

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Science and Technology Ministry to implement two projects with Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Special Fund

The Department of Research and Innovation under the Ministry of Science and Technology stated that the ministry will implement two projects with the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Special Fund (2024).

In this regard, the fund will be allocated for the project to build a research centre on innovative bamboo products and another project to enhance innovations with participation of ICT to contribute to digital economy.

If bamboo industries boom in Myanmar, it will be an important opportunity for rural development. Likewise, if the country implements the projects on ICT collaborated innovations, Myanmar will have the chance to keep abreast of other countries in advancement of technologies worldwide and will have necessary skills in the digital age.

The Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Special Fund (2024) will benefit implementation of the plan to establish Cloud Computing, Cybersecurity Training, Data Analytics, National Tech Transfer and Database contributing to the digital economy of the State.

Furthermore, upon completion of



Photo shows handiworks made of rattan and bamboo.

establishing a research centre for innovation of bamboo products, export products of construction, furniture and handiworks industries using bamboo

sources can be bolstered, creating jobs for people from rural regions.

Currently, there are nine companies manufacturing rattan and bamboo

works across Myanmar, exporting 80 per cent of projects while distributing these products for 20 per cent at home markets. — ASH/TTA



This photo shows officials measuring air quality.

Yangon Air Quality Acceptable; Other Areas Face Risk!

According to measurements taken between 1 and 15 March 2025, by the Department of Environ-

mental Conservation under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, the ambient air quality

in Yangon Region is generally within acceptable levels.

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Sittway to host Traditional Rakhine Thingyan Festival



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Pre-Thingyan edible oil-selling fair to feature products from domestic oil mills

NATIONAL

Quality Seeds and Techniques: The Backbone of Agriculture

BASICALLY, thriving agriculture requires quality seeds, fertile soil, natural and inorganic fertilizers, an adequate volume of agricultural water, and proper farming techniques.

(Excerpt from the speech given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with the Magway Region government and district-level departmental officials on 24 May 2024 to talk about regional development)

Objectives of 80th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day 2025

- 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;
- To steadfastly carry out measures for State development and genuine, eternal peace by ending the armed conflicts under the Constitution (2008) and NCA;
- To protect the State and its citizens from dangers and provide sector-wise assistance for the safety and socioeconomic development of the people;
- 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.



The ceremony to present certificates of passing religious examinations in progress at Maha Thukhazawtika monastery in Pyay yesterday. **PHOTO: MAUNG SHWE WIN (PYAY)**

Victorious monks and novices in religious exams honoured

A ceremony to offer certificate of passing the examination took place at Maha Thukhazawtika Monastery of Zawtikayon Pali Tekkatho Monastery in Pyay of Bago Region yesterday.

Chairman of Bago Region (West) Sangha Nayaka Committee Presiding Patron of Zawtikayon Pali Tekkatho Monastery in Pyay Aggama-ha Pandita Bhaddanta Sumangala delivered a speech on the occasion.

Venerable members of the Sangha presented certificate to eight monks for passing the

government Nikaya exam, 16 monks in the government Dhammacariya exam, and other monks and novices in the Pahtamalal and Pahtamange exams and relevant religious examinations.

The ceremony was attended by Chair of Pariyatti Sasana Nuggaha Association U Thein Tan (Karaweik robe house), secretary U Tin Win Naing (Lin Yaung Chi gold shop), executives and members as well as those from religious organizations in Pyay. — Maung Shwe Win (Pyay)/TTA

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	

Yangon Air Quality Acceptable; Other Areas Face Risk!

FROM PAGE 1

To assess the ambient air quality across the country, the Department of Environmental Conservation regularly measures air quality parameters at designated sampling points in the Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, regions, and states. According to measurements taken in March 2025, the air quality in Dagon Township, where the Yangon Region Government Office is located; Kamayut Township, where the International

Business Centre is located; and Dagon Myothit (South) Township in Yangon Region is at an acceptable level.

The air quality in townships such as Pobbathiri in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, Aungmyaythazan, NyaungU, Kyaukse, PyinOoLwin, and Meiktila in Mandalay Region; Monywa in Sagaing Region; Bago in Bago Region; Pathein in Ayeyawady Region; Myawady and Hpa-an in Kayin State; and Mawlamyine in Mon State is at an acceptable level.

The air quality in Patheingyi and Amarapura in Mandalay Region and Kengtung in Shan State is at a level that may affect health.

The air quality in townships such as Thayet in Magway Region, Myeik and Dawei in Taninthayi Region, and Monghsat in Shan State is reported to have acceptable air quality. In addition, the air quality in Monywa in Sagaing Region and Magway in Magway Region is at a level that affects only vulnerable individuals.

Air quality is regularly measured and analyzed using instruments such as the Environmental Perimeter Air Station (EPAS) — Haz-Scanner, Air Quality Monitoring Station (AQM-65), Scentroid (SL-50 Scentinal), Aeroqual (Series 500 Portable Air Quality Monitor), AQMesh (Dust Analyzer – 1941150, Gas Analyzer – 1940150), Portable Beta Attenuation Mass Monitor (BAM 1022), Air Quality Monitoring Station (AQMS), and Continuous Particulate Mon-

itor. Key parameters, such as Particulate Matter 2.5 (PM2.5), Particulate Matter 10 (PM10), Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂), Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂), Ozone (O₃), and Carbon Monoxide (CO), are also measured.

In addition, the ambient air quality results may vary depending on factors such as air temperature, wind speed, wind direction, humidity, rainfall, vehicle usage, emissions from factories, and the surrounding environment at the measurement site. — ASH/TH

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)

65th Anniversary of World Meteorological Day marked

A ceremony to mark the 65th Anniversary of World Meteorological Day was held at the Ministry of Transport and Communications in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

State Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Transport and Communications General Mya Tun Oo, Union Ministers for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, for Science and Technology, and for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement attended the event, along with deputy ministers and officials from relevant ministries.

SAC Member DPM Union Minister General Mya Tun Oo delivered a speech at the event.

After his remarks, attendees



State Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister General Mya Tun Oo, along with the attendees, views the displays of Department of Meteorology and Hydrology at the yesterday event.

viewed a video message from WMO Secretary-General Professor Celeste Saulo and a video clip commemorating World Meteorological Day.

The General presented awards to the first, second, and third prize winners in the article competition. The General, along with the attendees, viewed the displays of Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.

In the afternoon, staff members of the MoTC, MoALI, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, the Ministry of Electric Power and the Ministry of Education discussed 18 papers on meteorology, hydrology and seismology. — MNA/KZL

MoI Union Minister visits factories in Yangon Region

UNION Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than visited No 24 Heavy Industry (Dagon) in Dagon Myothit (South) Township, Yangon Region yesterday morning.

During the inspection, the factory manager gave information regarding the factory's operations and production activities. In response, the Union Minister emphasized the importance of attracting both domestic and foreign investors to meet the country's electricity demands and ensure the continued production of solar panels. He also highlighted

the need to efficiently manage ministry-owned assets, continuously improve staff skills through learning and training in line with evolving technologies and implement strategies to enhance the performance of workers.

Following the visit to the factory, the Union Minister went to Shwe Katha Company Limited in Hline Township, which rents electronic equipment and electric motor factory. He then observed the production process of solar panels.

In a meeting with officials at the factory, the Union Minis-



Union Minister Dr Charlie Than looks into the product of No 24 Heavy Industry (Dagon) in Dagon Myothit (South) Township, Yangon Region yesterday.

ter discussed the use of solar panels not only for residential purposes but also for industrial applications. He stressed the importance of ensuring that products are reliable and of high quality, which would foster public trust in their use. Fur-

thermore, the production process must undergo systematic quality checks at each stage.

He also mentioned the need to expand the production of solar panels in response to increasing market demand. He noted that sustainable market presence

depends on careful and continuous market research, and the factory must conduct extensive market research to ensure long-term viability. The Union Minister coordinated with the responsible officials to address these matters. — MNA/KZL

NATIONAL



ished timber products. He also instructed that suitable timber species for furniture production be identified and that collaboration between the ministry and the private sector be strengthened.

Following this, the Union Minister met with officials at No 10 Furniture Factory of Myanma Timber Enterprise in Dagon

also called for coordination with relevant departments, organizations, and businessmen to enhance technology and human resource development. After the meeting, he inspected the factory's manufactured timber furniture.

