

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

## SAC to hand over State responsibilities to elected government through free and fair general elections

All ethnic people are urged to participate in restoring peace and stability in the entire nation for holding the election.

**C**HAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudamma Min Aung Hlaing

sent a message to the ceremony to mark the 51<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of Mon State Day which falls on 19 March 2025. The full text of the translated message is as follows: - **Esteemed ethnic national brethren**

**in Mon State,**

I extend my heartfelt wishes for good health and physical and mental well-being to all Mon ethnic brethren in Mon State and various regions, as well as to all ethnic citizens across

the nation on this auspicious occasion of the 51<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of Mon State Day, which falls on 19 March 2025. May all your hopes and aspirations be fulfilled.

**SEE PAGE 4**

## Surge in pilgrims at Myanmar’s iconic Mann Shwesettaw Pagoda Festival

The Mann Shwesettaw Pagoda Festival, which had been temporarily suspended during and after the COVID-19 pandemic, has been held again since 2024.

**T**HE number of visitors to the Mann Shwesettaw, Myanmar’s famous pagoda festival, is on the rise, according to an official from the pagoda trustees.

The festival in Minbu (Sagu) Township, Magway Region, is being held for 75 days, including the Thingyan holiday, from 2 February to 17 April.

“Now, visitors are coming. Even on this evening of 18 March, there are still a lot of travellers. We heard more visitor’s cars will come. We expect more tourists after the Grade 12 examinations,” he said.

The increase in the number of tourists will bring better income for vendors at the pagoda festival, he added. This year, over 300 guest rooms and 350 shops have been

built to accommodate pilgrims from all over the country. Monks and laypersons who will come from far and near will be allowed to stay overnight in the guesthouses.

The Mann Shwesettaw Pagoda Festival, which had been temporarily suspended during and after the COVID-19 pandemic, has been held again since 2024.

— Htet Oo Maung/ZN



This photo captures visitors riding in an ox-cart caravan at this year’s Mann Shwesettaw Pagoda Festival.

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Why Should We Read Newspapers Daily?

By Dr Than Lwin Tun

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CBM to inject US\$33M into fuel oil sector



# NATIONAL

## Empowering Youth: Nurturing Future Leaders for National Integrity and Prestige

- The youth who will serve the State are its future leaders.
- It is essential to systematically nurture young people to instil good morale and a strong national spirit, enhancing the State's prestige and preserving national integrity.

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

### Objectives of 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Armed Forces Day 2025

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

**ကမ္ဘာ့ရေနေ့ ၂၀၂၅**  
**WORLD WATER DAY 2025**  
၂၀၂၅ ခုနှစ်၊ မတ်လ ၂၂ ရက်

“ရေအရင်းအမြစ်များ တည်မြဲဖို့ ရေခဲမြစ်များ ထိန်းသိမ်းဖို့”  
“Glacier Preservation”

အမျိုးသားအဆင့်ရေအရင်းအမြစ်ကော်မတီ

## Fitness dance training launches in Thaegon, Bago Region



Schoolchildren energized during fitness dance training session.

IN a bid to promote fitness and well-being among young people, a fitness dance training course was launched at the Community Centre Hall of the Information and Public Relations (IPRD) Department in Thaegon Township, Nattalin District, Bago Region, yesterday.

The course is jointly organized by the IPRD, the Department of Sports and Physical Education and the Department of Basic Education and aims to foster the

all-round development of students and youths to have healthy and active lifestyles.

The opening ceremony took place at 10 am yesterday, with an address by Daw Hla Hla Shwe, Chairperson of the Township Women’s Affairs Organization. This was followed by a speech from Daw Pyae Phyo Thu, Assistant Staff Officer of the IPRD, who highlighted the objectives of the training. She emphasized the importance of physical fitness in complementing

academic development and noted that engaging in fitness dance would help young people stay active and make productive use of their summer holidays.

Daw Nway Nway Khaing Zin, a sports instructor from the Township Department of Sports and Physical Education further explained that aerobics is not just a form of exercise but also a valuable practice for maintaining good health. She encouraged participation in foundational sports training during the summer break to nurture the next generation of athletes and promote greater interest in sports among youths.

Following the speeches, Daw Nway Nway Khaing Zin conducted the training session especially the basic steps of fitness dance. The daily training runs from 18 to 26 March (9 am to 10 am), with 20 participants enrolled. — Maung Shwe Win (Pyay)/KZL

## Appointment of Nicaraguan Ambassador to Myanmar agreed on

THE Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the proposed appointment of Mr Mario José Armengol Campos as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Nicaragua to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Mr Mario José Armengol Campos was born on 24 December 1993, in Chontales, Nicaragua. He holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Diplomacy and Political Science in 2019, and in 2022, he received a Master’s Degree in Sociology of Development from the National Autonomous University of Nicaragua, Managua. He served as Chargé d’ Affaires and Minister Counsellor at the Embassy of Nicaragua in the Dominican Republic from May 2023 to May 2024. Since June 2024, he has served as Ambassador of Nicaragua to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and Non-resident Ambassador to the Republic of Singapore, Malaysia, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Indonesia, and the Lao People’s Democratic Republic. — MNA

### Top websites and web portals to access Military Service Rules

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



# 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)*

## SAC Secretary inaugurates Mon State Day MSME Expo and Booth Ceremony

**S**TATE Administration Council Secretary General Aung Lin Dwe, accompanied by council members, union ministers and deputy ministers, arrived in Mawlamyine yesterday evening, to attend the 51<sup>st</sup> Mon State Day that falls on 19 March.

The General and party then attended the opening ceremony of booths, MSMEs products and traditional food sale stalls marking the 51<sup>st</sup> Mon State Day at Thmainbayan ground in Mawlamyine.

The Mon State chief minister first reported on the aims of arranging galleries, local products and food stalls to mark the Mon State Day, socioeconomic development programmes and ongoing work plans.

The SAC Secretary and Council Members Mahn Nyein Maung, Khun San Lwin, Mon State Chief Minister U Aung Kyi Thein and the South-East



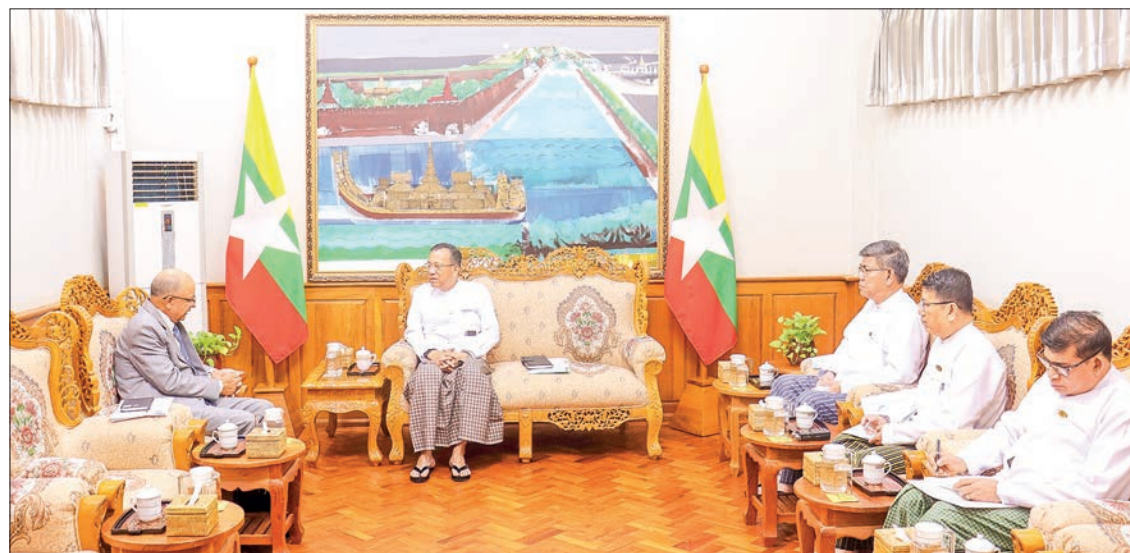
SAC Secretary General Aung Lin Dwe and dignitaries view round the booths at yesterday's event.

