

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Four Objectives of the National Defence and Security Council

1. To steadfastly strive for emergence of political forces and the people's representatives who can implement a genuine, disciplined multi-party democratic system while constantly emphasizing on the national interests of the State.
2. To persistently strive for promoting the socio-economic life of the people through the development of agro-based industries in improving the agricultural sector, the vital foundation of the economic growth of the State.
3. To put emphasis on enhancing the national education and health sectors for sustainable development of the State.
4. To implement multi-party democratic system, with the participation of the people, to ensure the success of multi-party democratic general election process and successfully moving towards with the multi-party democratic system aspired by the entire people.

Newly Elected Myanmar Government to Strengthen Cooperation with China

The "Myanmar-China Community with a Shared Future" was successfully established during the 2020 state visit of Chinese President Mr Xi Jinping to Myanmar, marking a historic milestone in bilateral relations between the two countries.

Based on the fraternal "Pauk-Phaw" spirit, the two countries have been closely cooperating across various sectors, and in 2011, their relations were elevated to the level of a "Comprehensive Strategic Cooperative Partnership", said State Security and Peace Commission Vice-Chairman Vice-Senior General Soe Win at the Chinese Lunar New Year Festival 2026 to hail the Year of the Horse at the National Indoor Stadium 1 in Thuwunna of Yangon yesterday evening.

On their arrival at the venue for the celebration, Vice-Senior General Soe Win and his wife Daw Than Than Nwe were warmly welcomed by Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar Ms Ma Jia, distinguished guests and officials.

On the occasion, Union Ministers General Maung Maung Aye and U Nyan Tun, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, Lt-Gen Ko Ko Oo from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), deputy ministers, minister-counsellors from the Chinese Embassy to Myanmar, the president of the Republic of the Union of

SEE PAGE 3



State Security and Peace Commission Vice-Chairman Vice-Senior General Soe Win and his wife Daw Than Than Nwe present New Year gifts to traditional Chinese dance troupe at the Chinese Lunar New Year Festival 2026 to hail the Year of the Horse at the National Indoor Stadium 1 in Thuwunna of Yangon yesterday.

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NATIONAL

- Let us encourage production for prosperity of the Nation.
- Let us ensure education sector for the development of the Nation.
- Let us protect our environment for the prosperity of the Nation.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar National Defence and Security Council Amendment to the Myanmar Engineering Council Law National Defence and Security Council Law 6/2026

13th Waning of Tabodwe 1387 ME
14 February 2026

THE National Defence and Security Council hereby enacts this Law under Section 427 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar:

1. This law shall be called the Amendment to the Myanmar Engineering Council Law.
2. After Subsection (g) of Section 8 of the Myanmar Engineering Council Law, subsection (h) shall be added as follows: -
“(h) If necessary, the Panel of Patron, with the approval of the responsible ministry, can assign the Chairperson and a council member to continue serving beyond the prescribed term of the office.”

I hereby sign this law under Section 427 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar:

Sd/ Min Aung Hlaing
Senior General
Acting President

Wintering birds flock to Moeyungyi Lake, Inlay Lake and Indawgyi Lake via 2 major flyways

The migratory winter birds from around the world take shelter at wildlife sanctuaries in Myanmar, that contribute to nature-based tourism and national ecosystem conservation, and the wintering birds annually arrive at Moeyungyi wetland, Inlay Lake and Indawgyi Lake Wildlife Sanctuaries via two major global flyways - the Central Asian Flyway and the East Asian-Australasian Flyway.

Moeyungyi Wildlife Sanctuary in Bago Region, Myanmar's first Ramsar site, regularly receives migra-

tory birds from both major flyways. Inlay Lake Wildlife Sanctuary receives wintering birds mainly from the Siberian region through the Central Asian Flyway, while Indawgyi Lake receives migratory birds annually from China and Russia.

The migratory birds fly to the regions with abundant food through the nine major flyways- the East Atlantic Flyway, the Black Sea-Mediterranean Flyway, the Mississippi-America Flyway, the Atlantic-America Flyway, the Pacific-America Flyway, the West Pacific Flyway, the East

Asia-Australia Flyway, the Middle Asia Flyway, and the West Asia-East Africa Flyway. Among these nine flyways, the Central Asian Flyway is the shortest route. Birds migrate from Siberia to South and South-East Asia, crossing the skies of more than 30 countries and involving 307 bird species.

The East Asian-Australasian Flyway stretches from eastern Russia and Alaska through East and Southeast Asia to Australia and New Zealand. Each year, more than 50 million birds from 37 countries migrate along this

route. A total of 492 bird species worldwide, including 28 threatened species, migrate annually to around 900 wetlands internationally, including lakes and wildlife sanctuaries in Myanmar, where they rest and feed.

There are 10,473 bird species worldwide. Myanmar is home to 1,136 species, Thailand 982, Malaysia 781, Singapore 375, Laos 710, Nepal 900, the Philippines 657, Vietnam 848, and Cambodia has 553 species. Due to its rich ecosystems, Myanmar recognized as one of the Southeast Asian countries

has the greatest diversity of both water birds and land bird species.

The annual arrival of wintering birds at Myanmar's Ramsar sites and wildlife sanctuaries reflects the good ecological conditions and rich biodiversity of these protected areas. These migrations also provide various benefits, including opportunities for research, natural control of invasive and crop-damaging pests, promotion of nature-based tourism, and increased employment opportunities for local communities. — Thitsa(MNA)/KTZH



Waterbird species are seen inhabiting Indawgyi Lake which is the largest and most beautiful freshwater lake in Myanmar and the third largest lake in South-East Asia. **PHOTO: ZWE MARN**

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.

(An 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)

Newly Elected Myanmar Government to...

FROM PAGE 1

Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the chair of Myanmar-China Friendship Association, the chair of Myanmar-Chinese Chamber of Commerce, the patron of Myanmar-China Buddhist and Cultural Exchange Association and officials from various associations cut the ribbon to launch the Chinese Lunar New Year Festival 2026.

Figures of eight lions paid respect to welcome the Vice-Senior General and his wife, and the Chinese Ambassador, with the towels to mark the Chinese New Year.

The Vice-Senior General and the Chinese Ambassador beat the Mingala gong three times to launch the celebration.

The Chairman of the Myanmar Chinese Buddhist Monks Association, the Sayadaw of Guanyinxi Temple, and other monks conveyed New Year's greetings and offered prayers and loving-kindness in both Chinese and Myanmar languages. The Vice-Senior General and his wife offered Buddha images and fruits to the Guanyinxi Temple Sayadaw, who returned the religious New Year gift.

Representatives from Chinese societies in Yangon, in upper and lower Myanmar, and the Myanmar-China Investment and Trade Promotion Association (MCITP) presented traditional gifts to the Vice-Senior General and his wife, and the Chinese Ambassador.

After enjoying respectful performances of the entertainment troupes, the Vice-Senior General and his wife presented cash awards.

The Vice-Senior General and his wife, the Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar and attendees to the celebration had documentary photos taken together with monks and officials of Chinese associations.

The Vice-Senior General, his wife and attendees watched the sitting dance of lions, a traditional Chinese badminton event and a traditional Myanmar solo caneball skill demonstration and gave cash awards.

The Vice-Senior General and party visited the traditional Chinese cultural booths, handicraft booths, traditional medicine booths, traditional Chinese foods showrooms and business booths. Curators conducted them around the booths.

Afterwards, the dinner to mark the Chinese New Year festival to mark the Year



State Security and Peace Commission Vice-Chairman Vice-Senior General Soe Win extends the New Year greetings at the Chinese Lunar New Year Festival 2026 at the National Indoor Stadium 1 in Thuwunna of Yangon yesterday.

of the Horse followed. First, an auspicious ceremony to paint the lion figures took place. On the occasion, the Vice-Senior General and the Chinese Ambassador painted the traditional Chinese lion figures in its traditional style. The Chinese lion dance troupe performed entertainment, and New Year gifts were presented.

On the occasion, the Vice-Senior General extended the New Year greetings. He said: The year 2026 is the Year of the Horse. It carries positive meanings, symbolizing the ability to carry out tasks with great momentum and full strength, to overcome challenges with wisdom and skills, and to achieve development. Therefore, it is believed that in this New Year, not only China but also the peoples of both Myanmar and China will be able to achieve greater progress and benefit. It is also fully believed that during this remarkable year of 2026, Myanmar and China, as good friends and good neighbours, will be able to further expand and accelerate their cooperation with goodwill and sincere intentions.

Based on the fraternal "Pauk-Phaw" spirit, the two countries have been closely cooperating across various sectors, and in 2011, their relations were elevated to the level of a "Comprehensive Strategic

Cooperative Partnership." Furthermore, during the 2020 state visit to Myanmar by the President of the People's Republic of China, Mr Xi Jinping, the "Myanmar-China Community with a Shared Future" was successfully established, marking a new historic milestone in bilateral relations.