He also visited the Great Myanmar Rattan Processing Factory in Dagon Myothit (South) Township, where he examined the supply of raw materials, the manufacturing process, and the export of rattan products. He also discussed the challenges faced by the industry with factory officials and provided necessary guidance.

At the agroforestry demonstration plot in Salu forest reserve, Bago Township, Bago Region. There, he inspected the intercropping of tree species such as ironwood, manjansha, gum-kino, and Mahogany, along with perennial trees such as mango, horseradish, jackfruit, and coffee. He also observed beekeeping activities and left the necessary instructions. — MNA/KNN

Union Minister U Khin Maung Yi visits the Chan Myae Thar Timber Processing Factory in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township, Yangon Region, yesterday.

Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Khin Maung Yi visited the Chan Myae Thar Timber Processing Factory in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township, Yangon Region, yesterday morning to inspect the production of teak, manjansha, and rubberwood furniture.

During the inspection, fac-

Wood-based industries need to seek market shares at home and abroad

tory officials briefed the Union minister on the supply of raw materials, the manufacturing process, domestic market demand, sales, and future business plans. The Union Minister emphasized the vital role of the

private sector in developing the timber-based manufacturing industry. He stated that cooperation between the ministry and businessmen is necessary to ensure a smooth supply of raw materials and the export of fin-

Myothit (South) Township. He stressed the need for the enterprise to focus on producing value-added timber products, seeking shares of domestic and international markets, and achieving financial targets. He

International experts depart from Yangon after the forum on Myanmar's 2025 challenges

EXPERTS on regional economics and politics from Japan, Thailand and Italy, who attended the forum on "Challenges and the Opportunities Myanmar Will Have in the Multipolar World Beyond 2025," departed from Yangon yesterday to return to their respective countries by air.

Those experts were seen off at Yangon International Airport by officials from the Department of Information and Public Relations under the Ministry of Information and the Myanmar Narrative Think Tank.

The experts from India and Nepal who participated in the event visited the Shwedagon Pagoda yesterday afternoon. They will depart from Yangon on 24 March. — MNA/KZL



Ms Suzuka Yoshida from Japan (L) and Mr Sihasak Phuangk Etkeow from Thailand (R) are seen off at Yangon International Airport by officials from the Department of Information and Public Relations and the Myanmar Narrative Think Tank.



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NATIONAL

Former Nepali PM visits Bagan, Lacquerware Technology College



FORMER Nepali Prime Minister Mr Madhav Kumar Nepal and his delegation, who are currently visiting Myanmar, paid a visit to Htilominlo Pagoda in the Bagan Ancient Cultural Zone yesterday morning.

During their visit, an official from the Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Bagan Branch) provided an explanation about the historical background of the pagoda. The pagoda trustees also presented a portrait of the pagoda as a gift.

Following this, they proceeded to the Lacquerware Technology College (Bagan), where the principal provided an overview of the college. The former Prime Minister and his delegation observed the lacquerware production process by students and visited lacquerware shops, including U Ba Nyein Lacquerware Store.

In the afternoon, the former Nepali Prime Minister and his delegation departed for Yangon by air. — MNA/KZL

Former Nepali Prime Minister Mr Madhav Kumar Nepal and his delegation visits Htilominlo Pagoda in the Bagan Ancient Cultural Zone yesterday morning.

“Atta Kanpar” Myanmar film set for nationwide release in April

THE Myanmar film “Atta Kanpar” is scheduled for release in April at major cinemas across the country. The film features performances by Academy Award-winning actress May Myint Mo, Wai Lar Yi, and veteran actress Khine Hnin Wai.

The movie is an adaptation of a novel by author Ponnami, with the screenplay written by Nya Hmwe Pan. Directed by Hein Soe, the film was produced under Mya Nan Taw Win Film Production.

Wai Lar Yi, one of the lead actors, shared her experience during filming, saying, “This film was quite challenging to shoot. Out of 26 scenes, I had to cry in 24 of them. I put in a lot of effort for my character, Ya Wei. It’s a fantastic film, so I hope the audience will support it when it hits the theatres”.

The film’s cast includes Shin



The film crew “Atta Kan Par” on scene.

Mwe La, Academy May Myint Mo, Wai Lar Yi, Khine Hnin Wai, Thondaray Oo, Zaw Win Naing (Mann), Thet Oo Ko, Win Min Than, and child actor Thun Pyae Thadar San. — ASH/KNN

Myanmar detains 160 foreigners for illegal border entry

THE Myanmar government, in cooperation with international organizations and Myanmar citizens, is working to combat online gambling and fraud and criminal activities in border area. Myanmar continues to combat illegal entry into the country through various routes, arresting 160 Chinese nationals who had entered Myanmar via illicit means.

Kayin State Minister for Security and Border Affairs Colonel Min Thu Kyaw and officials oversaw the transfer. They ensured the proper documentation and compliance with the legal procedures for the smooth transfer of these individuals.

Since 30 January 2025, Myanmar authorities have detained a total of 8,202 foreign nationals who entered Myanmar illegally. Of them,



Myanmar Immigration and officials processing undocumented foreign entrants.

5,147 were repatriated to their respective countries through Thailand. The remaining 3,055 are ready to be transferred soon.

The government uncovers the foreigners and those involved in the operations of

Online Scam to take effective actions and actively make efforts to transfer those foreigners in accordance with legal procedures, in collaboration with neighbouring countries including international organizations. — MNA/KZL

Daily newspapers available online

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News and Periodicals Enterprise



NATIONAL

Sittway to host Traditional Rakhine Thingyan Festival

THE Rakhine traditional Thingyan festival for the year 1386 ME will be celebrated in Sittway, the capital of Rakhine State, with traditional customs and vibrant festivities, according to U Hla Thein, a member of the Rakhine State Government and the Advocate General of Rakhine State.

The celebrations will include customary events such as the fragrant grinding festival, the sacred water-pouring ceremony for Buddha images, the paying respects to the elderly and the recitation of protective sutras for peace and well-being.

“The fragrant grinding festival, a significant Rakhine tradition, will be held at U Otama Hall and will feature traditional Yein dance performances. Following this, the sacred



A scene from last year's Rakhine traditional Thingyan festival.

water-pouring ceremony for Buddha images will take place at Atula Marazein Pagoda, and

water-throwing festivities will commence. The walking Thingyan procession will start from

the front of Khaing Thazin Hall and proceed along the main road. The paying respects to

the elderly ceremony and the recitation of protective sutras will be held as per tradition on New Year's Day. Like previous years, government ministries and departments will organize water-throwing pavilions, and choral dance performances will be presented,” said U Hla Thein.

Myanmar's traditional Thingyan festival was inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity during the 19th Session of the World Intangible Cultural Heritage Convention held in Paraguay in 2024. In recognition of this international acknowledgement, the Maha Thingyan festival will be celebrated nationwide with grand festivities including in Rakhine State as in previous years. — ASH/KZL



Promotional poster for Tun Aeindra Bo's solo concert.

Tun Aeindra Bo to stage “Friday Night” solo concert

RENOWNED female singer Tun Aeindra Bo will stage her solo concert, “Friday Night”, at 7 pm on 4 April at Inya Lake Garden, Yangon Region. The singer confirmed the details herself.

“I'll be performing at Inya Lake Garden on 4 April for ‘Friday Night’. I've selected songs that fans can sing along to, including some of Ma Khine's popular hits. See you all at Inya Lake Garden!” Tun Aeindra Bo shared.

The Daily Gita Band will accompany her, providing the best musical support for the concert. — ASH/KZL

Gusto College awards degrees and diplomas to 406 graduates at 10th convocation

AT the 10th graduation ceremony on 22 March at Pan Pacific Hotel in Yangon, Gusto College honoured the engineering degree certificate and diploma certificate.

A total of 406 students were conferred a BSc (Hons) Computer System Engineering Degree (University of Sunderland, UK), and Higher National Diploma (Pearson, UK) and a Level 3 Diploma (Pearson, UK).

Dr Win Htein Win and Sir David Bell, Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive of the Univer-



Gusto College's 10th graduation ceremony is in progress.

sity of Sunderland, delivered addresses, and on behalf of the graduates, students Ma Yun

Nady Nay Lin and Ma May Phyu Han Khin spoke words of thanks. — MT/ZS

Applications open for 2025 Japan Foundation Visual Arts Fellowship

THE Japan Foundation has announced that applications are now open for the Japan Foundation Fellowship for Arts and Culture (Visual Arts) for 2025.

