the knowledge and critical thinking skills necessary to navigate the complexities of life. Through education, individuals learn to discern opportunities, adapt to challenges, and make informed decisions that enhance the quality of their lives.

Wisdom

Wisdom is the process of understanding cause and effect — a transmission of knowledge, experience, and thought that illuminates the human condition. It functions as a beacon, guiding individuals through the complexities of existence. We gain knowledge from learning and education. Education extends beyond formal instruction; it is a lifelong process of learning and self-discovery. In the



The interconnection between life, wisdom, and human capital development is crucial for fostering individual well-being and collective prosperity. **ILLUSTRATIVE IMAGE: CONCEPT ART**

Bagan era, Princess Theingathu's daughter inscribed: "I wish to be wise, not ignorant, and to understand the causes of wisdom." This statement reflects the deep reverence for wisdom that has endured throughout Myanmar's history.

True education transcends

literacy and formal qualifications. It is cultivated through lived experiences, reflections on success and failure, and the wisdom gained from observing and understanding the world. A person's level of wisdom, therefore, cannot be measured solely by academic

achievements but by the depth of their understanding and capacity for critical thought.

The benefits of wisdom are both personal and societal. On an individual level, wisdom fosters self-awareness and clarity of purpose. Understanding one's strengths, limitations, and aspirations enables individuals to define and pursue their life goals more effectively. Wisdom also nurtures moral integrity, encouraging empathy, patience, and respect for differing perspectives.

However, the pursuit of wisdom demands effort and resilience. It requires the willingness to confront intellectual challenges, accept failure, and persist in the face of adversity. Yet, the rewards are enduring. Wisdom is an inexhaustible treasure — an asset that remains with an individual for life, shaping both personal growth and societal advancement.

In Buddhism, education is conceptualized as the process of acquiring knowledge, discerning what should be abandoned, and multiplying what should be

cultivated. This understanding underscores the transformative power of education in shaping not only individual lives but also the collective progress of society. A nation that values education and fosters a culture of continuous learning is poised for long-term stability and prosperity.

Human Capital Development

Human capital encompasses the knowledge, skills, experience, and health of individuals — assets that hold intrinsic and economic value. The development of human capital is not merely a personal or professional objective but a strategic necessity for national progress. In an era defined by technological innovation and global competition, the value of human capital has become increasingly pronounced.

The pillars of human capital development are education, health, and vocational training. Education enhances cognitive and analytical abilities, fostering innovation and adaptability. Health is a foundational determinant of productivity; a healthy population

is better equipped to contribute to economic and social development. Training, meanwhile, imparts specialized skills that enhance workforce competitiveness and efficiency. Together, these components create a robust and capable human resource base, driving the growth of individuals, organizations, and nations alike.

Investing in human capital yields both immediate and long-term benefits. On an individual level, it increases employment opportunities, enhances earning potential, and improves quality of life. At the societal level, human capital development reduces poverty, promotes social cohesion, and accelerates economic growth. Moreover, a well-educated and healthy population serves as a bulwark against social and political instability, reinforcing national resilience and global standing.

For human capital development to be sustainable, both individuals and institutions must embrace a long-term commitment to education and healthcare. Governments, educational institutions, and private sectors must collaborate to create inclusive and accessible systems that empower all citizens. Equally, individuals must recognize their responsibility to engage in lifelong learning

and maintain personal well-being. A society that prioritizes human capital development will not only experience economic prosperity but also cultivate a culture of intellectual and moral excellence.

Conclusion

The interconnection between life, wisdom, and human capital development forms the bedrock of individual and national prosperity. Wisdom empowers individuals to understand and navigate life's complexities, while health ensures the strength and resilience needed to pursue personal and professional goals. Human capital development, in turn, transforms individual growth into collective progress, driving national stability and global competitiveness.

To thrive in the modern world, nations must adopt a holistic approach to human capital development — investing in education, ensuring access to healthcare, and fostering a culture of lifelong learning. The prosperity of a nation is not measured solely by its economic output but by the intellectual, moral, and physical well-being of its people. Therefore, by nurturing life, enriching education, and strengthening human resources, we lay the foundation for a harmonious and prosperous future.