With the assistance of China, Myanmar is implementing the projects in the education and health sectors for socioeconomic development, and electricity and energy, agriculture, industrial and transport sectors for infrastructural development. Both countries cooperate in the implementation of the Kyaukpyu deep-sea port project, the Myitsone hydropower project, and the oil and natural gas pipeline project. Moreover, the Muse-Mandalay new railway project and the Mandalay-Kyaukpyu railway project are under implementation. The Muse-Mandalay railway is the first step to implement the Kyaukpyu-Kunming railway project, and it is a pivotal sector of the Kyaukpyu-Kunming project. The Mandalay-Kyaukpyu railway project presents a promising opportunity that could serve as China's outlet to the Indian Ocean. In addition, Myanmar shares borders with some of the world's most populous countries, China, Bangladesh,

and India and is geographically situated at a strategic crossroads linking South Asia, Southeast Asia, and China. Myanmar places great importance on China's peaceful development and mutually beneficial cooperation initiatives. Situated at a strategic crossroads of regional connectivity and capable of creating an outlet to the Indian Ocean for China, the Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman, during his visit to China in August 2025, has invited China to invest in the transport and infrastructure sectors. If such investments are realized, they will bring significant mutual benefits to both countries.

Myanmar continues to uphold the One-China Policy to this day. Based on a genuine partnership, mutual trust, and the long-standing "Pauk-Phaw" fraternal friendship, the two sides were able to hold candid and open discussions on further strengthening bilateral relations, expanding cooperation across various sectors, accelerating the building of a Myanmar-China Community with a Shared Future, and cooperating on matters related to regional peace and stability.

SEE PAGE 4

NATIONAL

Newly Elected Myanmar Government to..

FROM PAGE 3

The Government of the People's Republic of China is always remembered for its assistance in Myanmar's peace processes and for being among the first to dispatch aid following the Mandalay earthquake. Deep appreciation is also expressed for the support provided to post-earthquake rehabilitation efforts, as well as for China's continued constructive encouragement and backing not only in the region but also within the international community. At present, Myanmar has successfully concluded a multiparty democratic general election. Soon, Hluttaw sessions will be convened under the leadership of the elected representatives. Through the Hluttaw, a new government led by a President elected in accordance with democratic procedures is expected to emerge in early April. It is believed that this will enable the two countries to further enhance and expand their cooperation to an even greater extent.

Among the traditional Chinese zodiac signs, the "Horse" is associated with success and good fortune. Therefore, it is earnestly wished that, based on the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexist-

ence, the friendly neighbourly relations between the two countries will remain enduring; that the People's Republic of China will continue to enjoy sustained development and prosperity; and that all distinguished guests present today may be blessed with good health, success, good fortune, happiness, and well-being.

The Vice-Senior General and the Chinese Ambassador exchanged commemorative gifts.

The Chinese Ambassador delivered New Year's greetings. She said: The year 2025 was a significant year for China-Myanmar relations. Under the guidance of the top leaders, bilateral relations advanced to a new level. The leaders of the two countries met twice and exchanged messages of congratulations, taking advantage of the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations to deepen strategic cooperation and to promote the building of a Myanmar-China Community with a Shared Future. New progress was achieved in China-Myanmar economic cooperation, with bilateral trade increasing by 19 per cent and Chinese investment in Myanmar rising by 230 per cent, bringing

visible benefits to the peoples of both countries. Cultural exchanges between the peoples of the two nations were also carried out comprehensively. Last year, more than 250,000 Chinese travellers paid visits to Myanmar.

During this year, the "Pauk-Phaw" fraternal relationship between the two countries was further strengthened. In particular, the rescue and relief efforts following the earthquake on 28 March 2025 demonstrated immense compassion and highlighted the close and caring friendship between China and Myanmar.

The year 2026 will be welcomed as the energetic and vigorous Year of the Horse. China will begin implementing its 15th Five-Year Plan, while Myanmar will also embark on a new journey. The leaders of both countries will carry out important agreements they have mutually endorsed, work together to strengthen the shared community of destiny, and actively promote cooperation across various sectors between the two nations. She prayed that may China and Myanmar both flourish and prosper; may the countries and their peoples enjoy peace and well-being;

and may everyone have their wishes fulfilled and experience goodness and blessings.

The Vice-Senior General, his wife and attendees to the celebration had the honorary dinner to mark the Chinese New Year celebration. During the dinner, the traditional Chongqing dance troupe and Di Ra Do dance troupe, the Myawady Entertainment Troupe and artistes performed dances and songs while Chinese cultural troupes presented traditional Chinese songs and music.

The Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs presented awards to the athletes at the 2026 Chinese New Year Festival commemorative basketball contest.

The Vice-Senior General and his wife, and the Chinese Ambassador, presented the flower baskets to the traditional Chinese cultural troupes, the Myawady entertainment troupe under the Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare and artistes.

Myanmar artistes and guests sang the theme song "May every flower bloom" in chorus, and the Vice-Senior General and his wife cordially greeted the attendees. — MNA/TTA

Union-Level MSME Products Exhibition and Market Fair concludes

THE awards and closing ceremony of the Union-Level MSME Products Exhibition and Market Fair took place at Nay Pyi Taw Square yesterday.

Speaking at the event, Union Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than, who is also Chairman of the Union-Level MSME Products Exhibition and Market Fair Organizing Committee, said six types of awards will be

presented at the event, and a total of 36 knowledge-sharing seminars connecting ministries and the private sector were successfully conducted during the event. The booths sold products amounted to K16.7 billion and over 600,000 people visited them. The exhibition and market fair support the economic development of the country and the directive of the Head of State to



Union Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than speaks at the awards and closing ceremony of the Union-Level MSME Products Exhibition and Market Fair at Nay Pyi Taw Square yesterday.

produce agro-based industries and value-added products.

The Union Minister and

party awarded the winners in different competitions, and certificates of honour to the leading

committees, working committees and participant companies. — MAN/KTZH

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NATIONAL

Weekly Roundup

8 February

Outstanding film stars honoured

Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attended the 2025 Myanmar motion pictures outstanding award presentation ceremony at the Myanmar International Convention Centre I (MICC I) in Nay Pyi Taw and presented outstanding awards to the winners.

Athletes awarded for their victories

A ceremony to honour victorious athletes who brought prestige to the State by competing in the VIII World Vovinam Championships 2025 and the 16th World Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Championships held in Indonesia in 2025, the XXXIII SEA Games 2025 and the 13th ASEAN Para Games 2026 in Thailand took place at the Wunna Theikdi Gymnasium-1 in Nay Pyi Taw.

9 February

Dinner hosted to Myanmar delegation for defence at ICJ

Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing hosted a dinner in honour of the Myanmar delegation, which defended the case at the International Court of Justice (ICJ), at the Banquet Hall of the Office of the National Defence and Security Council in Nay Pyi Taw.

MSME expo kicks off

Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing launched the opening of the Union-level MSME Products Exhibition and Market Fair to mark the 79th Anniversary of Union Day 2026 at the Nay Pyi Taw Square.

10 February

Head of State appreciates efforts of UEC and authorities

Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing met the Union Election Commission chairman, the Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman and the chief ministers of regions and states at the meeting hall of the National Defence and Security Council to appreciate their efforts in the elections.

11 February

New Convocation (Multi-Purpose) Hall facilitated for NSA

Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attended the opening of the Convocation Hall (Multi-purpose Hall) of the Naypyitaw State Academy in Ottarathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

12 February

Head of State sends message to 79th Union Day

Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudamma Min Aung Hlaing sent a message to the ceremony to mark the 79th Anniversary of Union Day, which falls on 12 February 2026.

Victorious Tatmadaw member athletes honoured

State Security and Peace Commission Chairman and Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivered a speech at the ceremony to honour Tatmadaw members and coaches who secured medals in the XIX Asian Games, the XXXIII SEA Games and the XIII ASEAN Para Games, at Bayintnaung Villa in Nay Pyi Taw.

13 February

Honorary dinner marks 79th Anniversary of Union Day 2026

Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudamma Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla hosted a dinner in honour of the 79th Anniversary of Union Day 2026, at the square of the Nay Pyi Taw City Hall. — GNLMT/TTA

Illegal goods, fuel, vehicles seized nationwide

UNDER the supervision of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, relevant departments are taking effective action in accordance with the law to prevent and suppress illegal trade across the country.

A combined inspection team under the management of the Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force conducted inspections on 10 February. The team seized two unregistered motorbikes worth K11.9 million at the Yadanabon bridge combined checkpoint and illegal gold materials valued at K1.14 billion from a passenger's luggage at the Monywa Airport. The authorities are taking action under the law.