The programme, which is part of “Partnership to Co-create a Future with the Next Generation: WA Project 2.0”, aims to support the development of artistes and human resources in the visual arts sector across borders in Japan, ASEAN countries and Timor-Leste.

The Visual Arts section includes not only classic, modern, and contemporary arts but also architecture, design, traditional crafts, cultural heritage, preservation and utilization of cultural

property.

Applications can be submitted for activities and projects aimed at implementation in ASEAN countries including Myanmar, Timor-Leste, and Japan. Those who wish to apply must open an account on the JF Application Portal and apply online.

Details and application forms can be downloaded for free from the Japan Foundation website, and further information can be viewed at https://www.jpfa.go.jp/e/program/culture.html#-cul_3.

Interested applicants are advised to apply by 1 pm Japan Standard Time on 31 May. — MT/ZN

NATIONAL

Prime Minister stresses action for agriculture-based manufacturing success

ALL need to work so that agriculture-based manufacturing will succeed, said the State Administration Council Chairman and Prime Minister, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the Forum on Myanmar Beyond 2025 Challenges and Opportunities in the Multipolar World held on 21 March at Myanmar International Convention Centre 1 in Nay Pyi Taw.

Being a country which practises an economy based on agriculture and livestock, Myanmar

can export agricultural products such as cotton and rubber finished products and the country can have many benefits if the export of rice, beans and other crops increases in the future, he said during his opening speech.

Foreign investment will flow only if the country is safe and sound, he said that undertakings are necessary to attract more foreign investment so that the country's GDP will grow. — Htun Htun/ZS

Betel leaf price falls but anticipates to increase back in April

BETEL leaf price has fallen this month, however it is anticipated that it will increase again in April.

Despite the betel leaf price's fall, the areca nut price has been high. According to traders in Kyaukse Township, the betel leaf trade was pretty fine in last year but a decrease has been seen this year.

"It's not a slight but huge decline in price at present. But the price will definitely climb up again in April. Our Kyaukse's betel leaves are used nationwide," said a trader from Kyaukse.

In January, the trade of Kyaukse's betel leaves, which are famous for being durable, was fine and during the month, orders

from Tachilek, Taungdwingyi, Magway and Taunggyi mounted and among these townships, Taungdwingyi's orders were the biggest. — Thit Taw/ZS



Betel leaves produced in Kyaukse.

Pre-Thingyan edible oil-selling fair to feature products from domestic oil mills



This photo showcases edible oil shops at an oil-selling fair featuring products from domestic oil mills.

THE Myanmar Edible Oil Millers' Association will hold a pre-Thingyan oil-selling fair featuring products from domestic oil mills in Lanmadaw and Yankin townships, Yangon Region, from 2 to 5 April, according to the association.

There are currently over five thousand large, medium and small-sized oil mills across the country, including registered and unregistered mills in rural areas, with approximately 80 per cent of them actively operating.

"On the eve of Thingyan, local oil mills will be selling peanut oil, sesame oil, and sunflower oil at the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) in Lanmadaw Township, and on Yanshin Road in Yankin Township. The oils will be priced at

K17,000 per viss, with no limit on the quantity that can be purchased. As the price difference between imported edible oils and peanut oil has decreased, the market aims to encourage people to consume healthier peanut oil, sesame oil, and sunflower oil," said U Tun Tun Oo, Vice Chairman of the association.

Since August 2024, the association has been organizing oil-selling fairs featuring products from domestic oil mills in the Yangon and Mandalay regions. In January 2025, a total of 11 oil mills participated, including two from Yangon Region, one from Sagaing Region, four from Mandalay Region, and four from Magway Region. Together, they sold over 40,000 visses (more than 65.32 tonnes) of edible oil. — ASH/TH

Gold Market Rate as of 23 March 2025

THE price of one tical (16.329325 grammes) of gold with density of 19.25 grammes per cubic centimetre and above is K5,580,000, as established by the Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee.

MGMA targets global markets with strategic goals for quality garments

MYANMAR Garment Manufacturers Association (MGMA) will set strategic goals for the industry to penetrate global markets with high-quality, value-added products.

It will develop a most profitable industry with ethical and responsible operations, according to the 10-year strategic plan (2025-2034) of the MGMA.

With the industry estimated to be worth about US\$5 billion in 2025, the

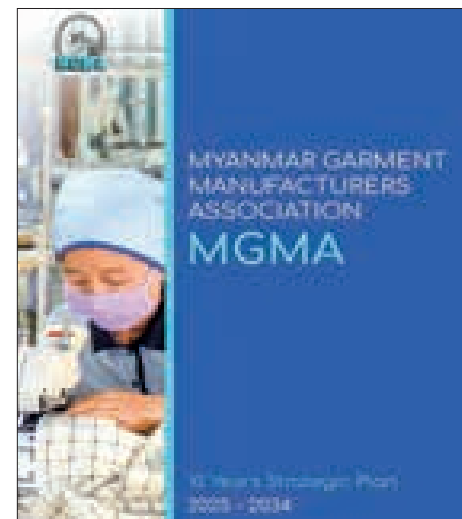
MGMA expects it to employ 1.2 million to 1.6 million workers in the next decade and grow to a \$15 billion industry.

The strategic plan aims to create a collaborative and innovative industrial environment for Myanmar's garment sector to achieve long-term success by addressing current challenges and realizing potential.

It also includes a robust strategy to address key areas including stakehold-

er networking and financial resources and to develop a workforce for the economic growth expected in the decade, training, upgrading technology, and strengthening infrastructure.

The Myanmar garment sector earned \$4.46 billion in export revenue in 2024, down by about \$750 million from 2023, according to the report. — Htun Htun/ZN



This image displays MGMA's 10-Year Strategic Plan (2025-2034).

OPINION

Sufficiently use water to conserve glaciers

WORLD Water Day, observed annually on 22 March since 1993, serves to raise awareness about the significance of freshwater and address global water-related challenges. The event underscores the importance of achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6, which aims to ensure access to clean water and sanitation for all by 2030. The 2025 theme, "Glacier Preservation," highlights the critical role glaciers play in maintaining freshwater supplies.

Glaciers are vital sources of meltwater, which supports drinking water, agriculture, industry, energy production, and ecosystems. However, rapid glacier melting due to climate change is disrupting water flow, causing profound consequences for both people and the environment. To tackle this issue, reducing carbon emissions globally and developing localized adaptation strategies for shrinking glaciers are essential. In 2025, World Water Day will focus on glacier preservation as a key strategy in combating climate change and the water crisis.

Currently, the National Water Resources Committee in Myanmar is working on creating an integrated water management system. The government emphasizes the implementation of policies, strategies, and laws to ensure water sufficiency for both rural and urban areas. Its efforts aim to supply clean drinking water and irrigation to the people. Everybody across the world as well as in the entire Myanmar has to practise sufficient use of water as part of saving the lives of people, society and the entire world.

policy recommendations to global decision-makers. This flagship report, produced by UNESCO on behalf of UN-Water, will guide future global water policies.

World Water Day 2025 emphasizes the need for international cooperation to protect glaciers and their vital contribution to freshwater resources. By focusing on glacier preservation, we can safeguard essential water supplies and promote a more sustainable future for all.

Currently, the National Water Resources Committee in Myanmar is working on creating an integrated water management system. The government emphasizes the implementation of policies, strategies, and laws to ensure water sufficiency for both rural and urban areas. Its efforts aim to supply clean drinking water and irrigation to the people. Everybody across the world as well as in the entire Myanmar has to practise sufficient use of water as part of saving the lives of people, society and the entire world.

INYA Lake is located adjacent to Yangon University in Kamayut township, six miles (10 kilometres) north of downtown Yangon. It acquired a reputation for its vast stretch of water studded with pleasant, wooded islets. Due to its breathtaking beauty and serenity, it turns out to be not only a haunt of holiday-makers but also a tryst for lovers.

This lake is named "အင်းယာ" after its elongated shape. It was called "Victoria Lake" after Queen Victoria when Myanmar fell under British rule. It was, at that time, also known by the name of "Kokkhine Lake", for it lay close to Kokkhine Village. In ancient times, the Mons who lived near the lake called it 'Kamayut' meaning 'Lake of Jewels' because it served as an inexhaustible food resource for the Mon villages in its neighbourhood.