NATIONAL

144 Chinese nationals deported, 39 more detained for telecom fraud

THE government continues to crack down on telecom fraud and related crimes in collaboration with neighbouring countries and international organizations. As part of these efforts, 144 Chinese nationals involved in online gambling and fraud in Myawady-Maethawtalay were deported yesterday via the Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge II.

The deportation was conducted per legal procedures, prioritizing humanitarian con-

siderations and international relations. A total of 39 foreign nationals were also identified and detained for further investigation. The process was overseen by Kayin State Social Affairs Minister U Saw Tun Aung, who coordinated with relevant authorities to ensure proper documentation and verification.

Myanmar authorities officially handed over the deported individuals along with necessary legal documents. Between 30 January and 28 March 2025,



Immigration and officials processing deportation of foreign nationals.

a total of 8,709 illegal foreign entrants were identified and detained in Myanmar, with 6,307 already deported via Thailand to their respective countries. The

remaining 2,402 individuals are being prepared for deportation under strict supervision.

The government remains committed to eliminating illegal

online fraud operations, particularly in border regions, through coordinated efforts with neighbouring countries and international agencies. — MNA/KZL

Assistant Fire Staff Officer Course graduation event held

THE graduation ceremony for Assistant Fire Staff Officer Training Course 23/2024 was held yesterday morning at Parade Ground 1 in the Central Fire Services Training School, PyinOoLwin, under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

During the ceremony, the Director-General was saluted by the graduating platoons, after which he presented awards to outstanding cadets and delivered a speech. Later, he met the top-performing cadets at the training school's main hall, where he delivered a congratulatory address and presented appointment certificates at the Anawrahta Hall.

The course was conducted in line with the Ministry of Home Affairs' policy guidelines and the objectives of the Fire Services Department,



The graduation ceremony of the Assistant Fire Staff Officer Course in action yesterday. PHOTO: FSD

focusing on fire safety, disaster prevention, search and rescue and public service operations. The training aimed to develop qualified assistant fire staff officers and to ensure a steady supply of well-trained junior officers for the department.

A total of 153 degree-hold-

ing officer cadets underwent the training. The course was conducted in two phases: the first phase from 22 July to 8 November 2024, lasting 16 weeks and the second phase from 11 November 2024 to 28 March 2025, lasting 20 weeks, making a total duration of 36 weeks. — Thitsa (MNA)/KZL

India Centre in Yangon hosts Education Fair

AN education fair was held yesterday at the India Centre in Pabedan Township, Yangon, to enable Myanmar students to pursue higher education in India.

The event was attended by Mr Abhay Thakur, Ambassador of India to Myanmar, officials from the Sanjoy Thapa Foundation and MD SAPE Events, Associate Professor MD A Hassan of the Mechanical Engineering Department at the National Institute of Technology,

Jamshedpur, Chairman U Nay Oke of the Nay Oke Foundation, officials from education service associations, and observers.

Students, parents, and the public attended the opening ceremony of the education fair, where education service associations explained how they facilitate access to world-class education at a reasonable cost. The India Education Fair will be held for two days, from 10 am to 5 pm, until 29 March. — Kyaw Kyee/MKKS



Education enthusiasts flock to the fair. PHOTO: MG THI

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

YRIC approves two foreign ventures worth \$3.36M

THE Yangon Region Investment Committee (YRIC) endorsed two foreign enterprises with an estimated capital of US\$3.369 million in the manufacturing sector, at the recent 3/2025 meeting held on 21 March, creating over 2,800 jobs for locals.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein and committee members coordinated general matters of seven companies during the meeting.

“The committee gave the green light to foreign enterprises at the meet-

ing held on 21 March. They will execute hotel service and manufacturing of clothing on a CMP basis,” said an official from the YRIC.

Moreover, the existing businesses are also found to increase capital and labour force. The regional investment committee has been endorsing investment projects in conformity with rules and regulations under Myanmar Investment Law to spur investments and create more job opportunities. — ASH/KK



Female workers are seen working at a foreign-invested garment factory in Yangon Region.

Highway buses to operate daily rotation during Thingyan Festival

HIGHWAY bus lines from Yangon Region to other regions and states are planned to run daily on a rotating system during the Thingyan festival, according to the Yangon Region Public Transport Committee (YRTC).