In Magway Region, the joint on-duty teams conducted the inspections on 9 and 10 February. They confiscated illegal teak, timbers and related things valued at K12.993 million in Minbu Township, 10 boats (K460 million) that are used in illegal digging of pebbles in the river in Thayet and Aunglan Townships, two unregistered motorbikes worth K400,000 in Aunglan and Ngaphe Townships, a Toyota Dyna (estimated value of K40 million) carrying illegal fuel oil, diesel and cash valued at K15.058 million in Kanma Township and two handphones that are used in gambling and cash valued at K1.678 million in Pakokku Township. The action was taken



Officials from Forest Department measure confiscated illegal timber in Magway Region.

under the Forest Law, the Water Resources and Rivers Law, the Export and Import Law, the Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law and the Gambling Law.

Additionally, inspections by the Customs Department captured industrial materials worth K88.2 million from a container at the Asia World Port and consumer goods worth K116,800,680 without official documents from the luggage of five passengers at the Yangon International Airport. The action is underway under the Customs procedures.

Between 9 and 11 February, a further 26 cases were seized nationwide, with a combined estimated value of K2.487 billion. — MNA/MKKS

Haka to host 78th Chin National Day Celebration on 20 Feb

THE 78th Anniversary of Chin National Day celebration will be held at the Chin State Government Office in Haka, Chin State, on 20 February, as is done every year, according to an official from the Chin State government office.



This photo features a Chin National Day celebration last year.

The festival will be attended by representatives of the various Chin ethnic groups from Chin State.

“As is tradition, the annual event will be held grandly. Representatives of Chin ethnic groups from the mountains and plains will attend,” said an official from the Chin State government office.

After Myanmar gained independence, a public conference was held in Falam on 20 February 1948, at which it was decided to change from a system of rule by chieftains (Saophas) to a democratic system of governance.

At the 7th Chin Traditional Council Conference held in Yangon on 9 October 1950, a proposal was submitted to designate Chin National Day. At the request of the members present, 20 February – the date of the public conference held in Falam – was selected as Chin National Day.

Chin National Day is a special day for the Chin people, who are an ethnic group that shares the same language, culture, history, and customs. — ASH/TH

NATIONAL

5 Chinese nationals detained over telecom fraud

AUTHORITIES have uncovered and detained five Chinese nationals involved in telecom fraud and related online criminal activities, and conducted verification procedures for deportation, according to official reports.

The government has been systematically identifying and investigating foreign nationals who entered and resided illegally in border areas and who participated in unlawful activities, including online gambling and online scams. The authorities have transferred those individuals to their respective countries in accordance with existing laws and procedures.

In the latest case, the five Chinese nationals were found to have entered through illegal routes after transiting via neigh-

bouring countries, including Thailand, and were located at sites near Myawady Township in Kayin State. Officials completed initial screening processes to facilitate deportation.

A joint departmental team has been collecting personal data and records required for the prompt repatriation of the detained foreign nationals. Member of the Myawady District Administration and Management Committee Lt-Col San Shwe inspected the ongoing documentation work and coordinated necessary measures.

From 30 January 2025 to 14 February 2026, a total of 14,205 foreign nationals who entered Myawady Township illegally were detained. Authorities reported that verification process-

es for all detainees have been completed. Of them, 13,117 were deported and transferred to their respective countries via Thailand in line with legal procedures, while the remaining 1,088 foreign nationals are ready for transfer and are properly accommodated.

The government stated that it continues to cooperate actively with neighbouring countries, regional partners, and international organizations to identify, arrest, and take effective action against individuals involved in online scam centre operations and their foreign organisers. It also affirmed that foreign nationals facing hardship or those who were victims of human trafficking are being coordinated for swift repatriation. — MNA/KZL



Immigration processes are underway for the deportation of undocumented foreign entrants.

Bay of Bengal Condition

Issued at 2 pm MST on 14 February 2026

ACCORDING to the observations at 1:30 pm MST today, a low-pressure area may form over the South Bay of Bengal and adjoining Equatorial Indian Ocean during the next 48 hours. — DMH

New Maximum Temperature Record

Issued on 14 February 2026

Sr No	Station	Date of New Record	New Max Record		Date of Old Record	Old Max Record		Past Years of Opening Station
			(°C)	(°F)		(°C)	(°F)	
1	Mudon	13 February 2026	38.0	100.4	25 February 2012	37.9	100.2	45



This photo shows the Buddha Pujaniya Festival (Taboung Festival) being held at the Zalun Pyidawpyan Pagoda in the previous year.

Zalun Pagoda to host Buddha Pujaniya festival for 8 days

THE Buddha Pujaniya festival will take place at the Zalun Pyidawpyan Pagoda for eight days, from 24 February to 2 March, featuring festivities and ceremonies to pay reverence to the Buddha, Dhamma, and Sangha, according to U Khin Maung Oo, a member of the Zalun Pyidawpyan Pagoda Board of Trustees.

“The Taboung Buddha Pujaniya Festival at Zalun Pyitawpyan Pagoda is held from the 9th waxing day to the 1st waning day of Taboung. During the festival, a Dhamma sermon will be conducted as part of the Dhamma Puja event. In the Buddha Puja event, offerings will include gold foil covering, and alms to the Buddha image. In the Sangha Puja event, rice offer-

ings will be made, and there will also be fun activities and markets. The Regional Government will take special care of security during the festival,” said U Khin Maung Oo.

The Zalun Pyidawpyan Buddha Image in Zalun Township, Ayeyawady Region, is one of the four Muni Buddha Images in Myanmar. The Maha Muni Buddha Image is in Mandalay, Mandalay Region; the Shin Kyaw Muni is in Kyauktaw, Rakhine State; the Shwe Bontha Muni is enshrined at Shwe Bontha Pagoda in Padaung Township, Bago Region; and the Manaungmyin Muni is enshrined at the Pyidawpyan Pagoda in Zalun Township, Ayeyawady Region. — ASH/MKKS

Advisory issued to protect livestock from extreme heat

THE Department of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary, under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation has issued a public advisory urging livestock farmers to take precautionary measures to protect animals from heat stress during periods of extreme temperatures.

The advisory recommends keeping animals in shaded areas during peak heat, allowing grazing only during cooler morning and evening hours, and ensuring an adequate supply of drinking water by storing it in advance while preventing wastage. It also advises supplementing feed with water-rich foods to help animals cope with the heat, and preparing suit-

able locations with access to water-rich foods water if relocation becomes necessary, and systematically storing fodder such as straw and fresh grass.

In addition, farmers are urged to administer vaccinations regularly to prevent infectious diseases and to implement fire safety precautions at farms and feed storage areas by maintaining fire hooks, sand, and water buckets. The department further instructed farmers to promptly report any unusual animal health incidents to the relevant administrative bodies, the Department of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary, and the Myanmar Livestock Federation, for coordinated action. — ASH/KZL

Agri Dept calls for businesses to submit EOI for sales of oil palm fruit



PERENNIAL Crops Division of the Department of Agriculture under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation invited business entities to submit an Expression of Interest to sell clusters of oil palm fruit that will be harvested from farms in Taninthayi Township in the upcoming financial year (1 April 2026-31 March 2027). They will be supplied by

Nyaungpinkwin, Maliwan, Awgyi, Hasadin and Yedagon farms. Those interested business entities are notified to submit EOI to the Perennial Crops Division in Nay Pyi Taw at Office 50 at 1 pm on 9 March 2026.

Individuals can enquire about details through 067 3431203 and 067 3431122. — NN/KK

Bunches of oil palm fruits are lined up at a crude palm oil mill for processing.

YCDC invites tenders to operate public restrooms, cafeteria in 2026-27FY

THE Urban Environmental Conservation and Cleansing Department under the Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) invited businesses to submit a tender for operating 24 public restrooms and two cafeterias in the 2026-2027 financial year.

Those public restrooms will be located near Kyimyindine night market bus-stop on Upper Kyimyindine Street, in the corner of Bargaya and the Strand Road, near Hanthawady Gas Station in Kyimyindine Township, in the corner of Maha Bandoola and Latha Streets in Latha Township, in the corner of Lanmadaw and Anawrahta Street near Emergency of Yangon General Hospital, near the FAW car terminal in the corner of Min Nanda Street and Yamonna Street in Dawbon Township, near Danyingon intersection on the lower Mingaladon Road, Insein Township, near Phawkan market on Lower Mingaladon Road in Insein Township, in the corner of No 3 Highway and Kayapin Street in Mingaladon Township, Aungmingala Highway terminal in North Okkalapa Township, near the 39 bus terminal in Thingangyun Township, near Kayan-Thongwa bus terminal in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, near Yoneshay bus-stop in Hline-

thaya (East) Township, near BOC roundabout in Hlinethaya (East) Township, near Meekwat market in Hlinethaya (West) Township, near Thamagon bus-stop in Hlinethaya (West) Township, near the New Day petrol station on Kaba Aye Road in Manyangon Township, in the corner of the University Avenue and Pyay Road in Kamayut Township, near Sule Shangri-La in Kyauktada Township, Container Terminal in Ahlon Township, in the corner of Theinphyu and Bogyoke streets in Botahtaung Township, St Paul toilet in Botahaung Township, near Zaykway in the corner of Minnanda and Zingama streets in Thakayta, the bus terminal in Dala Township. Two cafeterias for government personnel are on the 2nd floor of the YCDC 12-storey building in Botahtaung.