The history of Inya Lake dates back to before the Christian era. In those ancient days, Lower Myanmar was covered by shallow water with small laterite islets scattered above water, some of which were small fishing villages. By the second century BC, a severe earth-quake hit Lower Myanmar and the water covering it receded, leaving behind some geomorphological features such as the Hlaing River, Yangon River, Ngamoeyik Creek and other rivulets, creeks and lakes on newly-formed alluvial plains. Inya Lake is said to be one of the remaining lakes from that time. It is said that, at that time, this lake was an elongated depression 50 feet below the sea level, surrounded by low laterite

ridges. It was then a natural lake connected with the Hlaing River by a creek. So it was affected by the tide. However, the British built Pyay Road by damming this lake with embankments. Since then, it turned into a land-locked lake with a bund of 0.5 mile on the western side and a bund of 1.2 miles on the eastern side. In 1878, Kandawgyi (Royal Lake)



By Maung Maung Aye

The lake features a vast expanse of water and is bordered by dense trees, contributing to its ecological importance by helping to regulate local weather patterns. PHOTO: WEB ARCHIVE

could no longer supply adequate water to Pazundaung and other downtown areas of Yangon. So the British government turned Inya Lake into a reservoir to supply enough water to the bigger Yangon. (Later, as the population of Yangon grew, Hlawga Lake and Gyobyu Lake had to be used to supply more water.)

In the early colonial period,

Inya Lake lay near Kamaryut village which was well outside Yangon City. Yangon University was built only in 1920. In those days, for its remoteness from the downtown area, the thickly wooded Inya Lake was rumoured to be a haunt of tigers and man-eating water ogres or a den of dacoits. Therefore, some chicken-hearted students avoided visiting it

even during the daytime. A few brave students, however, used to go there for a swim on some evenings. It is known that a student from Yangon University drowned to death in this lake in 1926. So, from then on, the university students were forbidden from swimming in it.

In 1923, the Yangon University Boat Club was formed and its

office was situated on a piece of land jutting out into the lake on the southern bund of Inya Lake. It was chaired by a British advocate Mr Edgar, who later became a law professor, at Yangon University. He was an executive member of the Cambridge and Oxford University Boat Clubs while living in England. From the time of the founding of this

club, boat races were held in the lake every year. The days of the boat races were happy occasions for Yangon University students. Thus, Inya Lake was more frequently visited by them.

During the colonial period, some wooded islets in this lake were a haven for some British pensioners and wealthy Chinese men who wanted to live peacefully in their old age. It is said that in 1930, Maurice Collice, a world-famous Irish writer, paid a short visit to the house of a retired Irish military officer who lived on a small island, from which the Shwedagon pagoda some distance to the south was visible and that, during his stay there, he visited GH Luce living near the southern bund of the lake, who was then serving as History Professor of Yangon University.

During the post-independence period, Yangon was extended in the northerly direction. Inya Lake was, therefore, encircled by populated areas. Some prominent historical buildings are found scattered around the shores of the lake. The Convocation Hall, the earliest building of Yangon University, was constructed in 1922, Inya Hostel the earliest lady hostel of the university built in 1931, Yadana Hostel was built in 1954 and the Yangon University of Economics was built in 1958 founded on the Inya road skirting the southern bank of the lake. Besides, the Inya Veluwun monastery and the Inya Kanpya monastery built around 1900 are still standing on the southern bank of the lake. Inya Lake Hotel, once the most famous hotels in Yangon built in 1958, is located near the

northern bund of the lake. During the time of the State Peace and Development Council, Sedona Hotel and Mya Kyun Thar (pleasant emerald-green island) Recreational Park were constructed on the eastern bund. During the time of the State Law and Order Restoration Council, the International Business Centre was built on the western bund and the Marina Hotel on the eastern bund. During the time of the Union Government, Lotte Hotels on the western bund and Myanmar Plaza near the eastern bund were constructed. Moreover, Kanthar Yar Private Hospital was also built next to the International Business Centre.

Today, the 'Seinn Lann So Pyay' Garden stands on the southern bund. Inya Park, "Min Lan" Rakhine Traditional Rice Vermicelli stall, and other food stalls, restaurants, Centre for Research and Innovation, Zu Zu's Eain Coral Inya Bar, Gold Inya Cafe and restaurant, Khe-maraththa Shan Traditional Food Centre, etc are situated along the southern bund.

To conclude, there are supermarkets, shopping malls, hotels, restaurants, parks etc. around the Inya Lake. It has a large expanse of water, with a lot of trees growing thickly around it. It can regulate the weather patterns of its neighbouring areas. Thus, it has become a haunt of thousands of visitors in Yangon. Especially on the holidays, it is packed with holiday-makers and picnickers on the eastern bund and western bund. It is thus suggested by the author that Inya Lake should be kept in pristine purity.

Current antivirals may be less effective against severe infection caused by bird flu virus in cows' milk: Study

Given these findings, the researchers suggest that prevention strategies, such as avoiding raw milk and minimizing exposure for dairy workers, may be the most effective means of protection against the virus.

SCIENTISTS found that frequently used flu antivirals do not work well against the H5N1 avian influenza virus in cows' milk.

Existing antivirals may be less effective against this H5N1 bird flu strain, and prevention measures, such as avoiding raw milk consumption and reducing exposure in dairy workers, maybe the most effective way to protect against the virus.

As the H5N1 avian influenza outbreak continues in the United States, scientists are working to better understand the virus's threat to human health.

The virus has been found in dairy cows' milk and has

infected farm workers, prompting scientists at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital to study potential treatments.

Results showed that in a preclinical model, two FDA-approved flu antivirals generally did not successfully treat severe H5N1 infections. Additionally, the researchers found that the route of infection, whether through the eye, the nose or the mouth, significantly impacts a treatment's effectiveness.

The findings were published today in Nature Microbiology.

"Our evidence suggests that it is likely going to be hard to treat people severely infected with this bovine H5N1 bird

flu strain," said corresponding author Richard Webby, PhD, St. Jude Department of Host-Microbe Interactions.

"Instead, reducing infection risk by not drinking raw milk and reducing dairy farm workers' exposures, for example, may be the most effective interventions."

Though H5N1 infections in people are rare, there are more than 60 people who have become infected from dairy exposures to date in the current outbreak. Some were infected through exposure to contaminated raw cows' milk, such as dairy workers who were infected through splashes or aerosolized particles reaching their noses or eyes.

SOURCE: ANI

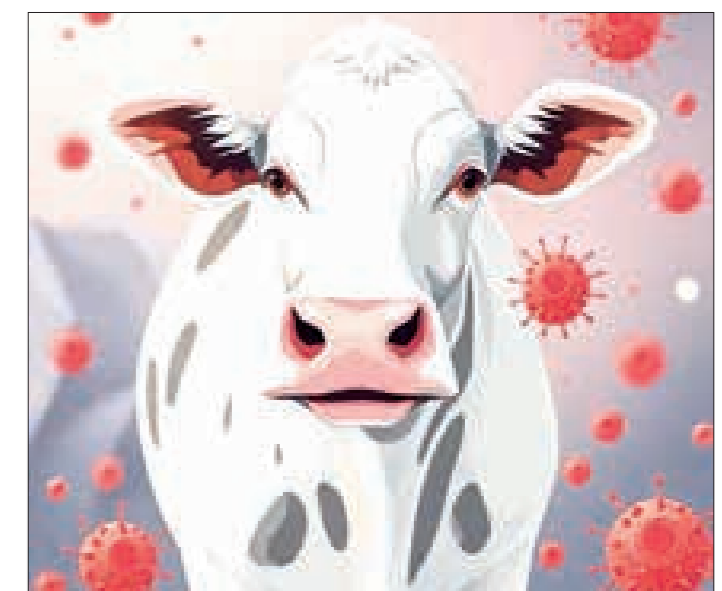


ILLUSTRATION: CONCEPT ART

NATIONAL

2-day illegal trade crackdown seizes goods worth K2.95B +

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

On 20 March, the combined teams impounded a Nissan Diesel truck (approximately K30 million) carrying industrial materials valued at K16.97 million without official documents in Dagon Myothit (East) Township, consumer goods and industrial materials worth K153.72 million without official documents from three containers at the Thilawa Port and industrial materials valued at more than K137 million without official documents from a container at the Myanmar Industrial Port. The action was conducted as per Customs procedures.