Command commander cut the ceremonial ribbon to inaugurate the galleries.

The SAC Secretary and party also attended the handover ceremony of drum seeders to mark the Mon State Day and presented the equipment to the farmers.

They observed the booths, MSMEs products and traditional food sale stalls.

These galleries aim to present state development activities of Mon State to the ethnic national people and also about the traditions, culture, customs and food of ethnic people in the state. It features nine booths for the farming sector, 10 booths for the industrial sector, nine booths for services, nine booths for education, eight booths for health, 21 booths for MSME products, and the Myanmar Thanaka gallery. — MNA/KTZH



Nepali Ambassador Mr Harishchandra Ghimire calls on MIFER Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw.

## MIFER Union Minister receives Nepali Ambassador to Myanmar

DR Kan Zaw, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, received Mr Harishchandra Ghimire, Ambassador of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday morning.

They cordially discussed matters relating to the co-operation programme, the “Nepal- Myanmar Partnership in Digital Transformation Programme”, which will be held in Nay Pyi Taw, and to enhance investment and economic co-operation plans between Myanmar and Nepal. — MNA



# NATIONAL

## SAC to hand over State responsibilities to elected government through free and fair general elections

### FROM PAGE 1

Ancient stone inscriptions in the Mon language and numerous literary sources indicate that the Mon people were among the earliest settlers in Myanmar and had the opportunity to embrace Buddhism. Furthermore, even before the enlightenment of the Buddha, the Thaton region had already been established as the Sudhammavati Kingdom. It upheld and preserved religion, literature, traditions, and cultural heritage, along with various fine arts, maintaining its prestige as a Ramanya state with dignity.

It is a state with historical and fine traditions which had turned out prominent majestic King Thihathudhamma and King Manuha, scholar members of the Sangha namely Waw Sayadaw U Utamarambha and U Silavanta (Min Shwe Ngo), the first western medical specialist Dr Shaw Lu, eminent literati Theikpan Maung Wa, Dr Nai Pan Hla and Dr Min Tin Mon, brave heroes Razadariz, La Goon Eain and Thamein Bayan.

After its assumption of State responsibilities, the State Administration Council reconstituted Mon State with 10 townships in four districts on 30 April 2022 and has been implementing peace and stability, economic and social sectors as well as overall development in the state.

Mon State is located in a strategic position, sharing a border with Kayin State and Thailand in the east, Motama Gulf in the west, Bago Region in the north, and Taninthayi Region in the south. Thanlwin, Gyaing, Attaran and Donthami rivers flow as a network in the state where waterway and land route meet.

Mon State, located on the coast of the sea, is important for trading, facilitated by a significant seaport. Moreover, the climate is moderate and pleasant, with breathtaking forests, mountains, rivers, and streams. The lush, fertile forests, natural resources, and abundant local fruits are thriving, making it a region with excellent land and water conditions.

In religion, the Mon State is renowned for its outstanding and prominent sacred sites, including the Kyaiktiyo Pagoda, the Kyaikpawlaw Pagoda, the Kyaikthanlan Pagoda, the Kyaikmaraw Sutaungpyae Pagoda, and the Kyaikhkhami Pagoda, which are historic and famous pagodas that symbolize the splendour and honour of Buddhism. According to historical records, due to the efforts and dedication of religious figures

and monks, this region has become a place where authentic Theravada Buddhism propagated and flourished thanks to missionary persons and Shin Araham.

Esteemed ethnic national brethren, Currently, our country is beginning to implement a democratic system based on universal principles such as justice, freedom, and equality, in line with the desires of the people. In establishing a democratic nation, all citizens need to maintain unity, discipline, respect and adhere to the rule of law, and possess a high level of knowledge and education.

Unity and cohesion strengthen the power of a nation, fostering development and generating national benefits. Looking at the contemporary, rapidly developing countries, it is clear that they have been built strongly with the power of unity and cohesion. According to the saying, "Strength of the nation lies within", a nation must be built with its internal strength. However, in the current context, our country is struggling to protect itself with full strength, unable to focus on building, and instead, is trying to survive amidst internal and external challenges. As a result, stability is weak, and progress and development remain distant.

The conflicts and armed terror attacks occurring today are rooted in differing political views, with some driven by a desire to stand apart and pursue self-interest and selfish gains. In various regions, the attack of ethnic armed organizations and PDF terrorists have led to the destruction of national infrastructure and the suffering of local populations, causing widespread poverty and hardship. Behind these violent acts are various forms of support and incitement from both domestic and foreign sources. Every citizen must be aware of this, and it is crucial to take the lessons from the suffering and poverty resulting from the breakdown of unity and the ensuing chaos from these events.

I would like to remind those involved in the ongoing armed conflicts and violent activities, including ethnic armed organizations and relevant organizations, to cease these activities in the best interest of the nation and its people as their actions are causing suffering to the people and endangering the country. I call on all citizens to unite in solidarity, uphold the spirit of the Union, and work together to protect and safeguard the country.

**Esteemed national brethren in Mon State,**

The State Administration Council has decided to hold a free, fair, prestigious, and systematic general election to develop a genuine, disciplined multiparty democratic system that the entire people aspire to.

The State Administration Council plans to continue the measures to hand over the State responsibilities to the elected government through the free and fair multiparty democratic general election in pursuit of the Five-Point Roadmap. Hence, I would like to urge all ethnic people to participate in restoring peace and stability in the entire nation for holding the election.

Every ethnic person's fundamental need is to live, work, and eat peacefully under the law, leading a life that is physically and mentally healthy, and prosperous, and allows for personal development and progress. The government, on its part, is working to meet the people's essential needs and ensure that all national brethren can experience equality and enjoy long-term, stable, and sustainable development. This is being carried out with a focus on national unity and the peaceful development of the union.

The processes must be effectively and successfully implemented within a short period, requiring intellectuals and intelligentsia from various sectors, as well as ethnic people, to work closely and actively with the government for the benefit of the nation.

The agricultural and livestock-based industries are being operated to meet the goals of food security and sustainability. To improve the socioeconomic lives of all ethnic people, agricultural-based industries are being promoted, along with micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) that focus on natural resources specific to each region. As MSMEs are critical for the country's economic growth, these will effectively contribute to regional economic development. With good land and water management, along with abundant natural resources in the Mon State, the expansion of agriculture and production industries can lead to increased income for local people, reduce poverty, and further improve socioeconomic life.

For the development and progress of the nation, as well as for the establishment of a peaceful, stable, and democratic new country, all ethnic people need to be fully equipped with knowledge and skills. At present, the younger generation, who are the future strength of

the nation, is being nurtured and developed by enhancing their talents, skills, and abilities to promote comprehensive education and development. It is necessary to systematically train and cultivate the good character of the youth, instill a sense of patriotism for the country, encourage them to uphold the honour of the nation and foster a sense of respect for their ethnic heritage and lineage.

Therefore, every citizen must succeed in completing at least KG+9 level education, and the goal is to have well-educated individuals with knowledge and skills. To achieve this, efforts are focused on expanding and opening more schools, upgrading educational levels, enhancing the capabilities of teachers, and ensuring that the school's infrastructure is good and meets necessary standards. These actions are being carried out with great emphasis. If we strive to develop a well-rounded and capable youth as the human resource for the country's growth, this will undoubtedly lead to the emergence of a prosperous and developed state in all sectors.

