

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.

Htamanthi's Chindwin Bridge Spurs Growth in Homalin, Naga Region

The 2,628-foot reinforced concrete Chindwin Bridge (Htamanthi), with a 40-foot water clearance, is designed to enhance the socioeconomic well-being of residents in Homalin District and the Naga Self-Administered Zone by facilitating development initiatives, expediting the transport of domestic products, and strengthening the education, health and economic sectors.

A ceremony to inaugurate the Chindwin Bridge (Htamanthi) took place at the bridge in Htamanthi Village of Homalin Township, Sagaing Region, yesterday morning, attended by Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

At the auspicious time, Commission Secretary General Ye Win Oo, Union ministers U Mya Tun Oo, U Min Naung and U Myo Thant and Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Myat Kyaw cut the ribbon to open the bridge.

The Senior General unveiled the plaque of the bridge and sprinkled scented water on it together with the Commission Secretary.

The Union Minister for Construction presented a gift to mark the opening of the bridge to the Senior General. Afterwards, the Senior General presented cash awards to students and ethnic dance troupes.

The Senior General and the party had documentary photos taken in commemoration of the opening of the bridge and strolled along the bridge.

The Senior General asked resident who attended the bridge inauguration ceremony about the socioeconomic conditions and cordially greeted them.

Also, present at the ceremony were Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of the Senior Gen-



Acting President and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives the commemorative gift during the inauguration event of the Chindwin Bridge (Htamanthi) yesterday.

eral, the wife of the Commission Secretary, Union ministers and their wives, Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Myat Kyaw, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, the commander of North-West Command

and deputy ministers.

Chindwin Bridge (Htamanthi) is 2,628 feet long and is of reinforced concrete. Its water clearance is 40 feet high. Construction of Chindwin Bridge (Htamanthi) aims to contribute to the improvement of the

socioeconomic life of people residing in Homalin District and Naga Self-Administered Zone, development undertakings and swift transport of domestic products, and improvement of education, health and economic sectors. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

NCA signing aims to end armed conflicts, build durable peace, and establish ethnic rights democracy

- ❖ “The purpose of signing the NCA is to cease nationwide armed conflicts, paving the way for durable and stable peace, as well as ensuring the rights of ethnic groups and advancing democracy.”

(An excerpt from the speech delivered by Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission, Chairman of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Central Committee, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the ceremony to mark the 10th Anniversary of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement-NCA on 15 October 2025)

- **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.**

Low-Pressure Area Condition

Issued at 2 pm MST 16 February 2026

ACCORDING to the observations at 1:30 pm MST today, the low-pressure area has formed over the East Equatorial Indian Ocean and adjoining South Bay of Bengal. It is likely to move west-northwestwards and further intensify over the Southwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining East Equatorial Indian Ocean on 18 February 2026. — DMH

State Ovadacariya Sayadaw passes away

PRESIDING Sayadaw of the Ponnamayama Zay Monastery in Ward 4, Nyaungdon in Maubin District, Ayeyawady Region, State Ovadacariya Sayadaw Bhaddanta Osadha Bhivamsa (Abhidhaja Maharathaguru, Abhidhaja Aggamaha Saddhammajotika), aged 104, vasa 84, passed away at 10:45 am, on Monday, 16 February 2026, 1st Waxing of Taboung, 1387 ME, according to the Department of Religious Affairs.

Profile of Sayadaw

Sayadaw-to-be was born in Sanni Chaung Village, Myanaung Township, Hinthada District, Ayeyawady Region, to U Bo Chain and Daw Mal Thin, on the 5th Waxing of Kason, 1284 ME, on Sunday.

Ordination

In 1298 ME, at Sanni Chaung Zeyatheingi Monastery in Sanni Chaung Village, Myanaung Township, he entered the novice life under the patronage of Sayadaw Bhaddanta Aggavamsa, receiving support from his grandfather U Bo Hlaing and grandmother Daw Khin. Later, on the 10th Waxing of Tabauung, 1303 ME, under the preceptorship of Sayadaw Bhaddanta Aggavamsa, and with the support of U Bo Hlaing, Daw Khin, and Daw Thae Hlaing, he was ordained into a noble monkhood.

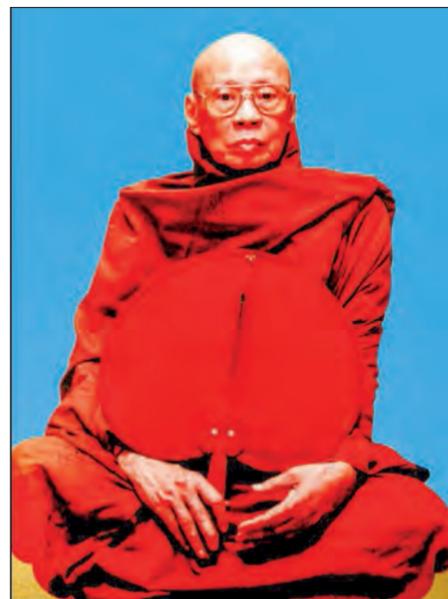
Learning Pariyatti

Sayadaw studied Pariyatti under distinguished Sayadaws - Bhaddanta Aggavamsa of Zeyatheingi Monastery in Sanni Chaung Village, Myanaung Township, Bhaddanta Paññabala, Bhaddanta Atula, Bhaddanta Ketu, and Bhaddanta Vinayaka of Wailuwun Monastery in Kyonp-

yaw, Bhaddanta Sundara and Bhaddanta Kusala of Zay Monastery in Nyaungdon, Bhaddanta Vamsika of Poppa Monastery, Bhaddanta Sudassana of Htonebo Monastery, Bhaddanta Kheminda Bhivamsa of Kyaunggyi Monastery in Thabyu Village, Bhaddanta Suriya Bhivamsa of Zawtika Yone Monastery, Htilin Taik in Mandalay, Bhaddanta Kalyana of Weyanbontha Taik Aungnan Sayadaw, and Bhaddanta Okkamsa and Bhaddanta Narada of Phayagyi Taik. Through his studies, he obtained the titles Sasanadhaja Siripavara Dhammacariya, Abbhivamsa Suddhamma Pariyatti Dhammacariya.

Religious efforts

To promote religious knowledge and moral conduct within the township, he opened and taught religious literature classes, Mingala courses, Abhidhamma classes, and Dhammacakka courses on auspicious days. For the advancement of Pariyatti Sasana, he served as Maha Nayaka of the Myanmar Suddhamma Pariyatti Pahtamapyan Examination Association, as Patron Nayaka and Maha Nayaka of the Nyaungdon township Nagani Shin Samanera Examination, and taught Pariyatti from 1319 ME to 1342



State, Ovadacariya Sayadaw, Abhidhaja Maharathaguru, Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Osadha Bhivamsa.