The highway passenger transport service from Aung Mingala and Dagon Ayeya highway bus terminals will operate daily on a rotating system from 14 to 17 April.

An official said: “A total of 224 express bus lines operate from the Aung Mingala highway bus terminal. During the Thingyan

holiday, these lines will run daily on a rotating system from Yangon Region to other states and regions. Similarly, 110 bus lines at the Dagon Ayeya highway bus terminal will also operate on a rotating system. The specific number of bus lines operating on this system will be announced later as we are currently preparing.”

The Yangon Region Public Transport Committee (YRTC) will also take action against buses that raise fares or drivers who drive recklessly, consume alcohol, or treat passengers rudely during Thingyan. — ASH/MKKS



Bus line stations at the express bus terminal.

‘Thingyan Yinkwin’ to be released in HD quality on 30 Apr



This image depicts a poster for the film and its scenes.

THE ‘Thingyan Yinkwin’ movie will be released in HD quality on 30 April, said actor Kaung Myat San, who stars in the film.

The story is written by Nyi

Saung Oo, the script is created by Tha Myint Swe, and the film is directed by Razawin Ko for Bo Bo Film Production. It will be released as a single part on

the Mahar application in HD quality on 30 April.

“This story is a youth-friendly comedy set against the backdrop of Thingyan. It captures the spirit of the festival. It is a light-hearted and fun story,” said actor Kaung Myat San.

The film’s cast includes multiple Academy-winning Yan Aung, Kaung Myat San, Pyay Nyein Han, Ye Yint Sithu, Htet Lyan, De Pa Kyaw, Yamon Myint Myat, Yoon Wint Hlwa Aung, Moe Thae Phyu, Phoo Phoo Nandaw, and many young actors and actresses. — ASH/MKKS

Myanmar film ‘Kinn’ holds premiere show

THE Myanmar film named ‘Kinn’ held its premiere show on 26 March at Thamada Cinema in Dagon Township, Yangon. The film is set to screen nationwide in major cinemas starting on 28 March.

The film, written by Byu, with the script by Phoe Kyaw (Thanlyin) and directed by Soe Moe Min was produced under Aung Heit Film Production.

‘Kinn’ portrays the deep love and sacrifice of parents – whether biological or adoptive — for their children. We invite audiences to experience this heartfelt story,” said Academy Cho Phyuone, one of the lead actresses.



Cast members of the ‘Kinn’ movie at the premier show.

The film features an ensemble cast including Kyaw Htet Zaw, Tay Za Lin Yaung, Bhone Min Nay La, Ye Hlaing, Win Khant Moe, Academy May Myint Mo, Academy Cho

Pyone, Win Myaing, Kyel Sin Phyu, Zwe Pyae, Zaw Win Nang (Mann), Zaw Win Maung, Nget Pyaw Kyaw, Kaung San, Kaung Kyaw and many more. — ASH/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	

ECONOMY WORLD

Russia ranks 3rd among G20's fastest growing economies

Russia was the G20's third-fastest growing economy in 2024, with a gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 4.1 per cent for the second consecutive year.

RUSSIA emerged as the G20's third-fastest growing economy in 2024, with its gross domestic product (GDP) expanding 4.1% for a second straight year, a Sputnik analysis of national statistical data has showed.

The Indian economy grew the fastest in 2024 despite its growth slowing down to 6.7 per

cent from 8.8 per cent in 2023. China and Indonesia came in second after seeing their economies grow five per cent apiece.

Brazil ranked fourth, with its economic growth speeding up to 3.4 per cent from 3.2 per cent a year earlier, while Turkey ranked fifth, with its economy growing 3.2 per cent, down from



Russia's outstanding economic performance demonstrates the success of its policies in achieving economic stability despite geopolitical challenges and severe Western sanctions. **PHOTO: TASS**

5.1 per cent in 2023. Argentina and Germany were the only major economies that saw a decline last

year, with their GDP falling for a second consecutive year. The Saudi Arabian economy finally

rebounded from the 2023 recession and expanded 1.3 per cent in 2024. — SPUTNIK

Trump's auto tariffs spark global outcry as price hikes loom



Vehicles like these Toyotas on their way to enter the United States from Canada are set to face 25 per cent tariffs if they are not US-made, according to President Donald Trump. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

WORLD powers on Thursday blasted US President Donald Trump's steep tariffs on imported vehicles and parts, urging retaliation as trade tensions intensify and price hikes appear on the horizon.