Similarly, the combined on-duty teams seized three vehicles (approximately K60 million), heading to Yangon from Myainggale, carrying nine kinds of consumer goods valued at K11.345 million without official documents in Bago Township, a Kinglong bus (approximately K40 million), heading to Yangon from Mawlamyine, carrying three kinds of foodstuffs valued at K3.708 million without official documents near Shwethanlwin



Confiscated illegal items across regions and states.

tollgate in Phayagyi, two vehicles (estimated value of K68 million), travelling from Yangon to Shwebo, carrying two kinds of ESSE lights filter cigarettes worth K1.413 million without official documents at the Yadanabon bridge (Mandalay) checkpoint, two trucks (estimated value of K60 million) carrying three kinds of industrial materials and three kinds of consumer goods worth K31.486 million without official documents near the tollgate on the outskirts of Kyaukse Township, a Mitsubishi Fuso truck (approximately K32 million) carrying

three kinds of industrial materials worth K20.08 million without official documents near Kyaukse detour, a Sunglong bus (estimated value of K80 million) carrying two kinds of foodstuffs valued at K31.35 million without official documents on the Yangon-Mandalay expressway, an Isuzu Giga truck (estimated value of K31,150,420) carrying 24 kinds of industrial materials worth K31.15 million without official documents on the Yangon-Mandalay Highway near Paleik and a Nissan Diesel tractor head with a trailer (approximate-

ly K76 million) carrying 19 kinds of industrial materials valued at K224.07 million without official documents on the outskirts of Kyaukse Township on the Yangon-Mandalay Highway. The action was carried out in line with Customs procedures.

On 21 March, the combined teams confiscated six trucks (estimated value of K180 million) carrying ten kinds of industrial materials and seven kinds of consumer goods valued at K129.95 million without official documents near Hpa-an Industrial Zone of Hpa-an Township, illegal

timbers weighing K1.186 tonnes worth K70,000 in Pwintbyu Township, an unregistered motorbikes worth K850,000 in Magway and Yenangyoung Townships, 100 gallons of illegal fuel oil worth K1.4 million in Mindon Township and a Toyota Dyna (estimated value of K25 million) carrying 122 joint plates of railway with related things worth K19,789 without official documents in Pakokku Township. The action was conducted under the Forest Law, the Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law, the Public Property Protection Law, and Customs procedures.

Additionally, the combined teams captured illegal teaks weighing 0.512 tonne and timbers weighing 3.617 tonnes from three-wheel motorbikes valued at K8.72 million in Taikkyi and Hlegu Townships and three unregistered vehicles and five unregistered motorbikes worth K41 million in Mawlamyine and Thaton districts. The action was conducted under the Forest Law and the Export-Import Law.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported 57 arrests on 20 and 21 March, seizing illegal goods worth approximately K2.951 billion. — MNA/MKKS

Police arrest four suspects for gold shop robbery using plastic gun

THE Pabedan Myoma Police Station arrested four individuals within six hours of a robbery at a gold shop in Pabedan Township, Yangon Region, on 23 March, with the suspects allegedly responsible for the crime.

At 8:45 am on 23 March 2025, four masked men, one armed with a handgun, entered the "Teik Shein" gold shop on Maha Bandoola Road, Pabedan Township, Yangon Region, threatened the owner's daughter with the gun, and stole various gold items weighing about 20 ticals (approximately K120 million) from the glass counter before fleeing, with the Pabedan Myoma Police Station opening a case under Article 392 of the Penal Code (first investigation report No 39/2025) and launching an investigation.

Security forces investigat-

ed the incident to arrest the perpetrators, and based on information from residents, they identified the licensed plate of a white Toyota Corolla taxi used by the robbers, which was later found at 11 am with the driver at the intersection of Wadan Street and Anawrahta Road in Ward 2, Lanmadaw Township, where he was taken for questioning.

Based on information provided by the driver, the police later located the suspects who had robbed the "Teik Shein" gold shop at Room No 301 of Casa Myanmar Hotel, Bo Aung Kyaw Street, Ward 7, Botahtaung Township: Lin Thant Aung from Padamyia Ward, Kyaikto Township, Mon State; Thet Htoo Zin from Pawtawmu Village, Thaton Township; Kaung Khant Thura (aka) Wathon from Ward 19, Shwepyitha Township;



This photo showcases suspects arrested in connection with gold shop robbery in Pabedan Township, Yangon Region, on 23 March.

and Min Khant Ko (aka) Po Ka from Sitbogyi Village, DaikU Township, who were arrested

with one black plastic gun, three iron-cutting saws used in the robbery, 51 gold bracelets, and

37 gold rings.

Further investigation into the four suspects, including Lin Thant Aung, confessed that they had stayed at Casa Myanmar Hotel on 20 March and had been surveying the gold shops on Maha Bandoola Road due to financial need. After assessing the situation, they chose to rob the "Teik Shein" gold shop. The black plastic gun used in the robbery was purchased from a store on Maha Bandoola Road near Sule Pagoda, with Lin Thant Aung leading the robbery while holding the gun.

In this incident, the four individuals who robbed the gold shop, along with the stolen gold items and other evidence, were identified and arrested within six hours, and effective action is being taken in accordance with the law. — MNA/TH

Mount Fuji hikers to be charged \$27 on all trails

HIKERS attempting any of Mount Fuji's four main trails will be charged an entry fee of 4,000 yen (\$27) from this summer, after local authorities passed a bill on Monday.

A record influx of foreign tourists to Japan has sparked alarm about overcrowding on the nation's highest mountain, a once-peaceful pilgrimage site.

Last year, Yamanashi region — home to Mount Fuji — introduced a 2,000 yen (\$14) entry fee plus an optional donation for the active volcano's most popular hiking route, the Yoshida Trail.

A cap on daily entries and online reservations were also brought in on that trail by officials concerned about safety and environmental damage on Fuji's majestic slopes.

The Yoshida Trail fee will

In 2023, the Yamanashi region (Yoshida Trail) introduced a 2,000 yen (\$14) fee plus an optional donation.



Climbers pay a fee at the Yoshida Trail of Mt Fuji in Yamanashi Prefecture on 1 July 2024. PHOTO: KYODO

be doubled for this year's July-September climbing season, while neighbouring Shizuoka region passed a bill on Monday to also charge 4,000 yen for its three trails, which were previously free.

Thanks in part to the new restrictions, the number of climbers who tackled Mount Fuji declined to 204,316 last year, from 221,322 in 2023, environment ministry data shows.

Although climber numbers continue to be eclipsed by pre-pandemic levels, "200,000 hikers is still huge", Natsuko Sodeyama, a Shizuoka prefecture official, told AFP.

"There is no other mountain in Japan that attracts that many people in the span of just over two months. So some restrictions are necessary to ensure their safety." — AFP

Justin Bieber says he has "anger issues," admits sometimes 'hating' himself in cryptic posts



In his accompanying caption, Bieber expressed his feelings of self-hatred when he senses himself becoming inauthentic.

PHOTO: AFP/FILE

POP star Justin Bieber got candid with his fans about his struggles with authenticity and personal growth.

The 31-year-old Grammy winner took to his Instagram

account on Saturday to share a video along with a note where he admitted that he "hates himself" when he feels himself start to "become inauthentic."

In the video he posted,

Bieber was seen jamming on a keyboard with fellow musicians, appearing happy and energetic.

"I think I hate myself sometimes when I feel myself start to become inauthentic. Then I remember we're all being made to think we're not enough, but I still hate when I change myself to please people," read the caption of his post.

Earlier the same day, the 'Believe' singer shared another personal post in which he spoke about his desire to work on his "anger issues."

He wrote, "I got anger issues too, but I wanna grow and not react so much. smh."

Bieber also posted three pictures alongside the message. The first one showed him hiding his face under a hoodie. The second one was a childhood picture of himself.

This isn't the first time Bieber has shared his inner struggles.— ANI

India hosts over 80 German universities to strengthen academic and research ties

MORE than 80 German universities and research institutions are visiting India this month in a significant step toward strengthening Indo-German academic collaboration, an official press release by DAAD reported.

The delegation will participate in high-level engagements with Indian universities and research institutions, the inauguration of the German School of Technology at PSG College of Technology in Coimbatore, the Indo-German Forum: Research, Innovation and Transfer, and the APAIE Conference 2025 in New Delhi.

The visit also coincides with the DAAD Jubilee Celebrations, marking 65 years of DAAD's presence in India. German Ambassador Philipp Ackermann is attending these landmark events. — ANI

Jack Harlow, Doja Cat drop new single 'Just Us'

RAPPER and singer Jack Harlow and Doja Cat are teaming up for a new single 'Just Us', which dropped recently.