ME. He participated in the Sixth Synod as a member of the Suddhamma Nikaya Pali Bhanaka group. Starting with the first multi-Sangha organization elections in 1342 ME, he served successively as member and joint secretary of the State Sangha Central Working Committee and the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Com-

mittee, and from 1366 ME to 1372 ME as joint secretary of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee. He also served as Ovadacariya executive member of the International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University, Chairman of the Central Administrative Board of State Pariyatti Sasana Universities, and carried out revisions and edited the Sangha Nayaka Handbook and Vinicchaya Handbook, and served as State Ovadacariya from 2024 to date.

Receiving religious titles

In recognition of his diligent efforts in serving the Buddha Sasana, and being endowed with virtues attributes, the government offered him the title “Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru” in 2004 and “Abhidhaja Aggamaha Saddhammajotika” in 2007.

Passing away

While devotedly exerting the duties for the benefit of the Sasana, the Venerable Sayadaw passed away at the age of 104, 84 vasa, on the 1st Waxing of Tabauung, 1387 ME (16 February 2026), Monday, at 10:45 am, according to the Department of Religious Affairs. — MNA/KTZH

The people are urged to receive vaccination of COVID-19 without fail as full-time vaccination of COVID-19 and receiving booster shots can effectively mitigate infection of the virus, severe suffering from the disease and increase of death rate due to the disease.

NATIONAL

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)

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing stressed that everyone must move forward in unity with a strong spirit of the Union in following the path of democracy.

Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing yesterday afternoon said so at the meetings with departmental officials and town elders at relevant halls in Lahe and Leshi of the Naga Self-Administered Zone in Sagaing Region separately to discuss regional development undertakings.

On their arrival in Lahe and Leshi, the Senior General, his wife and party were warmly welcomed by residents.

The Senior General separately held meetings in the relevant halls to discuss regional development measures.

Local authorities reported on regional data and development undertakings in Leshi and Lahe, the Naga Self-Administered Zone, requests to form a disaster management centre, fulfillment for better telecommunications, border trade measures, sufficient supply of electricity in the urban area and rural area of Leshi, needs to build an advanced water tank and modern machinery for supply of water to Matugi hydropower plant, cooperation of residents with local authorities in ensuring peace and stability of Naga region, thanks of residents for opening the Chindwin Bridge (Htamanthi), and improvement for the Htamanthi-Leshi-Summara route to be used in all seasons.



Acting President and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing warmly greets departmental officials and town leaders in the Naga Self-Administered Zone, Sagaing Region, yesterday.

Civil Service Must Remain Steadfast Amid Government Transitions

Tatmadaw has consistently acted in the national interest, irrespective of the government in power.

The regional chief minister, Union ministers and deputy ministers explained fulfillment for smooth communication in Lahe region, granting students from Naga region to attend the Agriculture and Livestock Institute (Homalin) for development of agriculture and livestock farms as a special issue, reclamation of the highland farmlands, opening of the industrial, agricultural and livestock basic education high schools in Naga region, a plan to build a multi-purpose hall depending on the land plot, implementation of transport projects in financial years, construction of the traditional grounds, and arrangements to extend departmental establishments.

In his response, the Senior General delivered a speech, saying that arrangements would continue to be made to construct a festival ground and a multi-purpose hall in Lahe for the holding of traditional festivals. Priority would be given to improving transport links

within the Naga region, particularly the roads connecting the area to mainland regions. In efforts to facilitate smoother transportation, he announced that the Chindwin Bridge (Htamanthi) had been successfully opened today.

He stated that, in terms of politics, although there may be a change in the elected government every five years, civil servants will continue to carry out their duties and responsibilities. Likewise, Tatmadaw has always acted in the best interest of the nation, regardless of which government is in power. He pointed out that everyone should work together to ensure the peace and stability of their region and to promote social and economic development.

He urged that in following the path of democracy, everyone must move forward in unity with a strong spirit of the Union. He encouraged fostering this Union spirit so that efforts can be carried out in the best interest of the nation.

He stated that, as the Naga region is difficult to access, road improvement and upgrading projects have been carried out each financial year to ensure better transport. Similarly, efforts are being made to make the road connecting the Lahe and Nanyun areas accessible throughout all seasons, aimed at linking the region to the mainland.

Regarding the need for doctors at Lahe Township Hospital, he emphasized that since 2012, due to the demand for medical doctors in the Naga region, Tatmadaw has been sending specialist doctors. He added that if there is a continuing need, they will send additional doctors as necessary.

Regarding the need for teachers in schools, the Senior General underscored that there is a greater demand for junior assistant teachers. Measures will be taken to fill these teaching positions.

Salient points of the speeches delivered by the Senior General in Leshi and Lahe townships

1. Arrangements would continue to be made to construct a festival ground and a multipurpose hall in Lahe.
2. As the Naga region is difficult to access, road improvement and upgrading projects have been carried out each financial year to ensure better transport.
3. If those students complete the agricultural and livestock basic education high schools, they should attend the Agriculture and Livestock Institute in Homalin to secure diploma certificates.

NATIONAL



Acting President and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects progress on the Hwehtaik Hydropower Project on Hwehtaik Creek in Lahe Township, Naga Self-Administered Zone, Sagaing Region.

Hwehtaik Hydropower Project to electrify Lahe and 12 nearby villages

Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspected the progress in implementing the Hwehtaik hydropower project in Lahe of Naga Self-Administered Zone in Sagaing Region yesterday afternoon.

At the project hall, an official reported to the Senior Gen-

eral on the implementation of the hydropower project in the financial years and the progress of work.

In response, the Senior General gave guidance on efforts to carry out necessary construction tasks before the rainy season, the installation of power lines in advance, formulating the plans to supply electricity, and the construction of the foundation of the project before the rainy season, as the project area

is included in the unfavourable weather areas. He stressed that, as the project can contribute much to the socioeconomic improvement of residents, it is necessary to implement the project systematically.

He viewed the scale model of the power station and gave necessary guidance to officials.

The Hwehtaik hydropower project is being implemented on the Hwehtaik Creek in Lahe Township, the Naga Self-Admin-

istered Zone in Sagaing Region. The power station to be installed with a four megawatt capacity turbine will generate 20.381 million kilowatt hours per year. Upon completion, the project will electrify 1,718 households in Lahe and 12 nearby villages.