Major car exporter Germany called for a firm response from the European Union,

while Japan said it "will consider all options".

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney said Thursday that the "old relationship" of deep economic, security and military ties with Washington "is over", adding that he expected to speak with Trump in the next day or two.

The 25 per cent US duties, which take effect on 3 April at 12:01 am (0401 GMT), impact foreign-made cars, light trucks and vehicle parts.

Experts warn of higher vehicle costs, and Italian carmaker Ferrari said it would raise prices on many models sold to the United States by up to 10 per cent from next week.

Global stock markets slumped with shares in automakers like Toyota, Hyundai, Mercedes and others falling. Wall Street's main indexes closed lower as shares in General Motors and Ford fell.

French Finance Minister Eric Lombard said the only solution for the European Union is to "raise tariffs on American products in response". — AFP

UK set to cut public spending by billions of pounds

BRITAIN'S finance minister Rachel Reeves is set to detail billions of pounds of spending cuts in her Spring Statement on Wednesday to address the country's ailing public finances.

The spending update comes as the Labour government, elected in July after a landslide election win, faces

sluggish economic growth and rising borrowing costs.

In a glimmer of good news, Britain's annual inflation rate eased to 2.8 per cent in February, down from 3.0 per cent in January, according to the Office for National Statistics.

But despite the slowdown, inflation remains elevated

above the Bank of England's two percent target. The central bank kept interest rates unchanged last week after a series of cuts, warning of "economic uncertainty".

Reeves has warned that since her inaugural budget in October, "the world has changed." — AFP

Sudan's booming wartime gold trade flows via UAE

SUDAN'S gold industry has become the lifeblood of its war, with nearly all of the trade channelled through the United Arab Emirates, enriching both the army and paramilitaries, according to official and NGO sources.

The two-year conflict has decimated Sudan's economy, yet last month the army-backed government announced record gold production in 2024.

Demand for the country's vast gold reserves was "a key factor in prolonging the war," Sudanese economist Abdelazim al-Amawy told AFP.

"To solve the war in Sudan, we have to follow the gold, and

we arrive at the UAE," said Marc Ummel, a researcher with development organisation Swissaid who tracks African gold smuggling to the Gulf country.

In a statement to AFP, a UAE official rejected "any baseless and unfounded allegation regarding the smuggling or profiting of gold".

But according to Sudanese officials, mining industry sources and Swissaid's research, nearly all of Sudan's gold flows to the UAE, via official trade routes, smuggling and direct Emirati ownership of the government's currently most lucrative mine.

— AFP



Sudanese economist Abdelazim al-Amawy stated that demand for the country's vast gold reserves is a key factor in prolonging the war. **PHOTO: AFP**

Regulator clears Qatar Airways-Virgin Australia alliance

AUSTRALIA'S competition regulator gave the go-ahead Friday for Qatar Airways to launch an alliance with Virgin Australia.

The decision clears Qatar Airways to cooperate for five years in an "integrated alliance" with the Australian carrier, in which it will take a 25-percent stake.

The pact would double flights between Doha and major Australian airports, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission said.

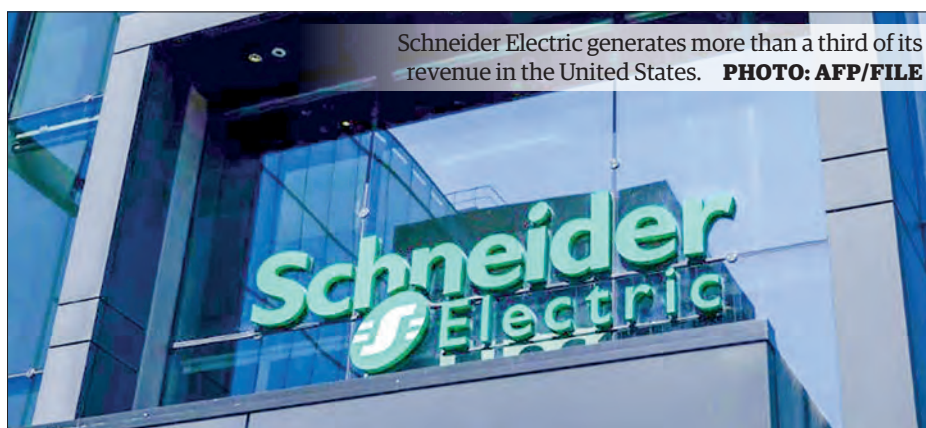
The boost in Australia-Middle East flights would create "minimal, if any, public detriment", the authority's commissioner, Anna Brakey, said in a statement.