Tender rules and forms can be purchased at the department on the second floor of the 12-storey building of the YCDC. Individuals can enquire about details through the contact numbers of the department at 09 254017105 and 09 250283877.

The tender form can be purchased at 1 pm from 23 to 27 February. Tender opening will be held at 11 am on 6 March at the meeting hall on the second floor of the YCDC office. — NN/KK

SWD to conduct school-based domestic vocational training



Trainees are practising sewing machine operations in the previous training.

THE Department of Social Welfare under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement will offer the school-based domestic vocational training from 18 February to 27 March at its schools in ten big cities.

This training will take place at its schools located in Yangon, Mandalay, Mawlamyine, Patheingyi, Tounghay, Myittha, Pyaw, Sittway, Ywangan and Dawei cities.

The training will provide sewing courses (women's, children's, and men's clothing, coats), domestic handicraft

training (crochet, embroidery, sewing), baking, cooking and floral design training with domestic and foreign experts through technical and practical approaches.

There are eight batches every financial year, with each batch taking six weeks. Moreover, schools in Yangon, Mandalay, Mawlamyine and Patheingyi cities offer other special training as well. Those above 14-year-olds who completed primary school education are eligible to attend the training.

Those interested individu-

als can contact the respective domestic vocational schools in the regions and states.

For further details, individuals can enquire Yangon school in Bahan through contact numbers 09 427900046, Mandalay school through 02 4036798, Mawlamyine through 057 2027166, Tounghay through 054 2823571, Myittha through 074 2522558, Pyaw through 09 262757899, Patheingyi through 042 25373 and 042 21037, Sittway through 043 22067, Ywangan through 081 4768015 and Dawei through 059 2024009. — NN/KK

OPINION

BOOKRACK POEM

Improve children's future to avoid child labour nightmares

THE government is striving to implement the national action plan on the elimination of child labour from 2019 to 2033 with the assistance of the International Labour Organization. In this regard, the Ministry of Labour takes responsibility for addressing the problems and challenges of child labour based on the root causes such as poverty, lack of education and cultural attitudes.

Moreover, efforts are being made to help children under 18 withdraw from hazardous work environments, while school-based and community-based child protection activities are being implemented. At present, with the assistance of relevant ministries, non-governmental organizations, and local authorities, safe and appropriate employment opportunities are being created to enable these children to earn a livelihood for their survival, in addition to learning environments through non-formal education programmes.

The action plan aims to eliminate child labour, with a particular focus on its worst forms. Many of the affected children lack reliable parents or relatives to meet their daily needs and have no access to even basic primary education or financial support from society. Therefore, vocational training courses are being provided to improve their livelihoods for their survival on their own feet and participate in society at an appropriate socioeconomic level.

Currently, children under the age of 18 account for approximately 33.31 per cent of the 51.3 million national population. As children in rural areas have limited access to healthcare, water and sanitation services, and educational opportunities, the State is formulating plans and providing care and protection for children from birth to the age of 18, covering health, education, social welfare, moral development, values formation, and their survival and well-being.

Saving the lives of children who are compelled to work for their daily survival ultimately contributes to improving the socioeconomic conditions of the people as a whole. Only when the lives of children improve can the living standards of society advance. In order for future generations of Myanmar to possess higher skills and stronger intellectual capacity, emphasis must be placed on uplifting children's lives, particularly those engaged in child labour, so that they can escape hazardous workplaces and access better employment opportunities based on the skills and techniques they have acquired.

Not only the government and local authorities, but the entire population, must provide necessary assistance to children working in various workplaces, treating them with the same care and compassion as their own offspring. Indeed, everyone must uphold the principle that only when all children enjoy a prosperous life can society as a whole reap the benefits of a peaceful and prosperous future.



Book Title - A Man on the Rainbow Bridge
 Author - Khin Wan
 Publishing House - The Eras
 Publication Date - December 2025 (1st Edition)
 Price - K25,000

A Man on the Rainbow Bridge

THE book titled 'A Man on the Rainbow Bridge' compiles the artistic works of Khin Wan. The letter to his mother included in the book poignantly reflects his personal and professional struggles while living abroad.

"Dear Mom, Please don't let my daughters and spouse, Khin Lay Myint, feel down. I sent three photos. I am having a hard time at work. I am feeling pushed out of my job. They do not want me to work here. They just want me to go back home after a long visit. They do not give me a hand. Takashi became distant after giving me some drawing gifts. I am dealing with silent and cold treatment. Regardless of hurdles, I am making my own efforts. Nonetheless, I am feeling completely lost with no visible career path and an isolating experience. I am feeling like a burden now. I cannot say for certain right now. Yet, I am

considering relocating to Tokyo for a job.

Love The eldest son Ps: Mi Lay, please keep photos and don't stick them to the walls.

This heartfelt letter from the son to his mom is like reading a short story about a son yearning for his mom. He is worried about his spouse and daughters, that they might feel belittled. The son away from home is none other than reputable songwriter, singer, artist, poet and author Khin Wan.

Some people create art. Art is not a mirror held up to the reality of artists. Nonetheless, some of the artists channel personal, emotional and sensory life experiences into their work through profound visual narratives. And, Khin Wan is one of them, creating works based on life experiences. His works evoke feelings of longing, sorrow and loss.

He was born on 24 November

1947 in Pyay to U Aung Kha and Daw Thein Tin. His father was a Japanese Engineer named Yoshioka Noroki (U Aung Kha) who came to Myanmar during the Second World War. Khin Wan's Japanese name is Yoshioka Sachio.

He studied Zoology at the University of Yangon in the 1965-1966 Academic Year and stayed in Shwebo Dormitory. He spent his university life happily, being drowned in literature, music, and art.

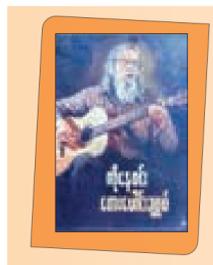
His piano mentors were U Kyi Tha and pianist U Tun Nyunt. His first literary work was a short story titled 'I, the Rascal Khin Wan', written for the Yangon University Anniversary Magazine in the 1966/67 Academic Year. His first painting was exhibited in July, 1969. He got married to Daw Khin Lay Myint in 1969 and made a living as a painter.

He released his album

'A Lantern to Brighten up the Darkness' in 1991, including 12 songs composed by Ko Nay Win, together with the Medium Wave band. He again released another album titled 'Seikkyaik Pyan Sotay (Remake series) in 1995, including the songs composed by Ko Nay Win - May Longing Nights Pass, Purple Flower, Nadi Mingala and other famous songs. The album, 'The Path You Walk', was released in 1997 with self-composed songs and four new songs.

The best songs with great records are Snow, Ayeyawady, Saying Goodbye, Mother, Winter in Pyay, Return of Salmons, King with Extraordinary Archery Skills, Seven Stars, Great Expectation, Purple Flower, Nadi Mingala and May Longing Nights Pass. He passed away on 3 February 2000, leaving his family, including spouse Daw Khin Lay Myint, daughters Pwint Phyu Thi, Pwint Hmon Thi, July Thi and Myint Khaing Thi and grandson Aung Myint Tun.

This is the first comprehensive collection of Khin Wan's writings, poems, interviews, song lyrics, short stories, and paintings, containing approximately 270 pages, including coloured pages. Khin Wan's literary works and art are inspired by hardship, nostalgia, and the struggle of his life. His art continues to resonate with people.



Book Title - Collection of Songs Composed by Ko Nay Win
 Author - Ko Nay Win
 Publishing House - Seikku Cho Cho
 Publication Date - December 2025 (2nd Edition)
 Price - K40,000

Collection of Songs Composed by Ko Nay Win

THIS week, we are pleased to introduce to music lovers and readers a book with the words, "This man's loyalty is there as long as the world exists." The book is a collective song by Ko Nay Win, one of Myanmar's leading songwriters.

Ko Nay Win once shared his belief, saying, "The more supporters I have, the harder I try. If I write nine songs for my livelihood, I write one for the country. Even when I write ten songs, I don't keep them all for myself. I let them flow on a wave strong enough to echo in the hearts of the people."

He was born in 1950, and he will be 76 years old on 30 September this year. He started composing songs at the ages of 13 and 14. His song "Maung's Lapyawun" became widely popular among people.