The Senior General paid homage to Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja Bhaddanta Sumana, the leader of Naga Hills Missionary Centre, at Theravada Buddhist Missionary Monastery

in Lahe and offered cash for nine prerequisites, rice, cooking oil, salt and other alms to the Sayadaw.

He supplicated the efforts to propagate Buddhism to the Sayadaw and gave guidance to officials for fulfilling the needs of the Sayadaw.

While in Lahe, the Senior General cordially met students and encouraged them to learn education with the utmost effort.

Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, the wife of the Senior General, together with the wife of the Commission Secretary and party, donated offerings to nuns at Theravada Missionary Nunnery in Lahe and fulfilled their needs. — MNA/TTA

DMH to hold Open Article Contest to mark World Meteorological Day 2026

THE Department of Meteorology and Hydrology invited interested participants to join the Open Article Contest to mark the 66th Anniversary of the World Meteorological Day, which will be scheduled to take place on 23 March 2026 in Nay Pyi Taw, according to the Open Essay Competition Working Committee.

The contest will be held under the theme of "Let's Measure and Monitor Daily to Prevent Natural Disasters". Interested individuals are invited to submit essays in accordance with the rules

and regulations.

The set rules and regulations are a minimum of 10 A4 pages, submitting articles in Myanmar Unicode (Pyidaungsu Font) with Font Size 13, Line Spacing 1.15 in correct Myanmar spelling.

The participants must submit both PDF and Microsoft Word files. Articles must be original and previously unpublished in journals, magazines, or media. If references are used, citations must be provided.

A diverse panel of experts will evalu-

ate the submission based on quality, creativity and adherence to thematic criteria. Winners will be awarded First Prize of K700,000, Second Prize of K500,000, and Third Prize of K300,000, respectively.

Participants must submit a declaration of original authorship. They need to present three copies of hard copies and one soft copy, a copy of the citizenship scrutiny card, three passport-sized colour photos, their address, and the contact number to the committee of the Department via 09 250954656 in Kaba

Aye, Yangon, personally or via postal service. The deadline for the submission is 13 March 2026 by 4 pm. Articles that do not meet the criteria will not be considered in any case.

The winners will be declared through the official website <http://www.dmh.gov.mm> and Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/dmhmoezalanaypyitaw/>. They will receive awards at the 66th Anniversary of World Meteorology Day ceremony held in Nay Pyi Taw on 23 March 2026. — NN/KK

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

NATIONAL

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FROM PAGE 3

He noted that the industrial, agricultural and livestock basic education high schools have been established in the Naga region to produce human resources for the agriculture and livestock sectors. If those students complete the agricultural and livestock basic education high schools, they should attend the Agriculture and Livestock Institute in Homalin to secure diploma certificates.

He highlighted that food security in the Leshi and Lahe regions is an urgent and important need. Therefore, highland farmlands will be reclaimed without fail, and necessary irrigation will be provided to support agricultural activities.

Regarding the livestock breeding sector, he said that agricultural and livestock products produced within the region can also be used to support MSME manufacturing businesses, thereby increasing the region's income.

The Senior General presented gifts for departmental officials from Lahe and Leshi townships. The chairman of the Naga Self-Administered Zone Leading Body and officials decorated the Senior General



Acting President and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing accepts the traditional Naga gifts from the chairman of the Naga Self-Administered Zone Leading Body and officials yesterday.

with a Naga traditional turban, a shawl and traditional gifts.

Also, present at the meetings were Daw Kyu Kyu Hla,

the wife of the Senior General, Commission Secretary General Ye Win Oo and his wife, Union ministers, Sagaing Region

Chief Minister U Myat Kyaw, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives,

the commander of North-West Command and deputy ministers officials and ethnic people. — MNA/TTA

Information Centre for Trafficked Persons (Yangon, Mandalay)

The trafficked persons can contact and ask for help.

Yangon → 64, Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, Mayangon Township. 01 8666619

Mandalay → Near Shwegyin Than Lan, Boetawtoe Ward, Aungmyaythazan Township. 02 2830423

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News and Periodicals Enterprise

Myanmar Daily Weather Report
(Issued at 7:15 pm Monday, 16 February 2026)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at 5:30 pm MST today, the low-pressure area has formed over the East Equatorial Indian Ocean and adjoining South Bay of Bengal. It is likely to move west-northwestwards and further intensify over the Southwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining the East Equatorial Indian Ocean on 18 February 2026. Weather is a few clouds over the North Bay and Eastcentral Bay of Bengal and partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 17 February 2026: Isolated light rains are likely in Taninthayi Region and Kachin State. The degree of certainty is 60 per cent. Weather will be partly cloudy in Yangon, Upper Sagaing and Ayeyawady Regions and Kayin and Mon States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

STATE OF THE SEA: The sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about 3-5 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR THE SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated light rain in Taninthayi Region and Kayin and Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 17 February 2026: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 17 February 2026: A few clouds.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 17 February 2026: Generally fair weather. —DMH

NATIONAL

Shwedagon to host 2,614th Buddha Pujaniya Taboung Festival

THE 2,614th Buddha Pujaniya Taboung Festival will be held at the Shwedagon Pagoda for ten days, from 21 February to 2 March, according to the Pagoda Board of Trustees.

During the festival, the Board of Trustees will hold ceremonies dedicated to paying homage to the Buddha, the Dhamma and the Sangha.

“In the 2,614th Shwedagon Pagoda Buddha Pujaniya Taboung Festival, the Maha Pathana recitation will be included, along with a rice-offering ceremony for more than 100 monks, including Ovadacariya Sayadaws. In addition, 28 Buddha images will be conveyed to the

pagoda platform for public obsequance,” said U Htay Hlaing, a member of the Pagoda Board of Trustees.

The festival will also feature the conveying of 28 Buddha images to the pagoda platform. Furthermore, 120 monks from various monasteries in Dagon and Bahan Townships will recite the Maha Pathana treatises for 216 hours, concluding on 2 March, the full moon day of Taboung.

In addition, at 4 pm on 1 March, alms will be offered to 121 monks and 27 nuns in a ceremony organized by the Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees, beginning from the



This photo shows the Shwedagon Pagoda hosting the Buddha Pujaniya Taboung Festival in the previous year.

ancient Buddha images prayer hall and proceeding clockwise around the square. On the full moon day of Taboung, at 5 am

on 2 March, further alms will be offered at the victorious Square of the Shwedagon Pagoda. At 9 am, the Buddha Pujaniya Ta-

boung Festival will conclude with a merit-making ceremony at the Chanthagyi prayer hall. — ASH/MKKS

Fatal crashes to trigger lifetime ban for Yangon Bus Service drivers



This photo, taken in 2023, shows a collision between a YBS bus and a three-wheeler carrying passengers.