"This will likely place downward price pressure on these routes and will also give customers of Virgin Australia and Qatar Airways a greater choice of international flights with additional connectivity and loyalty program benefits," she said.

Under the pact, Qatar Airways and Virgin Australia plan to launch 28 new weekly services between Doha and the Australian cities of Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth.

The competition regulator's decision was widely expected after it issued a draft determination in February proposing to grant authorization. — AFP

France's Schneider Electric announces \$700 mln investment in US for AI and energy



Schneider Electric generates more than a third of its revenue in the United States. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

FRENCH electrical equipment company Schneider Electric said on Wednesday it plans to invest "more than \$700 million" in the United States by 2027 to boost energy security and the growth of artificial intelligence.

The company, which

generates more than a third of its revenue in the United States, intends to "support the country's focus on bolstering the nation's energy infrastructure to power AI growth, boost domestic manufacturing, and strengthen energy security", according to a

press release.

"This new planned investment is expected to create over 1,000 new jobs and help Schneider Electric continue to play a leading role in shaping a more innovative, affordable, and energy-efficient future in the US", it said. The French

company already employs 21,000 staff in the country.

Schneider's announcement comes amid President Donald Trump's promise to impose "reciprocal" customs duties on all US trading partners, in the hope of attracting more foreign manufacturers.

"Schneider Electric's significant investment is a clear sign that manufacturing in America is moving forward — driving economic growth, innovation and job creation across the country," National Association of Manufacturers President Jay Timmons was quoted as saying in the communique. — AFP

UK town motors on as historic Vauxhall plant to shut



THE historic Vauxhall plant in Luton, England, is set to close its doors for the final time, marking the end of an era for a facility that has produced vehicles for 120 years. The multinational owner, Stellantis, cites rising costs linked to Brexit and the industry's shift to electric vehicle (EV) production as reasons for the closure, resulting in approximately 1,100 job losses.

This decision has been described as a "devastating blow" to the local community, with many workers facing uncertain futures.

Despite the grim outlook, some employees remain hopeful.

Lynette Edwards, a six-year veteran of the plant, plans to attend a local jobs fair, while others express concern for younger colleagues who may struggle to find new employment. A long-time

It is the end of an era as British car brand Vauxhall stops production at its historic plant in Luton after 120 years and with the loss of 1,100 jobs. PHOTO: AFP

worker reflected on the generational ties to the plant, acknowledging the challenges ahead for those with families and financial commitments.

Stellantis is investing in its Ellesmere Port facility to consolidate EV production, but relocation is not a viable option for many workers. However, opportunities may arise from local developments, including a new stadium for Luton Town and a potential Universal Studios theme park, which could create thousands of jobs in the region. — AFP

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Changing Trade Name For Registered Pesticide

The pesticide manufactured by **ICP Ladda Co.,Ltd** and distributed by **ICP Shwe Me Fertilizer Co.,Ltd** is changing trade Name as follow. Any objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board within (14) days.

No	Previous Name	New Name	Active Ingredient	Registration No
1	Razer	Rozer	Acetochlor 500g/l EC	P2024-6308

No objection advertisement

The following (4) pesticides registering by **Hangzhou Xinlong Industrial Co., Ltd.** is changing the name of distributor from **A.T Phone Myint Kyaw Co., Ltd.** to **Anawrahta Production Co., Ltd.** Any objection regarding to this changing can notify at Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board within 14 days.

(4) kinds of pesticides that are registering by Hangzhou Xinlong Industrial Co., Ltd. are as follow.