In a teaser posted earlier on Harlow's Instagram, he can be heard rapping, "I wish it was just us in this bitch / But they can trust us in this bitch," while sitting at a table in a restaurant, according to The Hollywood Reporter. Harlow and Doja Cat also released a music video, which shows the pair flirting in a restaurant and dancing together at the bar and in the kitchen. The video also features several surprise celebrity cameos from John Mayer, Matt Damon, and Nicholas Braun, as per the outlet.

Harlow's first mainstream breakthrough came with the release of his 2020 single "Whats Poppin." It has been a busy 2025 for Harlow as he released his first single of the year, "Set You Free," last month, according to The Hollywood Reporter. — ANI

ECON: WORLD



Times Square in New York City is usually a popular tourist destination, but foreign visitors may stay away in bigger numbers due to US President Donald Trump's policies, industry experts say. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

'Antipathy' to US: Tourists turning away from Trump's America

According to Tourism Economics, foreign spending is expected to decrease by 10.9%.

THE US tourism outlook has significantly worsened due to recent policy decisions by President Donald Trump, leading to a projected 5.1 per cent decline in foreign traveler arrivals in 2025, a stark contrast to the previously expected 8.8 per cent increase.

Tourism Economics reported that foreign spending is anticipated to drop by 10.9 per cent. Factors contributing to this decline include tariffs im-

posed on Canada, Mexico, and China, stringent immigration policies, and a strong dollar, which collectively create an unwelcoming atmosphere for international visitors.

A survey revealed that 35 per cent of respondents from 16 European and Asian countries felt less inclined to visit the US under Trump's administration.

While some tourists from countries like France and Argentina expressed concerns,

they did not alter their travel plans. However, Canadians, who represent the largest group of foreign tourists, are increasingly avoiding the US, with a 23 per cent drop in returns noted in February.

The tourism sector could face a revenue loss of approximately \$64 billion in 2025, as tightening immigration policies and economic fears deter both international and domestic travelers. — AFP

Cafe run by Japan island's only foreigner aims to be new tourist spot

ON a small island in southwestern Japan with a population of only around 1,700, Australian John Widmer, reputed as the island's only foreign resident, runs a cafe hoping it will serve as a new spot to draw visitors.

Those traveling by ferry to Himeshima, an Oita Prefecture island with a 17-kilometre long coastline, are immediately greeted by the sight of the vibrant green and yellow of the Ozi Cafe, complete with a hand-drawn caricature of the 64-year-old as its logo.

Driven by his quest for good coffee and a desire to share a familiar taste of home, Widmer decided to open the cafe on the island in May last year, with coffee

brewed from roasted beans imported directly from Australia becoming popular among visitors.

"(Customers) were really surprised at how nice the coffee was. I give them a taste of the beans. Because if I'm ever buying coffee in bulk for home, I would always eat one of the beans. And if the bean tastes good, you're going to get a good coffee," Widmer said. Local businesses on the island have also benefited from the cafe's growing reputation, with foreign visitors coming to enjoy the coffee after Walk Japan Ltd., a company that organizes walking tours across Japan, started including Himeshima on its itinerary, according to Widmer: — Kyodo



Photo taken 24 November 2024, shows John Widmer's Ozi Cafe on Himeshima in southwestern Japan. **PHOTO: KYODO**

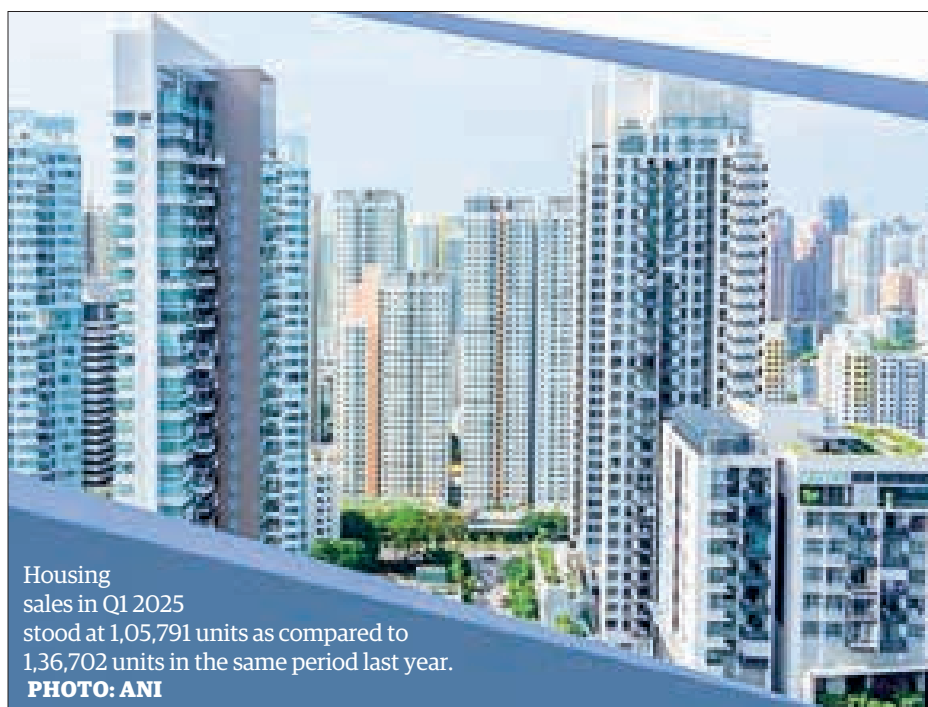
India's housing market sees 23% sales drop, 34% supply decline

THE housing market continued its downward trend with housing sales in India's top nine cities falling by 23 per cent while supply declined by a whopping 34 per cent in Jan-March of 2025, said a report by data analytics firm PropEquity.

Housing sales in Q1 2025 stood at 1,05,791 units as compared to 1,36,702 units in the same period last year. Except in Bengaluru and Delhi-NCR, all seven cities witnessed a decline in sales.

Housing supply, on the other hand, stood at 80,774 units in Q1 2025 as compared to 1,22,365 units in the same period last year, marking three consecutive quarters of under-1 lakh units launched. Except in Bengaluru, all eight cities saw a decline in new supply in the first quarter.

Samir Jasuja, Founder & CEO, PropEquity said, "The housing mar-



Housing sales in Q1 2025 stood at 1,05,791 units as compared to 1,36,702 units in the same period last year. **PHOTO: ANI**

ket is witnessing some correction after three years (2021, 2022, 2023) of record supply because of which absorption/sales is also on a declining trend. The rise in home prices and caution on the part of investors due to geo-political developments and certain weaknesses in the Indian economy have resulted in a drop in sales. However, the market has displayed strong demand as is evident from the healthy absorption to supply ratio, which stood at 131 per cent in Q1 2025, 132 per cent in Q4 2024 and 127 per cent in Q3 2024."

He said that traditionally high-supply markets – Hyderabad, Pune and Thane – continue to decline. These cities had the highest supply among all tier-1 cities for two years running 2022 and 2023, before touching a low in 2024. — ANI

Rakuten eyes expanding deliveries by robot to main e-commerce site

JAPANESE online shopping giant Rakuten Group Inc. is considering introducing autonomous mobile robots to deliver goods amid a severe labor shortage in the transportation sector, according to a senior official.

The company plans to expand the technology to its flagship Rakuten Ichiba online shopping operations, having already launched a robot delivery service in Tokyo for groceries and other items bought from local stores, Fukutaro Yamashita, a senior manager in the company's unmanned solution department, said in a recent media briefing.

"This is a business that is needed in an era of population decline," he said.

The plan comes as e-commerce firms such as Rakuten are facing a severe shortage of delivery personnel at a time when the number of packages is increasing.

Yamashita said autonomous robots will be especially useful for last-mile deliveries, the final stage when shipments reach their destinations.