ANY YBS driver who causes a fatal accident will be permanently dismissed by YRTC, U Chit Ko Ko, vice-chairman of the Yangon Region Public Transport Committee (YRTC), said at the education and knowledge-sharing course Batch 2/2026 for undisciplined YBS drivers held at the YRTC office.

He noted that approximately 3,700 YBS

drivers transport roughly 1.5 million commuters daily, and they are responsible for the safe travel of the people. Key safety directives include closing doors before departing from bus stops, not overtaking, not running red lights, and not exceeding speed limits. The driver will be permanently expelled if such violations result in a fatality, he added.

He explained that YRTC maintains strict standards for issuing driver identification cards, including drug screenings, monitoring via telematics and high-tech CCTV records from the Traffic Control Centre, and field inspections. Accidents caused by reckless driving affect the families of both the victims and drivers. He clarified that the purpose of these educational sessions and field enforcement measures is to reduce accidents.

YRTC continues to present annual awards to disciplined drivers who follow the rules. He urged drivers to reflect on their habits and make necessary improvements and called on them to work together with the YRTC to achieve its primary vision: “Safe Public Transport for All.” — MT/ZN

Vehicle fire in South Okkalapa; No casualties reported

A private car caught fire on Kyansittha Street, Ward 14 in South Okkalapa Township, Yangon Region, at 1:25 am on 16 February. The vehicle fire was extinguished by a fire engine from the township fire station at 1:41 am, according to the Department of Fire Services.

No casualty was reported,

according to a resident.

“I think it is time to launch actions against car dealers and workshops which made repairs cheaply without doing a thorough examination, and they are the culprits for such incidents,” a social media user commented.

The authority has urged vehicle owners and drivers to

check their cars on a regular basis as the hot and dry season is going to arrive soon.

In case of fire, natural hazards and other sudden onset disasters, the Fire Services Department has provided the hotline numbers 191 and 01 8666912, 01 252011, 01 252022 and 09 445918191 for help. — Htun Htun/ZS

Exporters urged to renew GACC registration before deadline

COMPANIES that have registered with GACC will need to do an extension in time; they will face the revocation of their registration, said the Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producer and Exporter Association (MFVP).

The General Administration of Chinese Customs of the People’s Republic of China (GACC) has allowed foreign exporters of food products to register from 2021 for a five-year term.

Under the requirements of the GACC, registration will have to extend 4 or 6 months ahead of expiry, so MFVP has urged local food exporters to do the extension as soon as possible, as their registrations may be approaching expiry dates.

Categories of goods which require extension are edible grains, oil seeds, dried beans, unroasted coffee beans and cocoa beans, fresh and dehydrat-

ed vegetables, plant-derived seasonings (plant spices) and plant-derived traditional Chinese medicine materials. For these categories, applications in the manual system will have to seek at the Department of Agriculture, the Plant Protection Division located in Insein Township.

For groups- rice, edible grain, nuts, and seeds, dried fruit, dehydrated vegetables, cereal milling industrial products and malt and seasoning (grounded), extension application will have to do with a sub-account of the China Import Food Enterprise Registration (CIFER) online.

Therefore, companies should re-check the goods categories and the expiration date and start the extension process in four-six months before expiration, said MFVP. If they fail it before the deadline, registration will be revoked from GACC, it added. — MT/ZS

အချိန်မီ ဂြိုဟ်သက်တမ်းပေးသည့် မှတ်ပုံတင်များကို GACC ဖြစ်ထိန်းမှုမှူးမဉ်

MFVP urges exporters of food products to extend GACC registration.

MCDC to open vehicle, motorcycle, and spare parts trading centre

THE Monywa City Development Committee (MCDC) will open a vehicle, motorcycle and spare parts trading centre in Monywa City, Sagaing Region, said MCDC executive officer U Tun Tun.

The centre is being developed on 3.9 acres of land on the side of the Kyaukka Road, in Bone Soe Ward, Monywa. The project will include over 40 shop units.

“There will be four main buildings with 41 units. The committee has received applications from 71 individuals for the lease. Of them, 41 will be selected. It will offer a wide range of parts for various brands, along with

maintenance service and a car washing business. Motorcycles and spare parts will also be sold at the centre. Moreover, restaurants, hair salons, convenience stores and pet food shops will be located as well,” he continued.

This centre aims to serve as a comprehensive hub for vehicle trading and related businesses in Monywa, facilitate vehicle sales, repair and car washing businesses and create job opportunities for locals. — ASH/KK

A vehicle, motorcycle, and spare parts trading centre in Monywa.



MTE auctions over 2,500 tonnes of teak, hardwood

THE Local Marketing and Milling Department of the Myanmar Timber Enterprise (MTE), operated under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, called for open tender to sell 2,580 tonnes of round logs and sawn timber of teak and hardwood.

Open tendering will be held at 8:30 am on 24 February at Taw Win Hall, Myanmar Timber Enterprise in Insein Township, Yangon.

Those logs and sawn timber are sourced from mills of the Export Marketing and



Teak timbers are pictured at the sawmill

Milling Department in Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw, Shan and Bago areas.

Interested bidders can observe details of the open

tender through the official website of the Myanmar Timber Enterprise www.mte.gov.mm or by dialling 09 795700439 and 09 402705515. — NN/KK

Domestic businesses invited to lease land in Bayintnaung Cargo Bus Terminal

THE Agriculture Department under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation invited domestic business entities to rent out 1.2 acres of land in the compound of Bayintnaung Cargo bus Terminal in Insein Township.

The tender form is available at the Supply and Logistics Divi-

sion of the Department from 11 to 24 February 2026. The tender submission will be closed at 1 pm on 25 February.

Interested individuals can enquire about details at the division or through 067 3410210 and 067 3410518, according to the Tender Accepting and Evaluating Department. — NN/KK

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No 1 HIE seeks tender for vehicle scrapping

THE No 1 Heavy Industries Enterprise of the Ministry of Industry called for qualified companies and organizations to submit a tender (1HI/Adm/Iron/Tender/25-26/006) for scrapping, transporting and delivering 1,388 vehicles to the No 1 Steel Mill (Myingyan).

The companies and organizations that can scrap, transport and deliver those 1,388 vehicles, motorcycles and machinery seized by Union-level institutions and ministries from various townships in Mandalay, Sagaing

and Magway regions and Shan State (south/east) to the No 1 Steel Mill (Myingyan) are invited to participate in bidding.