Regarding his one tune, he said, "The songs broadcast

on the radio were mostly mono songs, with rhymes like 'Tal', 'Mal', 'Kwel', 'May', 'Yay', and 'Lay'. I didn't want to keep writing with those predictable rhymes anymore. I wanted to move towards a different style. Take the song 'Arlone Ko Kyaw Phyat Ya Mal' for example. 'Takha Talay Kyone Mal Ahkaung, Ahsoe Lae Tway Ya Mal', something like that verse. I ended it with rhymes like 'Kaung', 'Mal', and 'Lay'. That's it."

Ko Nay Win wrote copy songs when he was 13 years old. He established the Lonely Heart band together with his friends in Mandalay. He played lead, and London Art U Ohn Mung's son Ritta Ohn Maung taught him to play classical guitar, and he played classical guitar. His first album was the 'Knock! Knock! Who's There?' and it included 10 cover songs and one own-tuned song. For the history of

his masterpiece song 'Maung's Lapyawun', he said, "I wrote it in Naungmon, but I haven't done with it. I just wrote 'Kwal-lun Chin and Alal Lun Chin', but 'Nal Kyun Chin'. It took about one year before the U Thant crisis. I stayed at the flat of Sai Htee Saing and Sun KyaeO. After finalizing the song, we played guitar and sang it in front of the dormitories. I used 'Chit Ywae Sunt Thwar Tae Min Ko, Sunt Ywae Chit Thwar Mal'. I wrote it casually, but it became memorable. Afterwards, the schools were closed in 1976. When they were reopened, Sai Htee Saing came and asked to buy the song. It was later included in his album 'Satetaza Alwan'.

Regarding this publication, the preface reads ... the collective songs of composer Ko Nay Win, the second edition, includes a portrait of Ko Nay Win gifted to his family, the book cover art-

work of artist Agga and photos of Ko Nay Win. Ko Nay Win's family thanks all those who created and gave presents of paintings and photos. Moreover, the second edition is modified depending on the first edition, and the family of Ko Nay Win deeply express gratitude to those who published the first edition.

The book, containing nearly 480 pages and bound in hardcover, presents the songs in Myanmar alphabetical order. Each song includes accompanying guitar chords. In addition, the book features photographs of Ko Nay Win, portrait paintings, artworks he himself created, his manuscripts, and four songs written in English as mementoes. As an appendix, readers will also find lists of singers who sang his songs, as well as albums and song titles that Ko Nay Win wrote and sang himself.

Graceful with Myanmar Costumes and Myanmar Songs

By Mya Thae (Research)

The Academy Award Day had passed. We watched and enjoyed very much. Audiences also liked with pleasure heart. All actors, actresses, and presenters, in their Myanmar costumes, were graceful very much. Soe Myat Thuza, May Than Nu and Htet Htet Moe Oo are still beautiful and alert. Vocalists also sang with Myanmar melody songs. We are all Myanmar and love traditional Myanmar, which belongs. Not only in Academy time but also at all times, we should wear Myanmar costumes, every time long.

ပတ္တမြားရွှေဂူ Ruby Gold Cave

Pick holes in a faultless thing. Even though a dog barks at the moon, The golden moonlight is bright and shining. As always, it is glittering. The emerald gold cave of ruby Swine are green with envy And abrade it in sludge. But the more abrasion, The more the gold cave's illumination: Superior than ever before.

Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song) 7 February 2026

Throw them away

By Kyi Aye / Translated by Myint Zan

Throw them away: the bluish sapphire clouds yellow and milky pearls the bold, bright diamonds Oh, throw them away throw them into the waters beyond the land submerged them in the deep waters below the bubbling waves sprinkle, throw them away!

cry my love with wet tears: in this life without attachment and love there ain't any thing to crave for (or) to be happy

First published in Shumawa magazine, January 1953 Translated on 10 February 2026.

လွှင့်ပစ်လိုက်စမ်း တိမ်တိုက်အပြာ၊ သည် နီလာတွေ ဝါရည်နီခဲ၊ သည်ပုလဲတွေ ခဲသားရင့်ရင့်၊ သည်စိန်ပွင့်တွေ။ လွှင့်ပစ်လိုက်လေ မြေပြင်ပုသိန်၊ လျှိုင်းပွက်ပွက်နှင့် ရေနက်ထဲနှစ်၊ ကြွချပစ်လိုက် မျက်ရည်စိန် နှင့် ဦးတော့မေ ရယ် တွယ်တာရာ မေတ္တာကင်းမှ၊ သည်ဘဝမှာ ဘာကို မက်မောမေ့ပစ်လဲ။ ။

Translator's note: Kyi Aye (13 December 1929-28 December 2016) was a poet, novelist, short story writer and a medical doctor specializing in psychiatry. Since December 1971, she had lived and worked in the United States.

NATIONAL Entertainment



Khine Hnin Wai
NEWLY awarded Best Supporting Actress, Khine Hnin Wai, shared on 14 February, saying, "Pyae Sone Shin gifted her chocolates, a bouquet, and a lucky sapphire ring she likes," along with photos posted on her social media page.



Nandar Hlaing

ACTRESS rumoured to be returning to the screen is Academy Award-winning Nandar Hlaing. She attended the opening ceremony of the second branch of the Nan Htike Yadana jewellery shop on 14 February. When asked by the media whether she would be acting in films again, she gave an uncertain reply, saying, "I don't know yet."



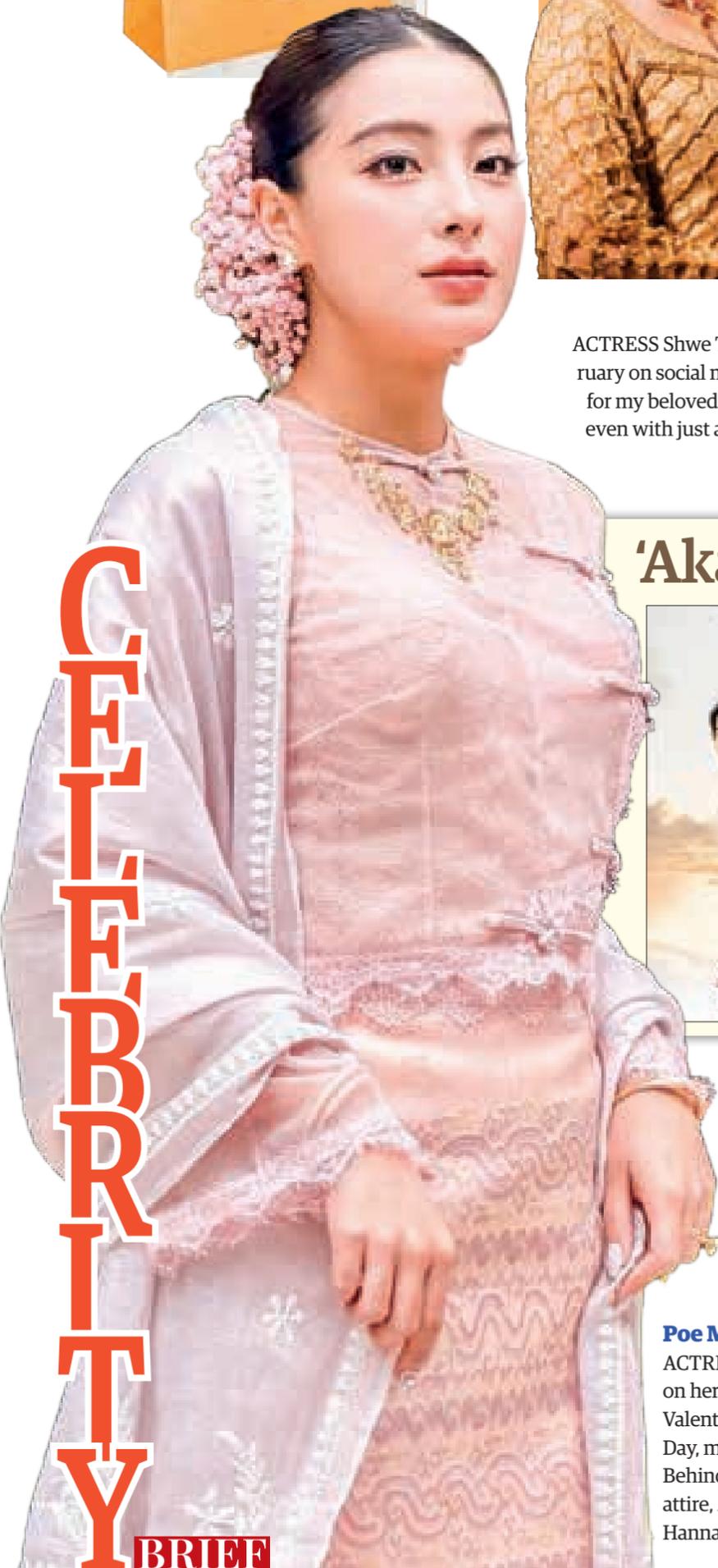
Wutt Hmone Shwe Yi

ACTRESS Wutt Hmone Shwe Yi, who was predicted by fans to win the Best Actress Award for the film 'Soul Talker' but surprisingly missed out on the Academy Award, had her administrative team share the fashion photos she wore on the Academy day on her Facebook page with the caption "Academy Memories." For her credits are Jason Ya for photo, Mogok Pauk Pauk address, Amara Maung for makeup, Ah Nge Lay (Red Ribbon) for styling, with special thanks to Ko Saw, Ko Thuya Soe and Aung Thamadi Gold, Jewellery Shops & Refinery.