In the future, to create a nation that is eternally stable, peaceful, developed, and prosperous, it is essential to foster a sense of unity among all the ethnic people, such that everyone shares a common mindset of being in Myanmar. This requires the cultivation of the necessary spirit and knowledge. All the ethnic people living together in the Union, sharing the same land and water, should have a good mindset and work together in unity, guided by knowledge, skills, and a sense of justice. If this happens, the future of the great Union will undoubtedly will be smooth and harmonious.

In the process of building a great union based on democracy and the federal system, together with the Mon State and the Mon ethnic people, all ethnic national peoples are urged to work together with the spirit of the union and patriotism, contributing to the fullest of their abilities according to their respective roles. With this in mind, I respectfully send this message to honour the 51st Anniversary of Mon State Day today.

**Senior General  
Thadde Maha Thray Sithu  
Thadde Thiri Thudhamma  
Min Aung Hlaing  
Prime Minister  
Chairman,  
State Administration Council**



# NATIONAL

## Union Minister for Information receives General Secretary of International Buddhist Confederation

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn met with Venerable Shartse Khensur Rinpoche Jangchup Choeden, General Secretary of the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC), a Buddhist organization under India's Ministry of Culture, and his team at the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw at 10 am yesterday.

During the meeting, they had cordial discussions on the development of Buddhism not only in the five Buddhist countries but also globally,

the spread of the Pali language, Myanmar-India friendship and ongoing cooperation in the media sector, living in accordance with the five principles of peaceful coexistence, and cooperation in media training between the two countries.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Minister U Ye Tint, the Permanent Secretary, departmental officials, and representatives from the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC). — MNA/TH



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn meets General Secretary Venerable Shartse Khensur Rinpoche Jangchup Choeden of the International Buddhist Confederation yesterday.

## 208,000+ candidates take English exam on Day 2 of 2025 matriculation

THE second day of the 2025 matriculation examination commenced yesterday morning, with a total of 208,659 candidates sitting for the English subject across the country, including at overseas examination centres, according to reports.

This year, a total of 817 examination centres were established, comprising 13 overseas centres and 804 domestic centres. The total number of registered candidates for the examination was 220,843. On the second day, 208,659 candidates sat for the English exam, while 12,184 candidates were absent, resulting in an attendance rate of 94.48 per cent, according to the Ministry of Education. — MNA/MKKS



Namhsan, Shan State (South).



Kyaiкто, Mon State.



PyinOoLwin.



Palaw.



Katha, Sagaing Region.



Thaboung.



# NATIONAL

## Mann Shweseztaw pagoda festival to present Anyeint Pwe, stage show

FAMOUS artistes will perform Anyeint Pwe and stage show at the Mann Shweseztaw pagoda festival in Minbu (Sagu), Minbu district of Magway Region, on 18 and 19 March, according to the pagoda board of trustees.

'Min Htwe' Zet Thabin Troupe will organize a two-day free Anyeint Pwe and stage show with Myanmar traditional male dancer and female dancers – Min Htwe, Chaw Thein Chit Su (Kyaukpadaung), May Bo Bo, vocalists -Chaw Kalet, Thurein Soe (Hlwan Moe Alwan Pyay), comedians -Sein Khe, Kan Pwint, Aung Hein and Lan Lan, accompanied with Shwe Khine Zaw Mingalar Hsaing Waing at the stage near the entrance bridge of Mann Shweseztaw pagoda festival on 18 and 19 March (4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> waning of Taboung), said U Aye Ko, chairman of pagoda board



Captivating aerial drone shots of Mann Shweseztaw Pagoda Festival: Vibrant stalls and festive entertainment.

of trustees.

The Mann Shweseztaw Pagoda is a significant and renowned sacred pagoda in Myanmar, and it is known for hosting the longest pagoda festival in the country. This year, the Mann Shweseztaw Pada Zedi Taw Buddha Pujaniya pagoda festival is being held from 2 February to 17 April including the Thingyan holidays (from the 5<sup>th</sup> waning of Tabodwe to the 1st day of Myanmar new year) for 75 days.

The pagoda hosts a total of 15,363 pilgrims and over 3,100 vehicles during the festival days, including five holidays of the Taboung season, to date. The festival is mostly crowded with visitors after the matric exam (basic education) and Maha Thingyan holidays in addition to Taboung month. — Maung Maung (Minbu)/KTZH



## Japan Foundation to host YPAM candidate talk

A talk event of YPAM candidates has been planned to be held at Japan Foundation located at Bahan Township in Yangon at 2 pm on 22 March 2025.

At the event, a dance trainer Ma Khin Mon Thu from the dwM Dance Academy will share her experience as a candidate for the Yokohama International Performing Art Meeting (YIPAM).

It is an event which will bring benefits to local artists and help to understand the Japan Foundation's art and culture sharing. Free registration is available at <https://forms.office.com/r/TK44uWRWBz> and

attendees are limited. Admission will be confirmed by phone for those who registered earliest. — MT/ZS

Talk Event of YPAM Candidate



**KHIN MON THU**  
DANCE WORKSHOPS MYANMAR DANCE ACADEMY  
Date - 22nd March 2025 (Saturday)  
Time - 2:00PM - 3:30PM  
Seats - 50  
Venue - The Japan Foundation, Yangon (No 70, Nak Mauk Lane (I), Bahan Township)

ADVANCE REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

Dance trainer Ma Khin Mon Thu.

## Myanmar Motion Pictures Museum set to open next academic year

MYANMAR Motion Pictures Museum is scheduled to open to the public in next academic year, said Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization's secretary U Zaw Myint Oo.

At the museum, the cinema of Myanmar will be exhibited in different sections: technical equipment, silver quadrennial, golden quadrennial, video era, centenary, cartoon movies and academy awards.

At the academy awards section, photos of award winners, academy award statues that have changed from gen-



A glimpse of the Myanmar Motion Pictures Museum.

eration to generation and a collection of academy winners who are in same families, have been displayed.

"It's been long that we've made preparation to open the museum. This time it will be open to the public in next academic year which is coming soon," he said.

Admission is temporarily set at K1,000 for locals and US\$2 for foreigners and a special price is considered for schools, he said. If schools contact in advance for visit, actors from MMPO will provide as guide, he added. — MT/ZS



## DUHD warns public of fraudulent real estate listings

THE Department of Urban and Housing Development warned the public to be on alert for real estate scams involving incentives like rental guarantees.

The DUHD granted a five-year lease at Thukha Dagon public rental housing to those who have difficulty in accommodation. Unscrupulous fraudsters are attempting to scam vulnerable individuals with fraudulent listings by providing fake rental guarantees.

Furthermore, some who have rental

resident permits are also found to rent them out again. Consequently, their lease permit will be cancelled and they will face legal action under the existing laws.

The DUHD notified that five buildings that will be completely developed soon will be put out for lease.

The Housing Supervision Committee and Leasing and Disciplinary Committee notified that those who are allowed to stay at the housing units under a lease agreement must follow the rules and regula-

tions of the contract. They must not rehire, transfer, sell or mortgage the apartment units to others. They must not fail to move into the apartment as well.

Those who violate the rules will get their rental permit revoked and the head of the household registration is subjected to legal action. The department has recently warned home buyers of fraudulent real estate transactions by providing fake property purchase permit notification letters of the Department. — NN/KK



Entrance to the Thukha Dagon public rental housing.



An aerial drone view of the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM).

## CBM to inject US\$33M into fuel oil sector

CENTRAL Bank of Myanmar (CBM) announced on 17 March that it would sell US\$33 million into fuel oil importers.

CBM announced on 10 March that it would sell \$33 million and 150 million baht into the fuel oil sector. Moreover, it pumped \$23 million and 150 million baht into the fuel oil sector on 4 March after announcing it on 3 March.