Tender form and speculations for Lot 1: 695 vehicles from Magway and Sagaing regions can be withdrawn, and Lot 2: 693 vehicles from Magway Region and Shan State (South/East) on 6-19 February at the Administration Department of the No 1 Heavy Industries Enterprise operated under the Ministry of Industry in Nay Pyi Taw via 067 3405451. — NN/KK



The No 1 Heavy Industries Enterprise of the Ministry of Industry calls for companies and organizations for scrapping, transporting and delivering over 1,100 vehicles to the No 1 Steel Mill (Myingyan).

OPINION

ARTICLE

Provide care for children under the national immunization plan

MYANMAR'S Ministry of Health has announced that a nationwide effort will be carried out to completely eradicate the poliovirus in Myanmar. This will be implemented both during the regional immunization days from 23 to 25 January 2026 and the national immunization days from 20 to 22 February 2026.

A nationwide assessment was conducted to identify townships at risk of poliovirus transmission. As a result, 171 townships across 16 regions and states were identified as being at risk for polio outbreaks. It has been determined that, during the regional immunization days from 23 to 25 January, approximately 2.83 million children under the age of five will receive additional polio vaccine doses as part of the immunization campaign.

In addition, the ministerial announcement stated that approximately 4.60 million children under the age of five will receive immunizations during the National Immunization Days, from 20 to 22 February, including the polio vaccine in the Nay Pyi Taw Council area and in 330 townships across the states and regions.

In this initiative, people from all walks of life are expected to cooperate with the Ministry of Health in coming immunization activities. During the Regional Immunization Days and National Immunization Days, the Ministry will provide guidance to ensure the participation of primary healthcare workers at all levels. Government bodies, health departments, and related agencies from each state and region, as well as non-governmental social organizations, will work together to carry out the activities, with support and participation from the public.

Polio disease can be spread through unhygienic foods and water from person to person. The virus can damage the central nervous system. Even if a child contracts the polio virus in one part of the world, children in all countries remain at risk of infection. This is because the virus can easily enter countries that have been declared polio-free and can quickly infect those who have not yet been vaccinated. Therefore, the World Health Organization has warned that if countries fail to completely eradicate the polio virus, around 200,000 new cases could occur worldwide within the next ten years.

Polio cannot be completely cured, but efforts can be made to prevent outbreaks of the polio virus in advance. However, if countries around the world delay eradicating polio, their children could become victims of the disease in a short time. Therefore, everyone should ensure that their children receive the polio vaccination during the upcoming National Immunization Day to protect their future.

Comments on a few of TPM's political statements and articles

15 January 2026 is the 48th anniversary of the passing of veteran writer and politician U Thein Pe Myint (10 July 1914-15 January 1978).

In my previous article (GNLM, 19 July 2025) on U Thein Pe Myint (generally 'TPM'), I stated that I might write about TPM's political relationship with the late former Prime Minister U Nu (25 May 1907-14 February 1995). Parts of this article deal with TPM's a few political statements made in his column ပွင့်ပွင့်လင်းလင်းပြောပါရစေ ('Let me speak frankly').

U Nu's comments on TPM to devote solely to literature, not politics and TPM's response

In my previous article, I praised TPM's literary gifts. Hence, I feel almost reluctant to write this Part. A Burmese saying goes ဆိုရေးရှိက ဆိုအပ်လေ 'if things ought to be said, had a cause to be stated, then, they should be stated'. TPM and U Nu, who was to become the first Prime Minister of independent Burma, were colleagues at the university. U Nu was seven years older than TPM. What was then called 'Ko Gyi Nu' (elder brother Nu) was from the delta town of Wakema, and TPM from quite far away, Budalin in the hinterland. They became good friends at the University of Rangoon. When three of TPM's earlier short stories were published in 1937, U Nu wrote an Introduction. A further collection of nine short stories by TPM was published around 1952. By then, U Nu had become the first democratically-elected Prime Minister of independent Burma. TPM was active in (sort of oppositional) politics against the U Nu government.

U Nu wrote a second Introduction to TPM's 1952 collection of short stories. The Introduction was dated 7 November 1952. U Nu wrote in his second Introduction that the politics of the 'left' kind has not given any advantage to TPM. He urged TPM to fully concentrate its energies on the literary field.

Since 1952, much water has passed under the bridge. TPM was elected to Parliament in the 1956 election. It was an election held where political parties freely participated in a Parliamentary democracy. Later, post-1962, TPM critiqued 'bourgeois parliamentary democracy' to which he had taken full advantage of when it was in force.

On 2 March 1962, General Ne Win (6 July 1910-5 December 2002) took over power. 'Ko Gyi' (elder brother), U Nu, and many other top leaders were arrested and incarcerated. U Nu was released on 27 October 1966.

In a Preface dated 27 November 1966, TPM wrote largely in response to elder brother Nu's exhortation in 1952 to fully concentrate on the literary field. TPM apparently believed that the 'fruition' of his leftist political movement was, by 1966, 'around the corner'. After all, the then Revolutionary government professed 'marching towards socialism in our own Burmese way'.

Many of those whom the then Revolutionary government stated as 'leftist and rightist destructionists' were arrested. Among those, a few thousand arrested were left-wing writers junior in age to TPM. They include Dagon Taya (10 May 1919-19 August 2013), Bhamo Tin Aung (9 June 1920-23 October 1978) and Mya Than Tint (23 May 1929-18 February 1998). Bhamo Tin Aung, for example, spent about seven years being incarcerated. Although a more senior leftist writer than those three leftist writers, TPM was not arrested at any time during the post-1962 period.

TPM's response to U Nu's second introduction was dated 27 November 1966. TPM wrote in his 1952 response to U Nu that his political aim was to abolish the old system (obviously parliament democracy) and to establish a new 'social system'. TPM wrote that until such a social revolution is fully established, he will continue to be active in politics. TPM affirmed what he wrote in 1952 again in 1966. By the time TPM affirmed what he wrote in 1952 (in 1966), the 'Burmese way to socialism' and 'epoch-changing revolution' were in full force.

TPM wrote (in November 1966) that the time was approaching when he could open the 'war front only in the literary field' (he used the word စစ်မျက်နှာ, which is military usage and displayed militant leftism).

U Thein Pe Myint passed away in January 1978, just 11 years after he made that somewhat pompous if not facetious comment. One wonders whether TPM considered in his last year (1977) that the time had come to devote all his efforts to the literary front as General Ne Win's 'epoch-changing revolution' was in its 15th year.