Shwe Tha Mee

ACTRESS Shwe Tha Mee shared her Valentine's Day special photos on 14 February on social media, with the caption: "These are Valentine's special photos for my beloved 'Golden' ones. You can be happy alone... right? I'm happy even with just a single flower. (Not a flower from my boyfriend). It was given by a girl at the hotel. Will you be my Valentine?"



'Akal Ywae' film goes second round



THE film 'Akal Ywae' (If) is currently screened nationwide for its second week, with additional cinemas and extra showtimes added, according to Academy Soe Pyae Thazin.

Even though the actress suffered from hoarseness of voice and tiredness, she met her fans in Mandalay. The story of the film was produced by Story Film Production was by Wai Myo Thit, while the script by Aye Thiri Ko, and directed by Pyae Phyo Naing (PN). The cast are Sai Si Tom Kham, Nay Htut, Academy Soe Pyae Thazin and Academy May Myint Mo. The film was screened nationwide at 69 cinemas for the first week from 13 to 19 February, and now it is in its second week. — Htun Htun/KTZH

Sai Sai Kham Leng

SINGER and actor Sai Sai Kham Leng wrote on social media, "I have a special song for 14 February. Valentine is Valentine indeed, but it's a solo Valentine," and shared his old song 'Tagodaw Valentine' (Solo Valentine) with fans. He performed the song together with Bunny Phyo.



Poe Mamhe Thar

ACTRESS Poe Mamhe Thar shared a photo shoot on her social media on 14 February, which falls on Valentine's Day, with the caption "Happy Valentine's Day, my love." For her photos, she was supported by Behind Aurora for Forever for photo, Chic Pauk for attire, Jim Makeup, Mam Chaimongkon for hair and Hannay Naing Lynn for style. — Htun Htun/KTZH

CELEBRITY

BRIEF

NATIONAL

YR Expo & Music Concert crowded with visitors on 3rd day

THE Yangon Region Exhibition and Music Concert is being held for the third day to commemorate the 79th Union Day at People's Square in Dagon Township, Yangon, with MSME product shops crowded with visitors.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, along with regional ministers, toured the MSME booths selling consumer goods, cosmetics, and food, as well as Satuditha stalls and solar and electric bike (EV) exhibition booths.

On the evening of 13 February, members of the public attended the exhibition and music concert held in commemoration of the 79th Union Day, where they enjoyed performances by well-known singers, dancing, and celebrations.



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein visits the MSME booths displayed at Yangon Region Exhibition and Music Concert at People's Square in Dagon Township, Yangon, yesterday. PHOTO: ZWE HTET KO (IPRD)

Similarly, the Myanmar Laphet (Tea) Festival was held at Sein Lan So Pyay Garden in Yangon under the theme "Beyond LAPHET," showcasing dishes that can be prepared with

Myanmar laphet. The event was attended by the Yangon Region Chief Minister and his wife, regional ministers and their wives, officials from embassies to Myanmar, representatives of the Myanmar Cultural Heritage Preservation Group, the Myanmar Tea Producers and Exporters Association, and invitees.

The region's chief minister delivered the opening speech, while the Chairman of the Myanmar Cultural Heritage Preservation Group and the Advisor to the Myanmar Tea Producers and Exporters Association explained the objectives of the festival.

Afterwards, attendees viewed the food displays featuring laphet. — Zwe Htet Ko (IPRD)/MKKS



The hybrid webinar commemorating the first successful local production of semaglutide (Seglupac), the world's latest treatment for diabetes and obesity.

PMI locally produces Myanmar's first semaglutide

AA Medical Products Ltd announced on 14 February the successful production of semaglutide (Seglupac), Myanmar's first locally manufactured treatment for diabetes and obesity.

A hybrid webinar was held on 8 February at the Melia Hotel in Yangon to commemorate this first production by Pacific Medical Industries (PMI), one of Myanmar's leading pharmaceutical manufacturers.

The announcement stated that PMI has successfully produced this world-class diabetes treatment locally, meeting international standards. The product

aims to provide patients with an affordable alternative that offers the same quality as expensive imported medications.

At the ceremony, Co-founder & Group Vice-Chairwoman Dr Saw Nay Nwe delivered the opening remarks and introduced the company's advanced new product, Seglupac.

Following this, Mr Deven, CEO of PMI, presented the topic 'Control, Comfort, Confidence', regarding the entire production process, starting from the selection of high-grade API raw materials for the manufacturing of Seglupac. — MT/ZN

Sitagu Cakkhu Dana Hospital schedules next free vision care in Mar

THE Sitagu Cakkhu Dana Hospital (Yangon) has provided free eye examinations to over 20,000 patients up to its 16th mission, and is now preparing for its next round on 17 March.

It is a milestone that has transformed the



Patients are seen receiving treatment during the 16th mission at the Sitagu Cakkhu Dana Hospital (Yangon).

lives of over 20,000 people. To date, the hospital has provided free examinations for 20,025 patients, performed surgeries for 6,070 individuals, and provided laser treatments for 380 patients.

During the seven days from 3 to 9 February, the 16th mission examined 1,527 patients, performed surgeries for 450, and provided laser treatments for 17 patients.

Preparations are underway to treat 1,700 registered eye patients on 17 March, and the hospital requests that these registered patients contact the hospital without fail on the scheduled date.

Led by the Sitagu Sayadaw, the eyesight donation mission stands as a beacon of hope for Myanmar society as it has lit the way for tens of thousands, and it will remain an invaluable light of life for the community, it stated. — MT/ZN

Warm Days Persist, Cool Nights and Early Mornings Continue

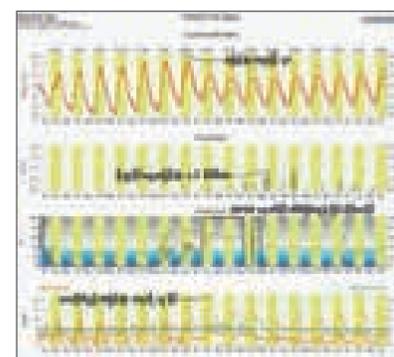
THE daytime temperature has elevated, but the impact of La Nina has remained, and it will feel cold at night and early morning, said meteorologist U Win Naing on his Facebook page.

During the transitional season, it will feel hot at night, but the temperature is low, especially in the mornings, and he urged the public to be aware of not getting too cold.

He said the formation of clouds will increase after 19-20 February. According to forecasts until 28 February for big cities: Pyay, Toungoo, Taunggyi, Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw, there is a possibility of rain and the rainfall will be about two millilitres, maximum temperature is 40 degrees Celsius, and maximum wind speed is

17 miles per hour in Taunggyi.

But it will be just a shower of rain during the transition to summer, he added. — MT/ZS



Weather forecast for late February.

ECONOMY WORLD

US waives Venezuela oil sanctions as Trump says expects to visit

The comments came after a visit to Caracas earlier in the week by US President Donald Trump's energy secretary.



US President Donald Trump said Friday he planned to visit Venezuela and reiterated satisfaction with its interim leader, as his administration authorized five major oil companies to operate in the country.

"I'm going to make a visit to Venezuela," Trump told reporters Friday, while adding that the date had not been decided.

The comments followed a visit to Caracas by Trump's energy secretary earlier this week and came as his administration cleared away additional US sanctions that have blocked oil

industry investment in the South American country.

On Friday, the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) granted general licences to BP, Chevron, Eni, Repsol and Shell "authorizing transactions related to oil or gas sector operations in Venezuela", with certain conditions.

The oil industry has expressed interest in the petroleum-rich country, while cautioning that the timeframe for investment depended on having clear rules after expropriations by earlier governments. — AFP

Venezuelan Interim President Delcy Rodriguez (center) greets a worker from a state oil company next to US Secretary of Energy Chris Wright (second from left) during a visit to the Orinoco Oil Belt in El Aceital, Anzoategui State, southern Venezuela, on 12 February.

PHOTO: VENEZUELAN PRESIDENCY / VIA AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Europe, UK seek closer ties a decade after Brexit

TEN years after the referendum that led to Brexit, Britain and the European Union must close ranks in an increasingly unstable world, their leaders said on Saturday.

EU chief Ursula von der Leyen told the Munich Security Conference that Europe and Britain need to cooperate more closely on "security, on economy.. on defending our democracies".

"Europe and in particular the UK should come closer together .. 10 years on from Brexit our futures are as bound as ever," she told the Munich Security conference.