CBM's currency injection slashed fuel oil prices. Consequently, the set fuel prices declined K3,080 per litre of Octane 92, K3,135 for Octane 95, K2,655 for diesel and K3,285 for premium diesel during a week from 14 to 20 March. The price index set by Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS), the pricing basis for many refined products in southeast Asia, influences the domestic fuel prices, according to the Supervisory Committee on Oil Import, Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil.

Under the Supervisory Committee on Oil Import, Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil, the Petroleum Products Regulatory Department has been issuing daily reference wholesale prices to ensure price stability for energy consumers.

The committee is inspecting the fuel stations to see whether they are overcharging. Authorities are taking action against those retailers of fuel stations under the Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law 2017 if they are found overcharging rather than the set reference rate. As per the statement, 90 per cent of fuel oil in Myanmar is imported, while the remaining 10 per cent is produced locally. Domestic fuel prices are highly correlated with international prices. The State is steering the market to mitigate the loss experienced by the importers, sellers and energy consumers. Consequently, the government is trying to distribute the oil at a reasonable price compared to those of regional countries.

Some countries levied higher tax rates and hiked oil prices than Myanmar's. However, Malaysia's oil sector receives government subsidies and the prices are about 60 per cent lower than those of Myanmar. Every country lays down different policy patterns to fix oil prices, the Supervisory Committee on Oil Import, Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil stated. — NN/KK

## 2025 Investment Management Expo welcomes Myanmar business leaders

ACCORDING to the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization, the Investment Management Exhibition (IME) 2025 will be held on 17-18 November 2025 in Frankfurt, Germany, and will invite business persons from Myanmar.

The IME is a premier global platform that facilitates business investments by connecting investors, SMEs, investment promotion agencies, economic development organizations, site selection experts and FDI advisors. Myanmar embassy's officials and business delegates can observe and seek business and investment opportunities. It provides platforms for investors engaged in various sectors.

It is the networking platform for IPAs and other stakeholders, facilitating investments and promoting the investment landscape for officials of the ministries and investments.

Moreover, high-ranking officials,

commerce ministers from France and other European countries, the US and Asian countries, countries in the Middle East, African countries and representatives from the Investment and Technology Promotion Office of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO ITPO), European Investment Bank (EIB), OECD and the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ), Investment Promotion Agencies, ambassadors and diplomats of the embassies and consulate-generals and real estate investors are expected to attend the event.

The IME 2025 will be held under the theme of Investing in Tomorrow, Pathways to a Sustainable Future. Individuals can enquire about details through <http://ime-europe.eu/exhibitors/> and register through the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization at 067 408622 and email [td.myantrade@gmail.com](mailto:td.myantrade@gmail.com). — NN/KK





# OPINION

## Raise public awareness to embrace unity

**M**YANMAR is in the early stages of implementing a democratic system based on core principles such as justice, freedom, and equality, aligning with the aspirations of its people. To establish a thriving democracy, it is crucial for citizens to uphold unity, and discipline, respect the rule of law, and possess high levels of knowledge and education.

Unity and cohesion are fundamental to strengthening a nation's power, driving development, and ensuring national benefits. Looking at other rapidly developing countries, it is evident that they have flourished by harnessing internal unity and strength. As the saying goes, "The strength of the nation lies within," highlights the importance of building a nation from within. However, Myanmar currently faces significant challenges in protecting itself and is

struggling to focus on development, instead concentrating on surviving amidst internal and external threats. Consequently, stability remains fragile, and progress is slow. In various regions, clashes between the government, ethnic armed organizations and PDF terrorists have resulted in the destruction of infrastructure and significant hardship for local populations, pushing many into poverty. These violent actions are often fuelled by domestic and foreign support, further complicating the situation. Citizens must recognize the consequences of the breakdown of unity and the chaos that follows, learning from the suffering caused by these conflicts. Those involved in the ongoing armed conflicts, including ethnic armed organizations and other organizations, have to end their violent activities in the best interest of the nation and its people. Their actions are inflicting harm on the population and jeopardizing the country's future. The essential needs of all ethnic groups are simple: to live, work, and eat in peace, under the law, while enjoying a healthy, prosperous life that promotes personal growth. The government is actively working to meet these needs, ensuring that all citizens experience equality and benefit from stable, long-term development. This effort prioritizes national unity and the peaceful advancement of the country. Looking ahead, creating a stable, peaceful, developed, and prosperous nation requires fostering a strong sense of unity among all ethnic groups. Everyone must share the mindset of being part of Myanmar, cultivating the spirit and knowledge necessary for a harmonious society. The people of Myanmar, living together in the Union, should adopt a positive mindset and work collaboratively, guided by knowledge, skills, and a sense of justice. If this vision is realized, the nation's future will undoubtedly be bright and harmonious.

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Looking ahead, creating a stable, peaceful, developed, and prosperous nation requires fostering a strong sense of unity among all ethnic groups. Everyone must share the mindset of being part of Myanmar, cultivating the spirit and knowledge necessary for a harmonious society. The people of Myanmar, living together in the Union, should adopt a positive mindset and work collaboratively, guided by knowledge, skills, and a sense of justice. If this vision is realized, the nation's future will undoubtedly be bright and harmonious.

**I**N TODAY'S fast-paced world, where information is constantly being generated and disseminated through a variety of platforms, reading daily newspapers remains an essential habit for many reasons. Despite the rise of digital media, the value of reading a physical or digital newspaper every day cannot be overstated. It provides numerous benefits, including staying informed about current events, fostering critical thinking, improving language skills, and keeping readers engaged in global issues.

Newspaper readership still holds a great amount of value to citizens in an increasingly digital-dominated landscape. On top of keeping us up-to-date with the latest stories, print and digital newspapers provide readers with many of the benefits associated with reading overall.

Reading different newspapers can aid our learning and personal development, increasing language skills, critical thinking and even civic engagement. On the whole, it is considered a timeless hobby that can allow individuals of different ages and backgrounds to feel knowledgeable, inspired and empowered.

The biggest advantage of reading a newspaper is that it adds value to you and your personality. It improves your English or any other language in which

you are reading it; it enhances your confidence and it makes lives easier as you are updated with the current issues, achievements, facts, discoveries, research, laws, events, ideologies, politics, movements, historical facts and what not? It also improves your memory to a certain extent and increases your reading skills and indirectly writing skills, as well.

Newspapers, since their circulation beginning in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century, have become a part and parcel of our lives. Without them, our mornings seem to be incomplete. For some, it is not just the paper but a vital link to the outside world. Newspaper reading has become an essential part of our life. Reading it every morning, we get to learn new things and amuse ourselves with the engaging information contained within the pages.

Reading newspapers daily is a habit that every student should cultivate as there are multitudes of benefits of reading newspapers that help a student become an all-rounder; advance in academics & career, and achieve excellence in life. It becomes their means to update themselves with everything ongoing in their city, state, country, and the world.

It is said that knowledge is power and that is exactly what the newspaper brings to your door - information about the current

# Why Should We Read Newspapers Daily?

By Dr Than Lwin Tun

happenings of the world so that you can form your opinion, take your stance, and have the power with you to choose the correct course of action. The following are several persuasive reasons why we should make reading newspapers daily as part of our daily routine.

### ❖ Staying Informed About Current Events

One of the most significant reasons to read daily newspapers is to stay informed about current events. News stories, whether they pertain to politics, economics, international relations, or social issues, can have a profound impact on our lives. Reading newspapers allows us to keep up with the latest developments,

ensuring that we are knowledgeable about what's happening in our community, country, and the world. Being informed not only helps us make better decisions but also enhances our ability to participate in conversations, debates, and discussions on important topics.