No	Old Distributor	Trade Name	Active Ingredient Name	Registration Type	Registration number	New Distributor
1	A.T PHONE MYINT KYAW CO., LTD	Fenozar Nagar	Fenoxaprop-p-ethyl 69 g/l EW	Provisional	P2024-6322	ANAWRAHTA PRODUCTION CO., LTD
2		Quiza Nagar	Quizalofop-p-ethyl 10.8 %EW	Provisional	P2024-6334	
3		Poe Nagar	Chlorfenapyr 240g/l SC	Provisional	P2024-6270	
4		Poung Nagar	Pyrazosufuron ethyl 10 % WP	Provisional	P2024-6332	

A.T Phone Myint Kyaw Co., Ltd.

GLOBAL VIEWPOINTS: FEATURED REPORTS FOR THIS WEEK



Is Britain's new fiscal plan stable enough to withstand US tariff shock?

Reeves announced £14 billion in cuts to restore a surplus by 2030, but economists warn of slim margins and vulnerability to shocks. US tariffs under Trump add further risks.

BRITISH Chancellor of the Exchequer Rachel Reeves on Wednesday said Britain's new fiscal plan aims to safeguard economic stability and boost long-term growth.

However, with US President Donald Trump threatening a new wave of tariffs, many still wonder if such a plan will work when a fresh global trade conflict could derail Britain's already fragile recovery.

BUILT ON TIGHT MARGINS

The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR), Britain's public finance watchdog, has cut Britain's growth forecast for 2025 from two per cent to one per cent, citing stagnating productivity, global uncertainty, and tighter financial conditions.

Delivering her first Spring Statement since taking office, Reeves admitted: "I am not satisfied with these numbers," emphasizing the need for "hard yards" and long-term reform to fix Britain's economic foundations.

She announced 14 billion pounds (about US\$18 billion) in spending cuts and welfare reforms to restore the government's previously projected surplus of 9.9 billion pounds (about US\$12.82



US President Donald Trump (R) holds a press conference with British Prime Minister Keir Starmer in the East Room of the White House in Washington, DC, on 27 February 2025. **PHOTO: AFP**

billion) by 2029-2030.

However, economists argue that those measures may be overstated, stressing that the margin is razor-thin.

Richard Hughes, chair of the OBR, said the chancellor has "very little room for manoeuvre" compared to her predecessors, adding that her current buffer

is only about one-third the size of those typically maintained in the past.

He warned that this leaves her vulnerable to even moderate shocks in growth, interest rates or trade.

LOOMING EXTERNAL THREAT

Trump is expected to announce a new set of reciprocal tariffs on 2 April,

potentially affecting British exports. While the British government is actively seeking exemptions, the risk remains acute.

"The future direction for trade policy is highly uncertain," the OBR said. According to its latest scenario modeling, a 20 percentage point rise in tariffs between the United States and its trading partners could reduce Britain's GDP by as much as 1 per cent at its peak.

Hughes warned that such a shock would be enough to "wipe out the headroom the chancellor has just restored".

Steve Nolan, senior economics lecturer at Liverpool John Moores University, told Xinhua that the chancellor's position is "very exposed to global market vagaries".

He pointed out that Reeves began the year with just 9.9 billion pounds of headroom and had already breached one of her own fiscal rules before the latest cuts brought her back into compliance.

"None of the pressure has gone away," Nolan warned. "Leaving yourself with so little room means you're vulnerable to turmoil." — Xinhua

Ukraine receives revised minerals agreement from US



The Ukrainian government approved a deal with the United States, which envisages a joint investment fund to be financed with future revenues from Ukraine's mineral resources. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ GETTY IMAGES**

UKRAINE has received a revised minerals agreement from the United States, Ukrainian First Deputy Prime Minister and Economy Minister Yulia Svyrydenko said Friday.

"This is a working version, which essentially reflects the position of American legal advisers. We are forming our position," Svyrydenko was quoted as saying by the Inter-

fax-Ukraine news agency.

The Ukrainian government will submit the agreement for parliamentary consultation once a final consensus is reached with the US partners, she added.

Last month, the Ukrainian government approved a deal with the United States, which envisages a joint investment fund to be financed with future revenues from Ukraine's mineral resources.

The deal was set to be inked on 28 February in Washington. But its signing was postponed after a public spat between visiting Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and US President Donald Trump at the White House. — Xinhua

Japan astronaut Yui to join ISS mission in July or later: NASA

JAPANESE astronaut Kimiya Yui will join a long-term mission at the International Space Station possibly in July on a journey arranged by NASA, the US space agency said Thursday.