British leader Keir Starmer echoed her.

"We are not at a crossroads: The road ahead is straight and it is clear. We must build our hard power, because that is the currency of the age," he said. — AFP

Saudi Arabia downscales flagship Red Sea giga-project

SAUDI Arabia is scaling back plans to build 81 luxury resorts on the Red Sea by 2030, seven sources told AFP, as the kingdom rethinks the multi-billion-dollar mega-projects meant to reshape its oil-reliant economy.

Stubbornly low oil prices and patchy demand have forced a rethink of the flamboyant "giga-projects" — centrepieces of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's Vision 2030 programme to diversify Saudi Arabia's economy.

Red Sea Global (RSG) denied plans to downsize, saying the project would continue after the initial phase of 27 resorts is completed this year. But sources with knowledge of the plans said construction would halt at the end of 2026, costing dozens of jobs at RSG and hundreds at contracting firms. — AFP

ECB fines French bank for climate risk failures



This image features the headquarters of the French banking group Crédit Agricole. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ CREDIT AGRICOLE**

THE European Central Bank said Friday it had fined French bank Credit Agricole 7.55 million euros (\$9 million) for failing to properly identify climate change-related risks that could affect its balance sheet.

"Credit Agricole did not sufficiently assess the materiality of its climate-related and environmental risks" by a deadline set after an investi-

gation in 2024, the ECB said in a statement, adding the bank was late by "75 full days".

The ECB has since 2020 required banks to manage and disclose climate-related risks to their portfolios as fears grow that increasingly frequent and intense natural disasters could hit asset values.

The transition to a lower-carbon economy also adds

an element of risk to investments in fossil fuel firms or energy-intensive sectors.

Credit Agricole expressed its "incomprehension" at the ECB move and said the fine related to only a small part of the bank's work.

Climate risk is limited overall across the bank, according to the statement. — AFP

Japan's Jera signs 27-yr LNG supply pact with QatarEnergy



Yukio Kani (L), global CEO and chair of Jera Co, and Saad Sherida al-Kaabi, Qatar's energy affairs minister who is president and CEO of QatarEnergy, shake hands at a signing ceremony in Doha on 3 February 2026. **PHOTO: KYODO**

MAJOR Japanese energy company Jera Co has signed a 27-year agreement with Doha's state-run QatarEnergy to secure three million tonnes of liquefied natural gas per year from 2028, as it seeks to diversify suppliers to meet an expected growth in demand.

Jera said it hopes to contribute to Japan's long-term energy security, with electricity demand set to be driven up by the expansion of data centres, semiconductor manufacturing and other energy-intensive infrastructure.

“Jera remains committed to building a resilient, well-balanced LNG procurement portfolio by sourcing from the Middle East, Asia-Pacific, the United States, and other regions,” the company,

one of the world's largest LNG buyers, said in a statement last week. LNG emits less greenhouse gases than coal and oil when burned. — Kyodo

China's Spring Festival fuels strong demand for ASEAN fruit

JANUARY and February are the busiest months of the year for fruit vendor Huang Chunlian. As the Spring Festival approaches, orders and inquiries flood in for her fruit, nuts and other snacks imported from the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

At her store in Pingxiang, a city on the China-Vietnam border in south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, the phone kept pinging with new messages as she juggled orders from regular customers, while posting social media updates advertising Thai Monthong



Vehicles wait to pass through Youyiguan Port, or Friendship Pass, in Pingxiang City, south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, 28 January 2026. **PHOTO: LU BOAN/XINHUA**

durian and pomelo gift boxes.

“Beyond individual shoppers, many companies placed bulk orders of

fruit to send out as Spring Festival gifts for employees,” Huang said.

Imported fruit, including cherries from

Chile and tropical fruit from ASEAN, has successfully joined this festive shopping spree in recent years. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PELICAN VOY.NO. (0084N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PELICAN VOY.NO. (0084N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **15-2-2026** 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 A.M to 11:20 A.M and 12 NOON to 4 P.M to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

(ONE) OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (167N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (167N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **15-2-2026** 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 A.M to 11:20 A.M and 12 NOON to 4 P.M 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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M.V RANONG MOE VOY.NO. (013)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V RANONG MOE VOY.NO. (013)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **15-2-2026** 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 A.M to 11:20 A.M and 12 NOON to 4 P.M 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 ANDAMAN SEA GATEWAYS GROUP OF
COMPANIES LIMITED

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MOON LIGHT VOY.NO. (ML018)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MOON LIGHT VOY.NO. (ML018)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **15-2-2026** 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 A.M to 11:20 A.M and 12 NOON to 4 P.M 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 THURIYA SANDAR WIN COMPANY LIMITED

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MSC QINGDAO F VOY.NO. (SB606A)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MSC QINGDAO F VOY.NO. (SB606A)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **15-2-2026** 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 A.M to 11:20 A.M and 12 NOON to 4 P.M 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 MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY S.A

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS DIGEST



The 4th China-Africa Economic and Trade Expo (CAETE) opened on 12 June 2025 in Changsha, Hunan Province. An exhibitor introduces a sightseeing vehicle to a visitor on 12 June 2025. **PHOTO: XUE YUGE/XINHUA**

FEBRUARY 14

China to scrap tariffs for most of Africa from May

BEIJING'S scrapping of tariffs for all but one African country will start 1 May, Chinese President Xi Jinping said Saturday, according to state media.

China already has a zero-tariff policy for imports from 33 African countries, but Beijing said last year it would extend the policy to all 53 of its diplomatic partners on the continent.

China is Africa's largest trading partner and a key backer of major infrastructure projects in the region through its vast "Belt and Road" initiative.

From 1 May, zero levies will apply to all African countries except Eswatini. China claims the democratic island as its own and does not rule out using force to take it. — Xinhua

FEBRUARY 13

Merz urges US to rebuild trust

GERMAN Chancellor Friedrich Merz called Friday for "a new transatlantic partnership" between the US and Europe, appealing to Washington: "Let's repair and revive transatlantic trust together."

"In the era of great power rivalry, even the United States will not be powerful enough to go it alone," Merz told the Munich Security Conference, switching to English to appeal directly to Washington.

"Dear friends, being a part of NATO is not only Europe's competitive advantage. It's also the United States' competitive advantage. So let's repair and revive transatlantic trust together. We, the Europeans – we are doing our part." Earlier on Friday, Chancellor Merz said that he was in talks with French President about nuclear deterrence, as worries grow about US security commitments to Europe. — AFP

FEBRUARY 12

Australia's Liberals elect net zero opponent as new leader

AUSTRALIA'S centre-right opposition Liberal Party elected as leader a conservative who lobbied to drop its commitment to net zero emissions, local media reported.

Angus Taylor – a former energy minister – replaces Sussan Ley, the party's first female leader who had been in office for less than a year.

Ley was ousted after a leadership challenge was called on Thursday, leading multiple members of her team to resign.

The Liberals have endured an agonising existential crisis since a disastrous election showing last year, torn between centrist factions arguing for a more moderate stance and right-wingers skeptical of climate legislation and multiculturalism.

The party leadership has also been spooked by recent opinion polling showing it falling behind the right-wing populist One Nation. — AFP

FEBRUARY 11

China unveils measures to spur holiday spending

CHINESE local authorities have allocated 2.05 billion yuan (about US\$295.23 million) in funds to directly benefit the public through the distribution of consumption vouchers, subsidies, and cash envelopes during the nine-day Spring Festival holiday, an official said on Wednesday.

The move is part of a consumption promotion campaign during the Spring Festival holiday. The campaign features activities across six areas, including dining, accommodation, transport, tourism, shopping and entertainment, Vice-Commerce Minister Sheng Qiuping told a press conference.

The official Spring Festival (Chinese New Year) holiday in 2026 is notably nine days long, making it the longest on record. The holiday period is officially scheduled to begin on 15 February 2026.

This extended holiday is expected to significantly boost domestic demand, stimulate local economies, and provide citizens with more opportunities to travel, spend, and enjoy cultural festivities across the country. — Xinhua

FEBRUARY 10

Canadian PM cancels trip after tragedy

CANADA'S Prime Minister Mark Carney is suspending his planned trip to the Munich Security Conference following Tuesday's mass shooting in a remote western community, his office said.

"Following the tragic news out of Tumbler Ridge, British Columbia, the Prime Minister will be... suspending his planned travel out of the country for the time being," the prime minister's office told AFP.

Carney had previously announced plans to be in Munich from Wednesday to Sunday.

Nine people were killed in the British Columbia shooting, including seven who were shot at a school.

The Prime Minister emphasized that his immediate priority is to support the affected families and communities while ensuring that federal resources are mobilized to assist in the aftermath of the tragedy. — AFP

FEBRUARY 9

German union urges homegrown fighter jet

GERMANY'S largest union on Monday called for Berlin to develop its own fighter jet, after French President Emmanuel Macron urged progress on a troubled joint European warplane project.