### ❖ Fostering Critical Thinking and Awareness

Reading daily newspapers also encourages critical thinking. As you navigate through various articles, you're exposed to different perspectives, opinions, and analyses of the same event. This encourages you to think critically, question assumptions, and develop your informed viewpoint. For instance, a political article

may present multiple angles on a policy issue, and as a reader, you must evaluate the facts, consider the implications, and form an independent opinion. Newspapers often provide in-depth reporting, giving readers a chance to think about the long-term consequences of decisions made by governments or corporations. This cultivates a deeper understanding of complex issues, fostering a more aware and informed citizenry.

### ❖ Improving Language and Communication Skills

Another often overlooked benefit of reading newspapers is the improvement of language and communication skills. Daily newspapers are filled with rich vocabulary, complex sentence

structures, and varied writing styles. By reading these articles regularly, readers can significantly improve their reading comprehension, vocabulary, and writing abilities. Newspapers also offer diverse content, including feature stories, editorials, interviews, and more, allowing readers to gain exposure to various writing techniques and tones. Moreover, frequent exposure to formal, well-structured language can help individuals become more articulate and effective communicators, both in writing and in speech. These enhanced communication skills are invaluable in personal and professional contexts.

### ❖ Access to Diverse Opinions and Perspectives

One of the unique features of newspapers is their ability to present a wide range of opinions. From editorials and columns to letters to the editor, newspapers often include diverse viewpoints on various issues. This exposure to differing opinions is essential in a democracy, as it broadens our understanding of the world and challenges our preconceived notions. By reading a variety of perspectives, readers can develop empathy and a more balanced view of the issues that shape our society. Furthermore, newspapers often cover local, national, and international news, offering

a comprehensive look at global events and trends. This helps readers become more globally aware and appreciative of the diversity of cultures and experiences around the world.

### ❖ Promoting Civic Engagement

Reading daily newspapers is also an excellent way to engage in civic life. Newspapers play a vital role in informing the public about local government activities, elections, public policies, and social issues. By staying informed, citizens are better equipped to make their voices heard and take action on issues that matter to them. Whether it's voting in elections, participating in community events, or advocating for social justice, a well-informed citizenry is the backbone of a healthy democracy. Moreover, many newspapers offer opportunities for readers to interact with the content, such as submitting letters to the editor or participating in online discussions. These avenues of engagement allow readers to take an active role in shaping the dialogue on important matters.

### ❖ Establishing a Daily Routine and Mindful Consumption of Information

Reading a daily newspaper helps establish a healthy routine of mindful information consumption. In contrast to the instant

and often overwhelming nature of social media, newspapers provide a curated selection of news, offering a more structured and balanced approach to staying informed. Newspapers filter out the noise, allowing readers to focus on the most important stories of the day. This disciplined approach to consuming news encourages readers to take their time, reflect on the information, and avoid falling into the trap of sensationalism or misinformation. In addition, reading daily newspapers offers a range of benefits that contribute to both personal and societal well-being. It keeps readers informed about current events, encourages critical thinking, enhances language skills, and promotes civic engagement. Furthermore, it exposes readers to diverse viewpoints, making them more empathetic and understanding of global issues. In an era where information is abundant, reading daily newspapers remains an invaluable tool for cultivating an informed, thoughtful, and active person.

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## Just looking at images of nature can relieve pain, study finds

**S**IMPLY looking at nature — or even just digital pictures of it — can relieve pain, according to new research which scanned the brains of people receiving electrical shocks.

Nature's many health benefits has been documented by decades of research.

More than 40 years ago, a pioneering study showed that hospitalised patients needed fewer painkillers and recovered quicker when they looked out of a window onto green space rather than a brick wall.

"Yet until now, the underlying reasons for this effect were unclear," said Maximilian Stei-

### KEY POINTS:

- New research indicates that viewing nature, even through digital images, can alleviate pain, as demonstrated by brain scans of participants receiving electrical shocks.
- The study found that natural landscapes reduced activity in the brain's nociception area, which is involved in pain perception, suggesting that nature captures attention and diverts focus from pain.
- This discovery has significant practical implications, as it highlights the potential for virtual nature exposure to provide pain relief and encourages further exploration of nature's effects on mental health.

ninger, a neuroscientist at the University of Vienna and lead

author of a study published in Nature Communications on

Thursday.

The problem is that both na-



Feel better? Just looking at digital pictures of nature can help relieve pain, according to new research. **PHOTO: DPA/AFP/FILE**

ture and pain can be subjective.

Because people like nature, it could have a placebo effect.

Or what if it is not nature that reduces pain, but city life that increases it?

To find out more, the researchers recorded the brain activity of 49 volunteers using

functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI).

The subjects looked at different images while receiving a series of electric shocks — some more painful than others — on the back of their left hand.

The first scene depicted a lake surrounded by trees blowing in the wind, while the sounds of rustling leaves and birdsong played in the background.

In the second scene, some urban elements such as buildings, benches and alleyways were added, while city noise intruded.

The third scene was of an office, with the accompanying drab furniture and whir of work.

Not only did the participants report feeling less pain when they looking at the natural landscapes, the fMRI scans showed there was a difference in their brains.

**SOURCE: AFP**



# NATIONAL

## Nepali Ambassador calls on MoRAC Union Minister

UNION Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture, U Tin Oo Lwin, met Mr Harishchandra Ghimire, Ambassador of Nepal to Myanmar, at the Union Minister's reception hall yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, they discussed matters relating to the upcoming "Nepal-Myanmar Partnership in Digital Transformation Programme", scheduled to be held in Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw in March 2025. The Nepali side

expressed an interest in inviting ministry officials responsible for Information and Technology (IT) to participate in the programme.

Additionally, they exchanged views on potential collaborations between the two countries in utilizing IT solutions to enhance services in the religious and cultural fields.

The meeting was also attended by Permanent Secretary U Myint Oo and other relevant officials. — MNA/MKKS



Union Minister U Tin Oo Lwin receives Nepal's Ambassador Mr Harishchandra Ghimire yesterday.



The meeting between MoFA Deputy Minister U Ko Ko Kyaw and the Philippines delegation underway yesterday.

## MoFA Deputy Minister receives delegation led by Deputy Foreign Minister of Philippines

U Ko Ko Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar received a delegation led by Mr Eduardo Jose A De Vega, Deputy Foreign Minister of the Philippines, Undersecretary for Migrant Workers' Affairs, the Department of Foreign Affairs, yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay

Pyi Taw.

Both sides cordially exchanged views on matters related to the enhancement of bilateral relationships, consular affairs, economic cooperation, promoting trade and investment and exploring new opportunities for further collaboration between Myanmar and the Philippines. — MNA

## MoFA Deputy Minister receives UN RC/HC ad interim

DEPUTY Minister for Foreign Affairs U Lwin Oo received Mr Marcoluigi Corsi, United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator ad interim (UN RC/HC ai), yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

They exchanged views on matters related to the existing cooperation between the Government of Myanmar and the United Nations agencies. — MNA



UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator ad interim Mr Marcoluigi Corsi calls on Deputy Minister U Lwin Oo.

## Counter-argument to false information

### Misinformation: 20 youths arrested at Inya Lake

MALICIOUS news media spread false reports that security forces arbitrarily detained 20 youths at Inya Lake along Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, with six of them allegedly taken away.

According to a local securi-

ty official, this news is entirely unfounded. Security forces are conducting operations under the law to maintain regional stability, and there have been no arbitrary arrests or interrogations of civilians. In contrast, it is insurgents who forcibly

recruit individuals of all ages against their will.

Destructive news outlets are deliberately circulating such misinformation to mislead the public and tarnish the image of security forces. — MNA/KZL

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# NATIONAL

## Yangon drug bust: 3 tonnes of meth, 200kg ketamine seized

A drug trafficking group was apprehended in Yangon Region, with over K96 billion worth of methamphetamine weighing three tonnes and 200 kilograms of ketamine.