Further implied critiques of U Nu and 'rightist clique' by TPM

On 29 November 1968, General Ne Win invited 33 civilian politicians in what he himself called a 'very important meeting'. (See The Working People's Daily, 30 November 1968). Among those invited was U Nu, whom General Ne Win had overthrown and put in detention for four years and seven months. At least seven or eight of the invitees were previously detained.

On 2 December 1968, a 33-man (they were all men) Internal Unity Advisory Board (IUAB) was formed. They were to meet for six months and at the end of it, to submit a report to General Ne Win and his Revolutionary Council. On 3 June 1969, the IUAB report was published in all the government-run official newspapers. The report mentioned that 'regarding the need for internal unity', Revolutionary Council Chairman General Ne Win convened a meeting on 29 November 1968. Facetiously (again) and almost obsequiously, TPM wrote, 'Why did the IUAB Report mention the date 29 November 1968—the day General Ne Win called the meeting and not 2 March 1962?' Of course, it was the date of the takeover.

My response after all these decades to TPM: why should the IUAB report mention the date of 2 March when several members of the IUAB were detained, if not on the day of the 1962 takeover, then in the subsequent months and years? General Ne Win, in his speech, did not mention his takeover and did not even imply to the invitees that they should endorse his takeover as TPM suggested. So TPM was more 'General Ne Win than General Ne Win' himself!

Within days of the publication of the 33 men IUAB report, the then hack journalists were severely condemning U Nu. I do not recall the exact contents of TPM's critique of U Nu, but when U Nu's interim report was made available in June 1969, U Nu was out of Burma. He left in April 1969 ostensibly for a medical checkup abroad. And then on 27 August 1969, U Nu made a declaration in London that he was 'still the legitimate Prime Minister of Burma'. (The full declaration was reported in original English and Burmese translation in the 3 September 1969 issue of government-owned newspapers.)

To cut a long story short, on 29 July 1980, U Nu returned to Burma after the invitation of the President (Ne Win) on behalf of the organs of State power in consideration, recognition and honour of the leading and distinguished role in the freedom struggle. (This was reported in the front page of all the Burmese language newspapers and also in The Working People's Daily, predecessor to The Global New Light of Myanmar, on its 30 July 1980 issue). When U Nu returned to Burma in July 1980, his 'younger brother' TPM had been dead for over two-and-a-half years.

A person who is close to TPM's family told me that when U Nu heard about the demise of TPM in January 1978, he sent not one but two telegrams (not the internet telegram channel, which did not exist in 1978) to express his condolences to TPM's family. U Nu sent the condolence telegram twice to make sure that TPM's family received it.

If this story is true, which it probably is, then U Nu was a magnanimous person. TPM's critiques of U Nu did not in any way diminish the elder statesman's fondness for and sorrow at the death of his younger colleague.

By Myint Zan

TPM as a columnist in Botahtaung newspaper, and two articles that he wrote

TPM contributed regular articles to the Vanguard newspaper he founded. TPM has written a few hundred articles from at least the early 1960s to about 1976 under the generic heading 'Let me speak frankly'.

On 2 March 1972, on the 10th anniversary of the takeover of 1962, TPM published an article.

I do recall parts of what TPM wrote, which was published more than 53 years ago. TPM opened its 10th anniversary takeover with the phrase 'Oh, it has been ten years, yes, ten rainy seasons.' ဆယ်နှစ်ဆယ်ခိုး (since the 1962 takeover). And then the first several sentences listed the shortcomings of the then-10-year-old Revolutionary government, albeit TPM added that these are those made by the Revolutionary government's 'detractors'. (Thankfully, he did not use the word 'enemies'.)

In the context of the time, it was just a tad bold to have written thus. In the first four or five sentences, TPM listed a few of the criticisms against the then-10-year-old Revolutionary government. But the rest of his article listed their 'great achievements'. There is a Burmese mode of argument which, in translation, reads 'a cock's retreat and attack.' The Myanmar-English Dictionary defines it as 'emulation of a tactic of a game-cock in a debate or an argument, i.e., to give grounds to the adverse view in the opening round and then pounce on its opponents'. TPM in the first few sentences of the 'tenth anniversary article' stated the criticisms made by the detractors of the Revolutionary government. But then he tried to negate the criticisms, saying there are also many good things that have been done by the Revolutionary government.

In December 1965, Revolutionary Council chairman and Chairman of the sole legal party Burma Socialist Programme Party, General Ne Win, addressed a Party seminar. He admitted that the Burmese economy then was having many difficulties. He stated that some people blamed his then deputy, Brigadier Tin Pe, for the economic mess. General Ne Win stated that he was also responsible for the economic policies and the hardship the Burmese were experiencing. He stated that his government was like a person who had grabbed the tiger's tail. It must continue to hold it.

Time magazine complimented him. It wrote: 'Candour in a military dictator is rare, self-criticism even rarer, but Burma's strong man General Ne Win showed both in a speech last week'. Therefore, one had to assume that Thein Pe Myint's initial listing of the criticism of the 'social revolution' or 'epoch-changing revolution' in his 2 March 1972 column is not as notable as General Ne Win himself over six years earlier, who sort of admitted that much.

The Stoppage of 'Let me talk frankly' columns, no more 'battlefield' in the political front?

In November 1966, in response to U Nu's exhortation to abandon politics, TPM wrote about his belief that the time to devote all his energy, time, 'blood' and sweat only to the 'literary front' would be arriving 'soon'.

Query: has it arrived ten years later, in say, late 1976? For that was around the time when U Thein Pe Myint's political columns 'disappeared' from the pages of The Vanguard. Has the time to devote TPM's energies solely to literary matters finally arrived, say, by 1976? Nah.

In his 'Let me speak frankly' column of 23 October 1975 under the title 'Cost of Presidential Pasoe' (men's Longyi), TPM had commented on the statement of a resolution made by the one-party



U Thein Pe Myint.

Legislature to allow K5,000 a year for presidential clothing or 'regalia'. In one of his last columns, 'Let me speak frankly', TPM did not openly state that allocation of K5,000 (which is equivalent in 2025 to about K5 million as inflation has risen more than 2,000 times since 1975) is 'a bit much'. But apparently, the title Thamada Pasoe boe ('The Cost of the Presidential garment') might have displeased the 'elders' လူကြီးများ at that time. This 'frank opinion' of TPM, perhaps, was one of the last articles that the Vanguard would publish. TPM's future columns to the newspaper he had established failed to make it to print.