In his second trip to the ISS since 2015, 55-year-old Yui will accompany three other astronauts from the United States and Russia on the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's SpaceX Crew-11 mission.

Yui was originally scheduled to leave for space in 2024, but his departure has been delayed as the participating countries' space organiza-

tions coordinate on schedules.

In his mission, expected to last around six months, Yui will conduct experiments for the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency.

Yui, a Nagano Prefecture native and former Japanese Air Self-Defence Force pilot, previously stayed at the ISS between July and December 2015 and was responsible for the docking of an unmanned supply craft developed by Japan.

JAXA astronaut Takuya Onishi, 49, also began a mission at the ISS earlier this month. — Kyodo

SPORTS

Nuno urges Forest to write new chapter ahead of FA Cup quarterfinal

NUNO Espirito Santo wants Nottingham Forest to write a new chapter in the club's proud history by reaching the FA Cup semifinals for the first time in 34 years.

Forest, chasing a Champions League place after a fine Premier League season, travel to Brighton for the last-eight tie on Saturday, knowing they are one win away from a date at Wembley.

They have not played an FA Cup semifinal since 1991 under Brian Clough, when they lost to Tottenham in the final, and Nuno is determined to end the wait.

"As a group and as a club we have managed to change many things. We've broken records that have stood for 30, 40 years," said the Forest manager.

"Suddenly we have another chance to break another. This is how we think.

"Since the beginning of the FA Cup, we have had only one ambition — to go as far as possible."

Forest, who needed penalty shoot-outs to get past third-tier Exeter and



Nuno Espirito Santo is aiming to lead Nottingham Forest to the FA Cup semifinals for the first time since 1991. **PHOTO: AFP**

Premier League strugglers Ipswich, hammered Brighton 7-0 in February's Premier League meeting at the City Ground, but Nuno said that result would have no bearing on this weekend's match.

"We want to go as far as possible in the FA Cup. We love this competition and our fans love it," he said.

"In terms of the bond between fans and the squad, it is growing, it is getting stronger. — AFP



Former Barcelona and Brazil star Dani Alves has had his rape conviction overturned by a Spanish appeals court. **PHOTO: AFP**

Ex-Barcelona star Dani Alves has rape conviction annulled

A Spanish appeals court overturned Friday former Brazil international footballer Dani Alves' rape conviction, arguing his trial was marked by "shortcomings" and "inaccuracies".

Alves was sentenced to four-and-a-half years in jail in February last year for raping a young woman in the VIP bathroom of a Barcelona nightclub on 31 December 2022.

The 41-year-old, who won the Champions League three-times with Barcelona, was released from jail last March pending his appeal after he posted the one million euros (\$1.1million) bail set by the court.

The appeals court said its four judges had "unanimously" accepted the player's appeal and "annulled" his conviction.

The court also rejected the appeal filed by public prosecutors, who were seeking a more severe jail term of nine years.

Alves' trial contained "a series of gaps, inaccuracies, inconsistencies, and contradictions regarding the facts, the legal assessment, and its consequences," the court said in its ruling.

During the trial, the victim, who testified behind a screen to protect her identity, said Alves had violently forced her to have sex despite begging him to let her go, causing her "anguish and terror", according to prosecutors present for her declaration.

Alves initially claimed he never met the woman but later said they had consensual sex.

His lawyers argued during the trial the victim had been "glued" to the player while dancing at the nightclub. — AFP

FC Barcelona loses Spain forward Olmo for key moment

LA Liga leaders, FC Barcelona faces being without Spain forward Dani Olmo for a vital part of the season after he was forced out of Thursday's 3-0 win at home to Osasuna with a groin injury.

Olmo limped out of the match in the 27th minute, shortly after scoring the second goal of the night with a twice-taken

penalty kick, with the club on Friday publishing a medical report.

"Tests conducted on Friday morning have shown that Dani Olmo has suffered a myofascial injury to the adductor of his right leg. The recovery time will be approximately three weeks," reads the report. — Xinhua

Figure skating: Miura, Kihara win pairs world title for Japan

JAPANESE figure skating pair Riku Miura and Ryuichi Kihara clinched gold Thursday at the world championships in Boston, recapturing the title they won in 2023.