According to the Myanmar Police Force, a joint operation led by the Anti-Narcotics Police Force took place on the evening of 6 March. At around 7:30 pm, authorities raided a warehouse in the 144<sup>th</sup> Ward of Dagon Myothit (South) Township and seized 1.2 tonnes of methamphetamine, along with several vehicles, including a Toyota Hilux, a Toyota Land Cruiser and a Mercedes-Benz.

The operation led to the arrest of five individuals involved in the drug trafficking network including Than Lwin, Waiya Aung (aka) Thar Gyi, Thant Kaung Set (aka) Paung Chain, Ye Yint Naing and Hla Than Oo (aka) Yar Kut). The methamphetamine was reportedly part of a trade managed by Tin Maung Win, a regional operator in Pan San Township (Wa Self-administered Division) who facilitated the transport and sale of the drugs.

On 6 March at around 9:30



Five arrestees are seen alongside confiscated drugs and vehicles.

pm, authorities tracked down a Hyundai Box vehicle driven by Kyaw Kyaw Thein (aka) Kyaw Kyaw (aka) Athelay in the (D) Ward of North Okkalapa Township. During the search, they seized 1.265 tonnes of methamphetamine and 200 kilograms of ketamine from the vehicle. The drugs were

intended to be transported via sea from Malaysia.

The operation was managed by AA business operator Ye Win (aka) Kyaw Soe Lin and his wife Ma Thida Myint, the owner of the Shwe Kaung Tha fishing boat. In Yangon, Min Min Soe was arrested for receiving the drugs, which were

to be shipped to Malaysia using the Shwe Kaung Tha boat.

Furthermore, the same boat was used to transport methamphetamine to Malaysia in February 2023. During this operation, the leader of the drug trafficking network, Myo Min Soe (aka) Ko Myo was captured with a Celsior

vehicle in North Okkalapa. Authorities also seized one tonne of methamphetamine from his residence in North Dagon Township. The operation led to the arrests of Kyaw Wai Htun, Thein Htun (aka) Thant Zin, Yan Shin Aung, and Zaw Zaw Aung in Seikkyi Khanaungto, along with the Shwe Kaung Tha boat. In total, 3.465 tonnes of methamphetamine and 200 kilograms of ketamine, valued at K96.625 billion were seized.

AA business operator Ye Win (aka) Kyaw Soe Lin and his wife Ma Thida Myint were operating vehicle rental businesses in Tangyan, Taunggyi, Mandalay and Yangon, using 16 passenger transport vehicles for their illegal logistics operations. They are reportedly under investigation for violations of drug-related laws. Authorities are working to seize the profits and assets derived from drug trafficking activities and efforts are ongoing to ensure these assets are confiscated under anti-money laundering laws to be held in the public treasury. — MNA/KZL

## 189 foreign telecom fraud suspects deported, 242 detained

AUTHORITIES deported 189 foreign nationals involved in telecom fraud to their respective countries, while another 242 individuals were detained for further investigation.

These foreign nationals illegally entered Myanmar through land borders, including those passing through neighbouring countries such as Thailand. They were found engaging in illegal online gambling and fraudulent activities in areas such as Myawaddy, Shwe Kokko, Maetawthalay, Min Let Pan and KK Park areas in Kayin State.

On this occasion, 169 Indonesian nationals, 19 Bangladeshi nationals and one Japanese national – a total of 189 individuals – were deported through the No 2 Myanmar-Thailand Friendship



Deportation process underway for telecom fraudsters.

Bridge. The deportation process was carried out in line with legal procedures, with consideration for humanitarian concerns and international relations.

Kayin State Security and

Border Affairs Minister Colonel Min Thu Kyaw oversaw the deportation process, ensuring systematic procedures and addressing any necessary arrangements in coordination with

relevant officials. The handover ceremony saw representatives from Myanmar's government, as well as diplomatic officials including Mr Md Fahad Pervez Bosunia from the Bangladesh Embassy in Thailand, Mr Judha Nugraha from Indonesia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and First Secretary Naoto Watanabe from the Japanese Embassy in Thailand. Officials from Thailand's Tak Province Immigration Department also participated.

Another 180 Chinese nationals and 62 Ethiopian nationals, who illegally entered Myanmar through Myawaddy and the KK Park area were recently detained. Authorities are now verifying their details and records to facilitate their swift repatriation.

From 30 January to 18 March 2025, a total of 7,107 foreign nationals who unlawfully entered Myanmar were identified and detained. Among them, 4,191 were deported to their respective countries via Thailand in compliance with legal procedures, while the remaining 2,916 are awaiting deportation under proper care.

The majority of these detained individuals are Chinese nationals with others from Indonesia, Vietnam, Malaysia, Pakistan, India, Uganda, Ethiopia, Nepal, Thailand, Rwanda, Kenya, Kazakhstan, Cambodia, Ghana, Bangladesh, Japan, Sri Lanka, various African nations, Tunisia, Algeria, Congo, Cameroon and Chinese Taipei. — MNA/KZL



# NATIONAL

## Chauk, Magway added to world's hottest cities list

CHAUK and Magway townships in Magway Region have been added to the list of the hottest cities in the world, according to the El Dorado Weather, a climate observatory website.

On the morning of 17 March, the El Dorado Weather website, which publishes real-time global temperature and precipitation data, reported that Chauk reached 44.3 degrees Celsius (111.2 degrees Fahrenheit), making it the second hottest city globally, while Magway recorded a maximum temperature of 43.2 degrees Celsius (109.76 de-

grees Fahrenheit), ranking it 13<sup>th</sup> on the list of the hottest cities in the world.

The Department of Meteorology and Hydrology's mid-March forecast (for the second 10 days of March) indicates that at least eight regions and states, including Magway Region, could experience temperatures 1.5 degrees Celsius (34.7 degrees Fahrenheit) above the March average.

Chauk Township in Magway Region holds the record for the hottest city in Myanmar, with temperatures reaching 48.2 degrees Celsius in April of last year. — ASH/TH



This photo captures elderly people at heat relief camps opened in Chauk and Magway, where record temperatures rose last April.

## Summer heat sparks delight in bamboo handicrafts

WHEN the summer becomes hotter, purchase of the bamboo handicrafts has elevated.

Bamboo products are light and strong and can give the essence of the nature. Being a natural material, bamboo products can give health benefits, attracting people to buy especially when the summer heat rises.

"Rather than youths, the elder people prefer bamboo handicrafts which can make them cold in the summer. Bamboo stools, bamboo chairs, bam-

boo shelves, bamboo beds and bamboo pillows are now sold well," said a man who sells bamboo and accessories.

Bamboo products are environmentally friendly and good for human health. They can give a natural look and are being used for interior decoration.

According to a bamboo expert, over recent years, bamboo has been widely used as utensils, sculptures, furniture and accessories at resorts, tea-shops and restaurants to create a natural vibe. — MT/ZS



Images showcase bamboo handicrafts being sold well this summer.

## Myaysa: A powerful tale of working class premieres nationwide

REPORTS read that the 'Myaysa' (Grass Roots) film, based on real-life events portraying the struggles and dreams of the working class, is set to premiere in major cinemas across the country in the final week of March.

Lwan Wai Aung wrote the film's story and script, while director Nay Paing directed the film for Shwe Nadi Shwe Yi Film Production.

"This movie is a heartfelt drama based on true events. It follows the life of Kogyi Htun Mya, a city sanitation truck driver, and Ko Pho Htaung, a dedicated street cleaner who tirelessly supports his family despite many hardships. In this story, we will see the family life between Ko Phoe Htaung, who works honestly and dedicates his life to his family with dignity in every job and Ko Phoe Taung's brother (Sithu Win) and sister (Than Tha Nyi) who wants to hide the truth of life and live a happy life. This film will show the life and dreams of the working class," said actor Sin Ma Ka.