Around 1976 or 1977, I attended a literary-related seminar in Rangoon. One participant asked a question to one of the speakers: 'Why were there no more columns by TPM in the Vanguard Daily?' The speaker just started to answer the query by saying that 'there must be some reason' when the Chair of the session, U Ba Kyaw (1917-1987), then chief editor of the now defunct The Guardian (Rangoon) newspaper, who wrote under the pseudonym MBK, peremptorily stopped the speaker from proceeding any further. Thein Pe Myint, the veteran writer, journalist and politician's articles were not published anymore in response to his questioning about the monies allocated for the Presidential 'regalia'.

After his regular columns disappeared from The Vanguard, TPM continued to publish a few short stories and a novella in the literary field in other private magazines. In fact, apparently, his last novella appeared in the August 1977 issue of a private magazine. It was published less than six months before his death. TPM's political columns, perhaps in the last year or two of his life, came to a stop in a newspaper which he founded. But some of his literary pieces were published in private magazines even after his political columns were not published. His passing at not that old age of sixty-three is to be regretted since he could have further produced significant literary work.

SCI/TECH/ENVIRON: WORLD

Space station crew rings in Year of the Horse with best wishes, fresh cake

THEY are 400 kilometres above Earth and cannot go home for the Spring Festival this year, but China's taikonauts have found their own ways to make the traditional Chinese holiday warm and sweet.

The Shenzhou-21 crew aboard the space station Tian-gong, which means Heavenly Palace, are celebrating the upcoming Chinese Lunar New Year, the Year of the Horse. On Monday, Chinese New Year's Eve, the three taikonauts sent their greetings to Earth via a video released by the China Manned Space Agency.

"I wish everyone all the best and peace," said commander Zhang Lu. This is the second time he has spent the festival in space. Zhang also took part in the Shenzhou-15 mission, launched in November 2022, and stayed in orbit for six months back then.

For taikonaut Wu Fei, this

is his first Spring Festival in orbit, an experience he described as fresh and proud. "The Year of the Horse calls for the vigour of a galloping steed. Let us keep striving for our dreams

and working for happiness," the young flight engineer said. "I wish you a safe and smooth journey ahead, and a life that gets better and better."

It is also the first time pay-

load specialist Zhang Hongzhang has rung in Chinese New Year in space. Noting that scientific experiments on the space station are progressing steadily, the bespectacled, po-

etry-loving taikonaut said: "In the new year, we will continue to explore the cosmos like a galloping horse, writing new chapters in the vast starry sky." As a scientist-turned-taikonaut, he also made a wish for the prosperity of China's science and technology efforts, saying: "May every endeavour be rewarded."

Notably, this is the fourth Spring Festival taikonauts have celebrated aboard the space station since it was completed in 2022.

Though far from home, these space explorers feel the same festival warmth as people on Earth. The Shenzhou-21 trio have decorated the space station with red lanterns, Chinese knots and paper-cut craft. They will also enjoy the traditions they usually share with their families on Earth, such as eating dumplings and delicacies that stand for prosperity, peace and good fortune. — Xinhua



This screenshot from a video released by the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA) on 16 February 2026 shows Shenzhou-21 taikonauts Zhang Lu (C), Wu Fei (L) and Zhang Hongzhang sending their Chinese New Year greetings aboard China's Tiangong space station. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

AI chatbots to face UK safety rules after outcry over Grok

THE UK government said Monday that it would include AI chatbots in online safety laws, closing a loophole exposed after Elon Musk's AI chatbot Grok was used to create sexualized deepfakes.

Providers of chatbots will be responsible for preventing them from generating illegal or harmful content, extending rules that currently apply only to content shared between users on social media.

It follows an international backlash against Grok for letting people create and share sexualized pictures of women and children using simple text prompts.

"The new measures announced today include crack-down on vile illegal content created by AI," Prime Minister Keir Starmer said in a statement ahead of a speech on the matter Monday.

"The government will move fast to shut a legal loophole and force all AI chatbot providers to

abide by illegal content duties in the Online Safety Act or face the consequences of breaking the law," he said.

Under the Online Safety Act, which entered force in July, platforms hosting potentially harmful content are required to implement strict age verification through tools such as facial imagery or credit card checks.

It is also illegal for sites to create or share non-consensual intimate images, or child sexual abuse material, including sexual deepfakes created with AI.

In January, Britain's media regulator Ofcom opened a probe into the social media platform X, which hosts Grok, for failing to meet its safety obligations.

The country's data watchdog has launched a wider investigation into Musk's X and xAI — which developed the Grok AI tool — to see whether the companies complied with personal data law when it came to Grok's generation of sexualized deepfakes. — AFP

Greenland's west coast posts warmest Jan on record

GREENLAND'S capital Nuuk registered its warmest ever January — beating a record that stood for 109 years — as temperatures soared across the Arctic island's west coast, the Danish Meteorological Institute said Monday.

While Europe and North America experienced a cold snap in January, Nuuk registered an average monthly temperature of 0.1C (32 Fahrenheit), a whopping 7.8C above the average for the month of January over the last three

decades.

That is 1.4 degrees above the previous record for Nuuk from 1917.

On the warmest day in Nuuk in January, the mercury rose to a balmy 11.3C.

From the southern tip of Greenland up the west coast — a distance of over 2,000 kilometres (1,243 miles) — the temperature in January set monthly records, DMI said.

In Ilulissat in Disko Bay, the January average was -1.6C, 1.3 degrees warmer than the previous record from 1929 and 11 degrees warmer than normal for January, DMI said. Warmer air occasionally sweeps over Greenland, bringing milder temperatures for a day or two, but such an extended heat record across such a large area is "a clear indication that something is changing", DMI climate researcher Martin Olesen said. — AFP



Houses of a residential area and ice floes floating on the sea are seen at the coastline of Nuuk, Greenland, on 29 January 2026. Greenland's capital Nuuk registered its warmest ever January — beating a record that stood for 109 years — as temperatures soared across the Arctic island's west coast, the Danish Meteorological Institute said on 16 February 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

Foreign sumo fans crowd tournaments, morning stables

SUMO is gaining popularity among foreign visitors, with many flocking to tournaments in Tokyo and more stables beginning to accept them on tours to observe morning practice sessions between tournaments.

Last year, tickets for all 90 days of matches sold out for the second consecutive year, with thousands of foreigners watching the bouts each day, while the exhibition Grand Sumo Tournament, held in London in October as the first overseas tournament in 20 years, drew roughly 27,000 fans over five sold-out days.

On 14 January, the fourth day of the New Year Grand Sumo Tournament, foreign tourists gathered at the meeting point near JR Ryogoku Station for the tournament viewing tour.