Starting with a 1.96-point lead from the short programme, they placed second in the free skate on their way to a winning total of 219.79 at TD Garden.

Germany's Minerva Fabienne Hase and Nikita Volodin took silver after winning the segment and finishing just 0.71 point back from the Japanese pair, with Italy's Sara Conti and Nicolo Macii claiming bronze on 210.47.

For the Japanese duo, affection-

ately known to fans by the nickname "Rikuryu", the victory wiped away the disappointment of narrowly missing out on gold last year.

They had struggled in the middle of this season as Kihara dealt with lower back pain and Miura with a shoulder injury. While they made some small mistakes in their flamenco-themed free skate routine, the pair stayed composed and held onto their lead.

"We made a lot of little errors but I'm so glad we were able to win the title," Miura said. "I'm feeling a mixture of emotions, because we managed to win despite injuries and a lot of difficulties over the past two years." — Kyodo



Japanese figure skating pair Riku Miura (R) and Ryuichi Kihara pose with their gold medals after winning the world championship at TD Garden in Boston on 27 March 2025. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Is Britain's new fiscal plan stable enough to withstand US tariff shock?

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WORLD



Patients lie on beds in the compound of Bangkok's Phramongkutklo Hospital following the earthquake. **PHOTO: AFP**

Panic on streets of Bangkok as quake collapses skyscraper

The earthquake shook buildings across Bangkok, a region not accustomed to such tremors, leaving many in shock and prompting shoppers and office workers to rush into the streets for safety.

A mushroom cloud of dust and debris swept through the streets of northern Bangkok on Friday as panicked residents ran for their lives after an under-construction skyscraper came crashing down following a powerful earthquake.

Residents fled the area as a massive cloud of dust engulfed the streets, with many trapped under the rubble. Initial reports indicated at least three workers were killed, and 81 others were trapped

inside the fallen structure.

The earthquake, which shook buildings across Bangkok — an area not accustomed to such tremors — left many in shock, prompting shoppers and office workers to rush into the streets for safety.

Dramatic footage captured the tremors affecting high-rise hotels and shopping malls, with guests and shoppers instinctively seeking open spaces.

The quake's impact was felt beyond

Bangkok, with strong tremors reported in Chiang Mai and neighbouring countries like China and Myanmar, where significant damage occurred, including a major hospital being declared a "mass casualty area".

Rescuers worked tirelessly at the collapse site, searching for survivors amid the debris, while officials expressed fears of a high casualty count, marking this earthquake as one of the most devastating in the region's history. — AFP

REGULATIONS FOR SEA TRANSPORT

Lok Sabha passes Carriage of Goods by Sea Bill, seeks to replace century-old legislation

THE Lok Sabha has passed the Carriage of Goods by Sea Bill, 2024, which aims to modernize regulations governing the responsibilities, liabilities, rights, and immunities of carriers involved in the transport of goods by sea.

The bill, which also addresses matters connected therewith or related thereto, was introduced to repeal and replace the century-old pre-Independence legislation, the Indian Carriage of Goods by Sea Act, 1925.

Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal, highlighted the significance of the new legislation, stating that it updates a framework that has been in place for 100 years.

"This bill intends to repeal and replace the 100-year-old pre-independence legislation, the Indian Carriage of Goods by Sea Act, 1925," Sonowal said. — ANI

US auto tariffs to have extremely large impact on Japan economy: PM

THE US government's plan to impose an additional 25 per cent tariff on auto imports will have an "extremely large impact" on the Japanese economy, Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba warned Friday, as exports are a major driver of the Asian country's growth.

Ishiba said during a parliamentary session, "We will think about the most effective means to make the United States understand that this will not be of benefit to it," while expressing readiness to continue negotiations with Washington.

Bank of Japan policy board members also voiced concern about the negative impact of the tariffs on the nation's economy, a summary of opinions from a March policy meeting showed Friday, at a time when it has become inclined to lift interest rates to curb inflation. The central bank "will need to be particularly cautious when considering the timing for raising the policy interest rate" since tariffs pursued by US President Donald Trump could hurt Japan's economy, one member was quoted as saying. — Kyodo



Tariffs on Japanese vehicle imports could be on the agenda, resulting in a "considerable" impact on Japan's economy. **PHOTO: AFP**