The cast includes Academy Myint Myat, Academy Aye Myat Thu, Phone Min Nay La, Sithu Win, Than Tha Nyi, Sin Ma and many others. — ASH/MKKS



This photo showcases a poster for the 'Myaysa' movie.



This image depicts an advert for Sithu Lwin's Birthday Show concert.

## Birthday Show live at The Radio Bar – 25 Mar

SINGER Si Thu Lwin's Birthday Show concert is set to take place at The Radio Bar in Yankin Township, Yangon Region, at 7 pm on 25 March, according to the singer.

The concert will feature performances by Si Thu Lwin, alongside fellow singers He Lay and Rebecca Win. Their performances will be accompanied by Plus Three Band, which will provide the best musical support for the event.

"I would like to thank The Radio Bar for organizing this birthday concert, as well as He Lay and Rebecca Win for their support in performing. I invite everyone to join us for a wonderful summer night filled with great music," said Si Thu Lwin. — ASH/MKKS

### Daily newspapers available online

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

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# Volkswagen, FAW eye ambitious product expansion to tap Chinese EV market

VOLKSWAGEN Group and FAW Group have signed a new agreement on a roadmap for future models in the Chinese FAW-Volkswagen joint venture, in an ambitious product expansion plan to tap into China's booming electric vehicle market. From 2026, FAW-Volkswagen plans to introduce 10 new Volkswagen-brand mod-

els and one Jetta-brand model tailored for the Chinese market, Volkswagen Group China said on Monday. There will be 10 new energy vehicles (NEVs) -- six pure electric models (BEVs), two plug-in hybrid models (PHEVs) and two range-extenders (EREVs) -- and just one fuel-powered model. The Jetta brand will

launch its first all-electric model by 2026 as part of a strategic pivot to tap into China's fast-growing entry-level BEV market. Volkswagen Group is powering its transformation in China by advancing its capabilities in e-mobility, digitalization and autonomous driving. Future products will have upgraded intelligent features, such as



A Volkswagen ID.6 CROZZ vehicle is displayed during the 20th Changchun International Auto Expo in Changchun, capital of northeast China's Jilin Province, 20 July 2023. PHOTO: XINHUA

advanced digital services and Advanced Driving Assistance System (ADAS) functions, according to Volkswagen Group China. Until 2030, the brands of FAW-Volkswagen will introduce over 20 all-new models to the market, according to Volkswagen Group. — Xinhua

# Indonesia prepares 21 downstream projects worth US\$40 bln

THE Indonesian government has prepared at least 21 downstream projects worth US\$40 billion to advance its downstream agenda, a senior official said Tuesday. The projects span various strategic sectors, including oil and gas, mining, agriculture, and marine industries. Secretary General of Indonesia's Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources Dadan Kusdiana said the 21 downstream projects include four

Dimethyl Ether (DME) projects, one iron project, one alumina project, one aluminium project, two copper projects, and two nickel projects. "The entire master plan was prepared by the previous government. This is not a sudden initiative. We also have a downstream task force responsible for improving policy coordination with local governments, implementing business priority standards, and enhancing state revenue. This co-

ordination has accelerated the downstreaming process," Kusdiana said at the Indonesia Mining Forum in Jakarta. Previously, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Bahlil Lahadalia said that one of the priority projects was the construction of an oil storage facility on Nipah Island to enhance national energy security. The storage facility is expected to meet national demand for 30 days, he noted. — Xinhua

## Changing Distributor for Registered Pesticide

Distribution of pesticide registered by Shandong Weifang Rainbow Chemical Co., Ltd is changing from RAINBOW AGROSCIENCES CO., LTD to Agroterrum Myanmar Co., Ltd. Any objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Co-Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein within 2 weeks.

No.	Name	Active Ingredient	Registration No.
1	Chrole 240 SC	Chlorfenapyr 240 g/l SC	P2022-5708
2	Nomita 20 SP	Acetamiprid 20% SP	P2022-5707
3	Prize 50 EC	Emamectin Benzoate 50g/l EC	P2022-5906
4	Cleanspray 96 SG	2,4-D DMA 96% SG	F2020-2510
5	Difree 250 EC	Difenoconazole 250g/l EC	P2022-5706

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## MYANMA Port Authority "NOTICE of High Tide"

EXCEPTIONALLY high spring from 20.01 feet to 20.24 feet high above the chart datum are expected to occur in Yangon River during the period of March 30<sup>th</sup> to April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025. Please be noted that it is not serious level of tide because the highest tide level have reached up to 22 feet above the chart datum in year 2014 and 2015, and this notice is normally issued whenever high tide of Yangon River is expected to reach over 20 feet high above the chart datum in order to take precautionary measures to the public living near river foreshore area of Yangon City.

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V XO LUCKY VOY.NO. (X2506E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V XO LUCKY VOY.NO. (X2506E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **19-3-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.  
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

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## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

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Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (147N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **19-3-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

## WORLD

## Astronauts finally head home after unexpected nine-month ISS stay



This screengrab made from a NASA video shows astronauts Butch Wilmore (L) and Suni Williams (R) posing for pictures before departing from the International Space Station on 18 March 2025. **PHOTO: NASA / AFP**

A pair of astronauts stranded in space for more than nine months were finally headed home Tuesday after their capsule undocked from the International Space Station.

The SpaceX craft carrying Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams detached from the orbital outpost at 0505 GMT, ending their prolonged mission that has captivated global attention.

The NASA duo are joined onboard by American Nick Hague and Russian cosmonaut Aleksandr Gorbunov.

The crew are now settling in for

the 17-hour journey back to Earth, and were given permission to change from their space suits into more comfortable clothes.

If all goes smoothly, the capsule will deploy its parachutes off the coast of Florida for an ocean splashdown around 2157 GMT Tuesday, when a recovery vessel will retrieve the crew.

Wilmore and Williams flew to the orbital lab in June last year, on what was supposed to be a days-long roundtrip to test out Boeing's Starliner on its first crewed flight.

But the spaceship developed pro-

pulsion problems and was deemed unfit to fly them back, instead returning empty. Ex-Navy pilots Wilmore and Williams, 62 and 59 respectively, were reassigned to the NASA-SpaceX Crew-9 mission, which saw a Dragon spacecraft fly to the ISS last September with a team of two, rather than the usual four, to make room for the "stranded" pair.

Then, early Sunday, a relief team called Crew-10 docked with the station, their arrival met with broad smiles and hugs as they floated through the hatch. — AFP

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### 3 earthquakes shake Indonesia, 1 death reported in North Sumatra

THREE earthquakes struck Indonesia on Tuesday, with a 5.5-magnitude tremor hitting North Sumatra province in the morning, and two earlier quakes in Maluku and East Nusa Tenggara, the country's Meteorology, Climatology, and Geophysics Agency reported.

The 5.5-magnitude quake struck North Sumatra province at 5:22 am local time on Tuesday. The epicentre was located 17 kilometres southeast of North Tapanuli Regency at a depth of 10 kilometres. "One person was killed, and another was injured. Several houses and a road were severely damaged and the road is now impassable for transport," head of the emergency, equipment, and logistics unit of North Sumatra Provincial Disaster Management Agency Sri Wahyuni Pancasilawati told Xinhua. — Xinhua

#### Sri Lanka to launch paid medical services in tourist zones to boost health tourism

As part of its initiative to promote the health tourism industry and generate foreign exchange, the Sri Lankan government plans to introduce paid services at state-run Western and Ayurvedic hospitals in tourist zones, the Health Ministry announced in a press release on Tuesday, citing ministry secretary Anil Jasinghe.

Jasinghe stated that the first phase of the programme will focus on upgrading Pottuvil Base Hospital, which is located near Arugam Bay Beach ranked among the world's top surfing destinations.