Accusing French planemaker Dassault Aviation of trying to dictate terms on the Future Combat Air System (FCAS) project, Juergen Kerner, deputy head of the IG Metall union, and Marie-Christine von Hahn, head of the German Aerospace Industries Association, said Germany should make its own jet.

"FCAS was originally planned as a joint project between equal partners and operated as such for a long time," they wrote in an opinion piece published by the Handelsblatt newspaper. — AFP

FEBRUARY 8

Iran jails Nobel laureate Narges Mohammadi

AN Iranian court has sentenced Nobel Peace Prize winner Narges Mohammadi to six years in jail on charges of "gathering and collusion to commit crimes", her lawyer said Sunday, adding that she was also banned from leaving the country and ordered into internal exile. The verdict, which can be appealed, comes despite serious health concerns for the prominent human rights activist.

"She has been sentenced to six years in prison for gathering and collusion to commit crimes," lawyer Mostafa Nili said, adding that she had also received a two-year ban on leaving the country.

Under Iranian law, jail sentences run concurrently. — AFP

SPORTS

Shan, Ayeyawady win MNL matchweek 17

THE two remaining matches of the 2025-2026 Myanmar National League (MNL) matchweek 17 took place on 14 February, with defending champions Shan United and Ayeyawady United securing victories.

Shan United defeated Yadanabon 2-0 at the Thiha Dipa Stadium. Shan United, under pressure in the title race, made several adjustments to their starting line-up and claimed all three points through winger Thet Wai Moe, who scored in 11 and 32 minutes. Both sides failed to add to the score after the break.

At Thuwunna Stadium, Ayeyawady United edged Dagon



Port 1-0, with Hein Htet Aung netting the decisive goal in 31 minutes. After matchweek 17, Yangon United lead the table with 44 points, followed by Shan United with 42 points and Dagon Star United with 29 points. The postponed matchweek 15 fixture between Rakhine United and Shan United will be replayed on 2 March; consequently, those two teams have played 16 matches each, while the remaining clubs have completed 17 matches. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

The Shan United versus Yadanabon match is in action.
PHOTO: MNL

Olympics: Japanese curlers gets Milan Cortina Games on track with 1st win



Japan's Sayaka Yoshimura (facing camera) high-fives Kaho Onodera after the ninth end of a preliminary-round match against Switzerland in the Milan Cortina Olympics women's curling competition at Cortina Curling Olympic Stadium in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy, on 14 February 2026. **PHOTO: KYODO**

SKIP Sayaka Yoshimura and Japan defeated Switzerland 7-5 in women's round-robin play on Saturday to secure the

nation's first win of the Milan Cortina Olympic curling tournament.

After again falling behind

early, as it had done in its previous two matches in Italy, Japan scored two points with the last stone advantage in the fourth end, blanked the Swiss in the fifth on a Yoshimura double take-out and then scored two points in the seventh to take the lead.

A crucial steal in the eighth at the Cortina Curling Olympic Stadium extended the lead to 6-4 and effectively sealed the match.

"We talked about a lot of things heading into the match against Switzerland, and we approached this game with total focus," said skip Yoshimura.

Japan has a chance to get its second win of the tournament later on Saturday when it takes on the United States. — Kyodo

Dortmund thump Mainz to close in on Bayern

A first-half Serhou Guirassy double and four Julian Ryerson assists helped Borussia Dortmund to a 4-0 home win over Mainz on Friday, pulling them three points behind Bundesliga leaders Bayern Munich. Wing-back Ryerson laid on four Dortmund headers, including Guirassy's brace and one each from Maximilian

Beier and Ramy Bensebaini in Dortmund's biggest league win this season. Bayern, who play at struggling Werder Bremen on Saturday, were 11 points clear of Dortmund at Christmas having played the best opening half to a season in Bundesliga history.

A six-match winning run has let Dortmund cut into that

lead. The two face off in Dortmund in two weeks in a match with huge title ramifications. Dortmund coach Niko Kovac told Sky: "When you win on a Friday you can put your feet up for the rest of the weekend. Regardless of what happens tomorrow, we can be pleased." — AFP

Brazil's Braathen wins South America's first ever Winter Olympic gold

BRAZIL'S Lucas Pinheiro Braathen held his nerve to win the men's alpine skiing giant slalom in Bormio on Saturday for South America's first ever gold in the Winter Olympics.

The Norwegian-born Braathen, fastest down in the first leg, was composure personified in the second to win in an aggregate time of two minutes and 25.00 seconds.

Switzerland's Marco Odermatt, already a winner of team combined silver and super-G bronze, claimed a second silver,

at 0.58 seconds, having been the only skier to have got within a second of the Brazilian in the opening run.

Odermatt's teammate Loic Meillard, who partnered Odermatt in the combined, rounded out the podium, at 1.17 seconds.

The victory for Braathen, racing for his mother's homeland of Brazil after falling out with the Norwegian ski federation, meant a first-ever Winter Olympic medal of any colour for an athlete representing Latin America. — AFP



Brazil's Lucas Pinheiro Braathen reacts after winning Olympic giant slalom gold. **PHOTO: AFP**

Sophie Adenot: Adventure, poetry, and Michelin-starred cuisine in Space

French astronaut Sophie Adenot embraces adventure, science, poetry, and Michelin-starred cuisine aboard the ISS.



Astronaut Sophie Adenot has become the second French woman to fly to space. PHOTO: AFP

Sophie Adenot, a 43-year-old French helicopter test pilot, fulfilled her lifelong dream on Friday, 13 February 2026, by launching from Cape Canaveral to the International Space Station (ISS).

She became only the second French woman in space, joining NASA astronauts Jessica Meir and Jack Hathaway, along with Russian cosmonaut Andrey Fedyaev, after two days of delays.

Inspired at age 14 by Claudie Haignere's 1996 mission, Ade-

not pursued aerospace studies at MIT, worked at Airbus, and served in Afghanistan on search-and-rescue missions before becoming France's first female helicopter test pilot in 2018.

Selected by the European Space Agency in 2022 from 22,000 candidates, she underwent three years of rigorous training. Over the next eight months aboard the ISS, she will conduct more than 200 experiments, including research on microgravity's effects on memory and AI-assisted

medical ultrasounds.

Adenot will also celebrate

her 44th birthday in orbit with Michelin-starred cuisine and

recordings of nature sounds to stay connected to Earth. — AFP

Dreaming of glory at Rio's carnival, far from elite parades

IN northern Rio de Janeiro, grassroots samba schools prepare for Carnival far from the glitz of the Sambodrome.

Under a viaduct rehearsal hall, dancers and drummers fine-tune rhythms surrounded by donated props and floats. Drum master Américo Teófilo, proud to parade in the north zone, contrasts the community-driven event with the increasingly elitist Sambodrome, where tickets now cost up to \$300 — roughly Brazil's minimum monthly wage.

VIP boxes and celebrity appearances have shifted the spectacle towards wealth and tourism, leaving many locals priced out.

Yet along Intendente Magalhães avenue, dozens of schools compete freely, repurposing old floats and sustaining sam-

ba's Afro-Brazilian roots.

Leaders like Paulinha Peixoto emphasize teamwork and passion, with performers covering costs themselves.

imate. For many, street blocos and free rehearsals offer alternatives, but the disconnect remains.

As Carnival begins Friday,



Revellers attend a carnival street group parade at the city of Salvador, Bahia state, Brazil, on 8 February 2026. PHOTO: ANTONELLO VENERI / AFP

Critics argue Carnival's growth risks erasing its popular soul, while officials acknowledge the debate is legit-

the grassroots parades embody samba's enduring spirit — "samba in our veins, love in our hearts". — AFP



A kid plays with an animated character at the Academy Museum Studio Ghibli's PONYO media preview in Los Angeles on 12 February 2026. PHOTO: VALERIE MACON / AFP

Oscars museum dives into world of Miyazaki's 'Ponyo'

A new exhibition at the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures in Los Angeles immerses visitors in the aquatic world of Hayao Miyazaki's 2008 classic Ponyo. Opening on Saturday, 14 February 2026, the show features dozens of original sketches, storyboards, and animation elements donated by Studio Ghibli.

Curator Jessica Niebel explained that the museum dedicated over 350 square metres to the film, inspired by Hans Christian Andersen's The Little Mermaid. The story follows Ponyo, a goldfish with a girl's face, who befriends a boy named Sosuke and chooses humanity over her magical powers. Entirely hand-drawn, Ponyo marked Miyazaki's return to traditional animation, with lush underwater scenes and dynamic waves. The exhibition highlights pencil sketches, projections of key sequences, and interactive installations designed for children, including rolling blue waves, Sosuke's bucket, and animation tables where families can create their own sequences. Niebel hopes the exhibit will inspire young visitors to pursue creative careers. Admission is free for children under 17, and the show runs until January 2027. — AFP