He did not specify when the company plans to introduce the robots for its e-commerce service or how many it aims to deploy. — Kyodo

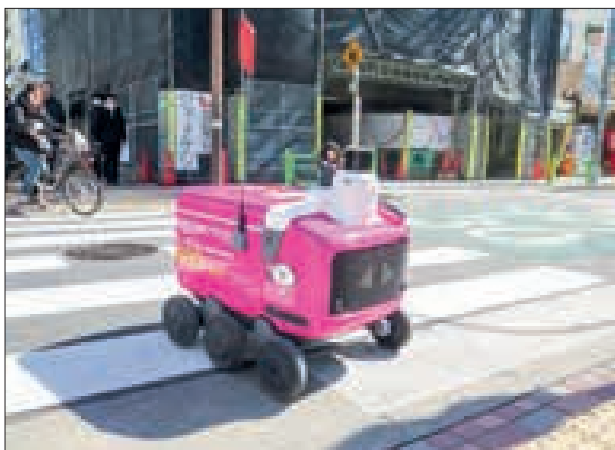


Photo shows Rakuten Group Inc.'s autonomous delivery robot operating on public roads in Tokyo on 10 March 2025. PHOTO: KYODO

British drugmaker pledges \$2.5b investment in Beijing

BRITISH pharmaceutical giant AstraZeneca signed a landmark agreement on Friday to invest \$2.5-billion in Beijing over the next five years, signaling the multinational's confidence in the world's second-largest economy.

"The investment highlights our confidence in Beijing's world-class life sciences innovation ecosystem, extensive collaborative opportunities, and exceptional talent pool," AstraZeneca CEO Pascal Soriot said in an interview

with Xinhua.

The deal was inked with the Beijing Economic-Technological Development Area, commonly known as e-town, where the company's northern China headquarters is located.

It marks the largest single investment in Beijing's biopharmaceutical sector in recent years, spanning multiple stages from research and development (R&D) to manufacturing and commercialization. — Xinhua

India Government withdraws 20 per cent duty on onion export

The government had previously implemented measures to control onion exports, including the duty, a minimum export price (MEP), and even a prohibition on exports from 8 December 2023, to 3 May 2024, to ensure domestic availability.

THE central government on Saturday withdrew 20 per cent duty on the export of onions imposed in September 2024.

The decision will come into effect on 1 April 2025. The Department of Revenue issued a notification to this effect today on the Department of Consumer Affairs's communication.

To ensure domestic availability, the government had taken measures to check export by means of duty, minimum export price (MEP) and even to the extent of export prohibition for almost five months, from 8 December

2023 till 3 May 2024.

The export duty of 20 per cent, which now stands removed, has been in place since 13 September 2024.

Despite export restrictions, the government said that the total onion export during 2023-24 was 17.17 lakh tonne and in 2024-25 (till 18 March), it was 11.65 lakh tonne.

Monthly onion export quantity had picked up from 0.72 lakh tonne in September, 2024 to 1.85 lakh tonne in January 2025.

"The decision stands as another testament to the government's commitment to ensuring



The decision will come into effect on 1 April 2025. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/PIXABAY

remunerative prices to farmers while maintaining affordability of onion to the consumers at this crucial juncture when both mandi and retail prices have

softened following expected arrival of rabi crops in good quantities," Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, said in a release. — ANI

China's Hainan Airlines launches direct Oslo-Beijing Route

CHINESE carrier Hainan Airlines on Saturday officially launched its direct flight route between Beijing and Oslo, further strengthening air connectivity between China and Northern Europe.

Flight HU769 from Beijing Capital International Airport landed at Oslo Gardermoen International

Airport at 5:02 am local time. A welcome ceremony was held at the airport to mark the inauguration of the new route.

In her remarks, Hou Yue, Chinese Ambassador to Norway, said the launch of the direct route will help deepen bilateral cooperation in economy, trade, culture and tourism, bet-

ter meet the growing travel demand between the two countries, and promote people-to-people exchanges and mutual understanding.

Hou warmly welcomed more Norwegian travelers to visit China and experience its magnificent landscapes and rich cultural heritage.

Hainan Airlines Vice President Zhang Guoping said the carrier aims to provide a convenient travel option for passengers from both countries, while also supporting the export of Norwegian seafood and other specialty products to the Chinese market through efficient air logistics. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

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

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC WENDE VOY.NO. (2504S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **24-3-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MCL 15 VOY.NO. (05N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MCL 15 VOY. NO. (05N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **24-3-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **TMT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S MAWLAMYINE CENTURY LOGISTICS COMPANY LIMITED

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Venezuela resumes migrant repatriation flights from US

This resumption of flights comes amid rising tensions surrounding US President Donald Trump's deportation policies.



Venezuelan migrants walk down a plane upon arrival at Simon Bolivar International Airport in Maiquetia, Venezuela on 20 March 2025. **PHOTO: AFP**

VENEZUELA announced Saturday that it had reached an agreement with the US government to resume repatriation flights for its citizens, with the next flight scheduled for Sunday.

Venezuela struck the deal to guarantee the “return of our compatriots to their nation with the safeguard of their human rights,” said Jorge Rodriguez,

president of the National Assembly and chief negotiator with the United States.

The resumption comes amid heightened tensions over US President Donald Trump's deportation policies. Venezuela has criticized recent mass deportations and called for the release of over 200 Venezuelan migrants being held in El Salvador without due process.

“Migration is not a crime,” said Rodriguez. “We won't rest until everyone who wants to return is back and we rescue our kidnapped brothers in El Salvador.”

The repatriation flights had been suspended since 8 March following Trump's decision to revoke energy giant Chevron's operating license in Venezuela. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pope leaves hospital after more than five weeks

POPE Francis greeted and thanked the faithful from a balcony of Rome's Gemelli hospital Sunday, the first time the 88-year-old has been seen in public since his admission on 14 February.

“Thank you, everyone”, a weak-sounding Francis said into a microphone, as he sat in a wheelchair waving gently to hundreds of people gathered below, and doing the occasional thumbs-up sign.

“I can see that woman with yellow flowers, well done”, he said with a small smile, to laughter from the crowd.

The head of the world's 1.4 billion Catholics, who has spent over five weeks in hospital battling pneumonia, was on the balcony for two minutes then was discharged immediately.

He left by car, waving from the closed window of the front seat as he drove past journalists, and could be seen wearing a cannula – a plastic tube tucked into his nostrils which delivers oxygen.

Francis looked tired and thinner than usual. Doctors have said that his health has improved sufficiently for him to go home, but that he still faces a long recovery of at least two months. — AFP

Israel threatens to annex Gaza territories if hostages not freed

ISRAEL will annex territories in the Gaza Strip if Hamas refuses to release the remaining hostages, Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz warned Friday.

“As Hamas continues its refusal to release the Israeli hostages, it will lose more and more territories to be annexed by Israel. Israel will continue the operation with increasing intensity until the hostages are released,” Katz said in a statement.

Katz added he has instructed the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) to seize more areas in Gaza, evacuate the population, and expand the security zone around the enclave to protect Israeli communities and IDF soldiers through Israel's permanent control of the area.

“We are intensifying the fighting with strikes from the air, sea, and land and by expanding the ground maneuver until the hostages are released and Hamas is defeated, using all military and civilian means of pressure,” he stated. — Xinhua

Tens of thousands in France protest racism and far right

TENS of thousands of people in Paris and other French cities rallied against racism and the rise of the far right on Saturday.

Some protesters took aim at the US administration of Donald Trump and others carrying Palestinian flags.

Police officers and some protesters clashed in Paris.

The rallies took place amid the rightward shift in French politics, with the government pledging to tighten immigration policies and border controls.

Nearly 91,000 people took part in protests across France, said the in-

terior ministry, with the Paris rally attracting 21,500.

Two people were arrested and three people injured, including a riot police officer, during the clashes in Paris, the ministry statement added.

Three other arrests

At demonstrations elsewhere in France, there were three other arrests.

Many of those marching highlighted the growing strength of reactionary political forces, in France but also in the United States.

In the French capital, thousands

of people took to the streets.

“Fascism is gangrene from Washington to Paris,” read one placard.

“The far right is on the rise everywhere in Europe,” said Evelyne Dourille, a 74-year-old pensioner.

“It's scary because in France we see far-right ideas becoming more and more commonplace, even among ministers in this government.” — AFP

Some protesters targeted hardline Interior Minister Bruno Retailleau.
PHOTO: AFP



SPORTS



Tsubaki Miki of Japan poses after winning gold in the women's snowboard parallel slalom event at the Freestyle World Championships in St Moritz, Switzerland, on 22 March 2025. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Snowboarding: Japan's Miki wins parallel slalom at worlds

JAPANESE snowboarder Tsubaki Miki underscored her potential as a breakout athlete of next year's Winter Olympics by winning her second medal at the freestyle world championships in Switzerland on Saturday.

Two days after taking silver in the parallel giant slalom, the 21-year-old from central Japan's Shizuoka Prefecture clinched gold in the parallel slalom.