The hospital will offer an integrated medical service combining Western and Ayurvedic treatments, he said.

He further explained that foreign tourists receiving treatment at these hospitals will be required to make payments online. A system has been established to channel these funds into the National Health Development Fund, which will then reinvest the money into the development of the respective hospitals. — Xinhua

## Japan finance minister calls US tariffs "regrettable" at G7 talks

JAPANESE Finance Minister Katsunobu Kato said he told his Group of Seven counterparts that the US decision to impose tariffs on all steel and aluminium imports was "regrettable" during their online meeting on Monday, emphasizing the importance of global trade rules.

Kato told reporters in Tokyo after the virtual gathering, chaired by Canada as this year's

G7 host, that industrial policies, including tariffs, "should ensure predictability" and that decisions must be "based on international rules".

"Given the current global situation, the G7 will lead a free, open and rules-based international economic system," Kato said, apparently referring to US President Donald Trump, who has pursued his "America First"

principle to bolster the world's biggest economy.

Since his inauguration on 20 January, Trump's administration has announced a series of tariffs, such as 25 per cent duties on all steel and aluminium imports, which came into force on Wednesday, triggering retaliatory moves by some of its major trading partners. — Kyodo



Japanese Finance Minister Katsunobu Kato attends online G7 talks at the Finance Ministry in Tokyo on 17 March 2025. (Photo courtesy of the Finance Ministry) **PHOTO: KYODO**



# SPORTS

## MFF kicks off free summer football training



The opening ceremony for free training sessions is seen at the National Football Academy (Yangon) on 17 March.

THE Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) began the MFF Summer Football Skills Course 2025 in Yangon, Mandalay, Taunggyi and Patheingyi. Over 1,400 trainees are taking part in the free basic football and futsal training sessions starting 17 March.

The opening ceremony for the courses was held in Yangon on 17 March at the National Football Academy (Yangon), Yangon artificial turf and the MFF Futsal Stadium.

The MFF also plans to recruit new students for the

National Football Academy (Mandalay) and National Football Academy (Yangon) for the 2025-2026 academic year to develop the next generation of football players. — ASH/KZL

## Messi out injured as Argentina seek to seal World Cup place

LIONEL Messi will miss Argentina's World Cup qualifiers this month after suffering a groin strain in Inter Miami's victory over Atlanta at the weekend, his club confirmed on Monday.

Messi was left out of Argentina's squad for the world champions' clash against Uruguay on Friday, which is followed by a showdown with Brazil on March 25.

Inter Miami said in a statement that a scan had revealed Messi suffered a "low-grade injury in the adductor muscle" in the 2-1 win on Sunday. The statement gave no timetable for Messi's return.

"His clinical progress and response to treatment will determine his availability for competition," Inter said.

After missing three games for Inter earlier this month, the 37-year-old returned with a goal off the bench in a CONCACAF Champions Cup win.

Argentina, the defending World Cup champions, can ensure qualification for next year's tournament in their next two games.

They lead the 10-team South American qualifying group by five points ahead of the game with Uruguay in Montevideo.

The top six teams qualify directly for the World Cup in the United States, Mexico and Canada. The seventh-placed team is currently Bolivia with 13 points.

After 12 rounds, Messi is the top scorer in the competition with six goals.

Argentina are also without injured Roma striker Paulo Dybala and River Plate full-back Paulo Montiel.

Brazil will be without 33-year-old Neymar, who has suffered a thigh injury and has had to postpone his return to the national team, who are fifth, seven points behind Argentina. — AFP



Inter Miami's Argentine forward (10) Lionel Messi (C) kicks the ball during the CONCACAF Champions Cup match between Inter Miami CF and Sporting Kansas City at Chase Stadium in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, on 25 February 2025. PHOTO: AFP



PHOTO: ONE CHAMPIONSHIP

## Soe Lin Oo to face British fighter in USA

MYANMAR fighter Soe Lin Oo will take on British fighter Harrison in the ONE 173 event, which will take place in the United States on 1 August.

The Myanmar warrior will face British star Harrison in a bantamweight Muay Thai challenge bout. Soe Lin Oo has been given over four months to prepare for the match and will be aiming for a victory to break his losing streak.

The Myanmar legend has fought six times under ONE Championship, securing three wins and suffering three losses. His last three fights all ended in decision losses, making this upcoming bout a crucial opportunity for redemption.

His opponent, Harrison, has also fought six times under ONE Championship, recording two wins and four losses. — Shine Htet Zaw/KZL





# Egypt, Arab League condemn Israeli airstrikes on Gaza as ceasefire violation



Palestinian youths salvage items from the destroyed house of the Quayqea family in the Shujaiya district in eastern Gaza City on 18 March 2025 following Israeli strikes at dawn. Israel on 18 March unleashed its most intense strikes on the Gaza Strip since a January ceasefire, with Gaza's health ministry saying their toll rose to 413 people killed, and the Palestinian Hamas movement accusing Israel's premier of deciding to "resume war" after a deadlock on extending the truce. **PHOTO: AFP**

**E**GYPT and the Arab League (AL) on Tuesday strongly condemned Israel's latest airstrikes on the Gaza Strip, calling them a brutal escalation and a blatant violation of the ceasefire agreement.

The Israeli move "represents a dangerous escalation that threatens to have severe consequences for the stability of the region", the Egyptian Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

Egypt reiterated its full rejection of Israel's offensive, which it said was aimed at "reintroducing tension to the region and undermining efforts to achieve de-escalation and restore stability".

Cairo, a key mediator in the fragile ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, urged the international community to intervene immediately "to prevent the region from falling back into a renewed cycle of violence and counter-violence".

Egypt also called on all parties to "exercise restraint and allow mediators to resume their efforts to achieve a permanent ceasefire".

The Israeli airstrikes, launched in the early hours of Tuesday, killed at least 413 Palestinians and wounded hundreds of others, according to the latest update from Gaza's health authorities. — Xinhua

## Trump's economic approval rating hits record low: NBC poll

THE latest NBC News poll showed that US President Donald Trump's approval rating on economy has hit a record low. The poll showed that 54 per cent of voters disapprove of Trump's early job performance on the economy, while 55 per cent disapprove of his way of handling inflation and the cost of living.

Driven in part by a pessimistic shift among Democrats since Trump's election, only 18 per cent of voters rate the economy as "excellent" or "good", it said. NBC News said that Trump is confronting jittery markets and businesses amid his early moves to put tariffs on US neighbours and other allies, and he also faces questions from voters about whether he is sufficiently focused on their core issue of costs as he pursues other projects like reshaping the federal bureaucracy.

Trump's job approval rating reached his best-ever mark of 47 per cent as president, though again, 51 per cent of the voters disapprove of his performance, according to the poll. — Xinhua

## Iran's deputy FM says talks with IAEA chief "frank, constructive"

IRAN'S Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi said Monday that his talks with Rafael Grossi, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), earlier in the day were "frank and constructive".

Gharibabadi made the remarks in a post on X while commenting on his meeting with Grossi in the Austrian capital Vienna.

Gharibabadi said during the meeting, they exchanged views on cooperation between Iran and the IAEA, the resolution of two outstanding issues, nuclear facility security, the latest developments surrounding Iran's nuclear issue, and the lifting of sanctions.

He added Iran and the IAEA had a "longstanding" history of cooperation, which allows for the resolution of remaining differences "provided that external political pressures on the agency are eliminated and the IAEA adopts an independent, technical, impartial, and professional approach".

Gharibabadi stressed that while safeguarding its national security and interests, "Iran remains committed to cooperating with the IAEA within the framework of its safeguards obligations". — Xinhua



Published on X by Kazem Gharibabadi (left), Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs, he meets Rafael Grossi, director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in the Austrian capital Vienna, on 17 March 2025. **PHOTO: CHINA DAILY**