"I fought until the end, without giving up. I can't believe it," said Miki, who turned the tables on Czech star Ester Ledecka in the final.

Ledecka, a multiple Olympic and world championship gold medalist in skiing and snowboarding, had beaten Miki for the parallel giant slalom title in St Moritz.

Miki is the first Japanese athlete, male or female, to become a parallel slalom world champion. While the event will not be on the Olympic program next winter in Milan and Cortina, her performance across the two disciplines has heightened expectations for her games debut in parallel giant slalom.

She made the Olympic event her training focus for this season's World Cup circuit, winning it twice as she claimed four gold and 13 total medals on her way to the overall titles in both disciplines. — Kyodo

Asian Cup 3rd Round: Myanmar to face Afghanistan in opener



Myanmar team in competition at the previous ASEAN Cup.

THE 2027 Asian Cup Third Round football tournament will begin on 25 March, with Myanmar set to face Afghanistan in the opening match.

The Asian Cup Third Round will be held over the course of a year, divided into four groups from March 2025 to March 2026. Myanmar is in the same group with Syria, Afghanistan and Pakistan. Myanmar will play Afghanistan at 5:00 pm on 25 March at the Thuwunna Youth Training Centre in Yangon. The qualifier match will be broadcast live on MRTV at 4:45 pm. Only the top team from each group will advance to the next round of the Asian Cup Third Round and Myanmar will need to achieve strong results in every group match to

have a chance at advancing.

The Myanmar national football team has been under training with 42 players since 3 March, but some players including Win Naing Tun and Wai Lin Aung will miss the upcoming matches due to injuries. Before the tournament, Myanmar's U-22 team and the MNL All Stars team were the only teams they played in international practice matches, with no competitive international matches held.

Myanmar's head coach Myo Hlaing Win continues to lead the team, which currently consists of 26 players, including goalkeeper San Sat Naing, defender Nanda Kyaw, midfielder Lwin Moe Aung and forward Than Paing. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Fundora stops Booker to retain WBC, WBO super welterweight titles



Sebastian Fundora celebrates after stopping Chordale Booker in the fourth round to retain his WBC and WBO super welterweight world titles in Las Vegas. **PHOTO: AFP**

SEBASTIAN Fundora stopped Chordale Booker in the fourth round on Saturday to retain his World Boxing Council and World Boxing Organization super welterweight world titles in Las Vegas.

Fundora, the six-foot, six-inch southpaw dubbed the "Towering Inferno," made

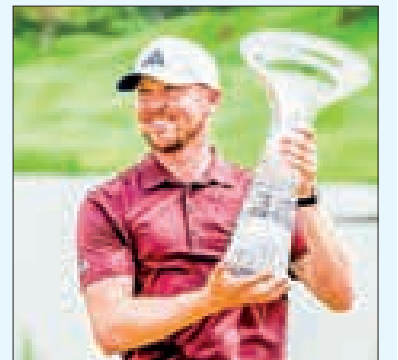
a convincing first defense of the titles he claimed last March with a split-decision victory over Australian Tim Tszyu.

The American champion rocked compatriot Booker in the third round and dropped him twice in the fourth — connecting with a brutal left hook and a pair of sharp uppercuts to send Booker to the canvas and continuing the onslaught after Booker rose.

Referee Thomas Taylor called a halt at 2:51 of the fourth round.

"I've felt ready this whole time since my last fight," Fundora said after improving to 22-1 with one draw, and 14 wins inside the distance. Booker fell to 23-2.

"I've worked very hard this past year to be ready. Now I've successfully defended my two titles and the sky's the limit," added Fundora, who said he'd like to follow his sister, flyweight Gabriela Fundora, as an undisputed world champion. — AFP



England's Richard Mansell won in Singapore. **PHOTO: AFP**

Patience pays off for Mansell with breakthrough Singapore win

RICHARD Mansell sank a crucial birdie putt at the final hole to win a first DP World Tour title at the weather-hit Porsche Singapore Classic by a single shot on Sunday.

Needing to avoid a playoff with Japan's Keita Nakajima at Laguna National Golf Resort Club, the Englishman reached the green in two at the par-five 18th.

He then rolled his eagle attempt to within six feet of the pin before holding his nerve to drain his winning putt to clinch his maiden DP World Tour title with a final-round six-under-par 66.

"I wish this win had come earlier. I played so well today to get into that position and I've been waiting for this moment for a long time," said the 29-year-old.

"So many people have supported and believed in me when I stopped doing it myself".

Victory was particularly special as Mansell had come close to winning on multiple occasions on the tour, only to fall short and struggle with self-belief.

"I had quite a few close calls and didn't get it done. Looking back, I probably should have kept doing what I was doing and it (a win) probably would have happened a lot sooner," he said.

"I tried to change and became quite good at pointing the finger at other people. I was just not enjoying this much and I got a little lost.

"It took a lot of work this past six months".

Nakajima carded seven birdies for a bogey-free 65 to finish alone in second place. — AFP



KCNA: DPRK, Russia discuss defending security interests

Kim emphasized the DPRK government's unwavering commitment to support Russia in its efforts to defend national sovereignty, territorial integrity, and security interests moving forward.



This picture taken on 21 March 2025 and released by official Korean Central News Agency via KNS on Saturday shows Kim Jong-un (second right), top leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, meeting Russia's Security Council Secretary Sergei Shoigu (second left) in Pyongyang. **PHOTO: KCNA VIA KNS / AFP**

KIM Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), met with visiting Secretary of the Russian Federation Security Council Sergei Shoigu on Friday, the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA)

reported on Saturday.

Shoigu conveyed friendly greetings and an important signed letter from Russian President Vladimir Putin to Kim, while the DPRK leader expressed his deep gratitude and conveyed his greetings to Putin, the KCNA said.

During the meeting, the two sides exchanged views on defending the security interests of the two countries as well as the regional and international situation, the KCNA said.

"It is the steadfast option and resolute will of the DPRK government to invariably support Russia in the struggle for defending the national sovereignty, territorial integrity and security interests in the future," Kim was quoted by the KCNA as saying.

Both leaders of the two countries are willing to unconditionally implement the provisions of the Treaty on Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between the two sides, the KCNA said, adding that Kim and Shoigu talked about further expanding and boosting cooperation in the security area and other fields. — Xinhua

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

S Korean government declares state of disaster over massive wildfires

THE South Korean government declared a state of disaster on Saturday over wildfires that broke out in the country's southeastern areas including Ulsan city, North Gyeongsang province and South Gyeongsang province, the Ministry of the Interior and Safety said.

A mountain fire first broke out in Sancheong County in the province of South Gyeongsang on Friday afternoon before the fire continued to spread on Saturday.

More massive mountain fires erupted on Saturday morning in other parts of the southeastern regions.

Acting President Choi Sang-mok inspected the situation in the affected places, ordered relevant authorities to work together to mobilize all equipment available and bring the wildfires under complete control.

At around 3:30 pm local time on the same day, the Korea Forest Service raised the national emergency alert level in the most affected areas to its highest, which is the "severe" stage.

So far, four firefighters were reported dead and six were injured, local media reported. — Xinhua

India to drive 6% of global trade growth, securing third place worldwide behind US and China: Report

INDIA will make a significant strides in the global trade over the next five years, contributing about 6 per cent in the world's trade growth, just behind China at 12 per cent and the United States at 10 per cent, as per a joint report by DHL and the New York University Stern School of Business.

The latest DHL Trade Atlas 2025 anticipates that in five years, India will retain its third-place rank on the scale dimension as well as jump 15 spots to the 17th position on the speed dimension as its compound annual trade volume growth rate rises from 5.2 per cent to 7.2 per cent.

The report highlighted that India was only the 13th largest participant in international trade in 2024, but its trade volume grew at a 5.2 per cent compound annual rate from 2019 to 2024, while global trade



grew at only a 2.0 per cent rate.

"India's rapid trade growth reflected both its swift macroeconomic growth and its increasing participation in international trade," the report added.

"The Trade Atlas underlines India's rapid expansion in global trade, positioning the country as a critical hub connecting the east and west. While we anticipate trade volume growth and an increase in global trade share, we remain cautiously optimistic about the future given the global economy's general volatility," said R S Subramanian, SVP South Asia, DHL Express. — ANI

India's rapid trade growth reflected both its swift macroeconomic growth and its increasing participation in international trade. **PHOTO: ANI**