The tour, run by a To-

kyo-based operator, provides detailed explanations of the origins of Japan's national sport and proper viewing etiquette.

Among the group, a 44-year-old man from the US state of Oregon said watching sumo was the main purpose of his trip to Japan, as he is drawn to its long history and tradition.

Another participant from Norway signed up for the tour, citing difficulties in obtaining tickets. The 39-year-old said that seeing the match would be a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Based on the number of English match schedule leaflets distributed at the venue, the Japan Sumo Association estimates that around 2,000 foreigners attend daily at the 11,000-capacity Ryogoku Kokugikan arena. — Kyodo



International tourists are seen watching a Grand Sumo tournament at the Ryogoku Kokugikan in Tokyo. PHOTO: KYODO

Cardi B takes tumble while playfully dancing with robot ahead of Super Bowl

RAPPER Cardi B had a playful mishap while she jokingly dancing with a humanoid robot outside her hotel in San Francisco ahead of the 2026 Super Bowl, reported People.

On Saturday, the 33-year-old Grammy winner, wearing a black and yellow skin-tight jumpsuit with stilettos, spotted the robot on the sidewalk and began teasingly giving it a lap dance, joking, "Get away from my man."

As she continued to circle and dance, both Cardi B and the robot lost their balance, causing the rapper to fall to the ground with the robot on top of her. A crowd of onlookers rushed to help her up.

Following the incident, Cardi B, born Belcalis Almanzar, commented on the TMZ video of the fall, warning, "Delete or I will sue...immediately," and jokingly mentioning the outlet's founder Harvey Levin.

Cardi B is in San Francisco to support her



boyfriend, New England Patriots star Stefon Diggs, ahead of the Super Bowl LX clash with the Seattle Seahawks at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, California. The couple shares a three-month-old son, according to People. — ANI

Archaeologists find 10,000-year-old rock art site in Egypt's Sinai

ARCHAEOLOGISTS have discovered a 10,000-year-old site with rock art in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula, the country's ministry of tourism and antiquities said Thursday.

The previously unknown site located at the Umm Irak Plateau has a 100-metre-long

rock formation whose diverse carvings trace the evolution of human artistic expression from prehistoric times to the Islamic era.

The Supreme Council of Antiquities "has uncovered one of the most important new archeological sites, of

exceptional historical and artistic value", the ministry said in a statement.

Its chronological diversity makes it "an open-air natural museum", according to council secretary-general Hisham El-Leithy. — AFP

Lady Gaga joins Bad Bunny for surprise Super Bowl 2026 halftime show appearance

LADY Gaga made a surprise appearance during Puerto Rican superstar Bad Bunny's Super Bowl 2026 halftime performance at Levi's Stadium on 8 February, according to People.

About midway through the show, the 16-time Grammy winner took the stage alongside Bad Bunny, whose real name is Benito Antonio Martinez Ocasio, delivering a show-stopping rendition of "Die With a Smile," her 2024 duet with Bruno Mars. Gaga performed the track solo with a live band, giving it a fresh arrangement from the original version, while Bad Bunny danced alongside her.

"It was my absolute honor to be a part of Benito's halftime show. Thank you Benito for inviting me and thank you to the entire cast for welcoming me onto your stage. I wouldn't miss it for the world," wrote Lady Gaga on her Instagram handle as she shared glimpses of the performance.

Gaga previously headlined her own Super Bowl halftime show

in 2017 and returned for a surprise pre-game performance at Super Bowl 2025. Sunday's show also featured performances by Ricky Martin, with star-studded cameos from Jessica Alba, Pedro Pascal, and Cardi B, who joined Bad Bunny on stage for his hit "I Like It," according to People. — ANI



ECONOMY WORLD

European stocks, dollar up in subdued start to week



People shop for goods needed for the Chinese New Year celebrations at a market in Kaifeng, central China's Henan Province, 11 February 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

EUROPEAN stock markets and the dollar advanced Monday following a subdued showing for Asian equities ahead of the Lunar New Year holiday and after Japan reported lacklustre economic growth.

Markets were closed in Shanghai, Seoul and Taipei for the holiday, while Hong Kong and Singapore opened only for half-day sessions.

With US markets also shut for Presidents' Day, "attention will turn to company updates later in the week", said Richard Hunter, head of markets at Interactive Investor.

"Walmart will report annu-

al numbers on Thursday, where sales will need to be at the top end of the expected range to continue to justify a punchy valuation rating which has seen the share price surge, propelling the group to become the first \$1 trillion retailer," he said.

Stock markets showed signs of stabilizing after a tech-led plunge last week, when traders reacted to growing concern about the hundreds of billions being spent on AI infrastructure and when, if ever, they might see a return on them.

Focus was on the start of a five-day AI Impact Summit

in New Delhi, with the likes of OpenAI chief Sam Altman and Google's Sundar Pichai in attendance.

While frenzied demand for generative AI has turbocharged profits and share prices for many technology companies, anxiety is growing over the risks that it poses to society and the environment, and its potential impact on a range of business sectors.

Such concerns were offset slightly by official data Friday showing that consumer inflation in the United States cooled slightly more than expected in January. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Philippine personal remittances hit record US\$39.62 bln in 2025

PERSONAL remittances from overseas Filipinos surged to a record US\$3.89 billion in December 2025, lifting full-year inflows to \$39.62 billion, up 3.3 per cent from \$38.34 billion in 2024, the Philippine central bank said Monday.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) said personal remittances include cash transfers sent through banks and informal channels, as well as in-kind transfers.

Cash remittances coursed through banks also reached a historic high of \$3.52 billion in December, bringing the 2025 total to \$35.63 billion, or 3.3 per cent higher than the \$34.49 billion recorded a year earlier. — Xinhua

Russian travel to China spikes 33.6% amid tourism boom in 2025

THE number of outbound trips by Russian tourists increased 16 per cent in 2025, with trips to China climbing 33.6 per cent, Russian Gazette reported Sunday, citing the Association of Tour Operators of Russia.

Experts attribute this surge in trips to China to the removal of visa requirements, expanded flight options, and new charter services.

A significant portion of the growth came from residents of Russia's Far East, particularly those living in border regions, according to the report. — Xinhua

Sri Lanka commits to three-year electricity cost reduction plan

THE Sri Lankan government on Sunday reiterated that it intends to bring down electricity tariffs over the next three years by lowering power generation costs, even as the national utility has sought a price revision for the upcoming quarter, Sri Lanka's Daily Mirror reported.

Anil Jayantha Fernando, minister of Labour and Deputy Minister of Finance and Planning, said electricity pricing remains tied to a cost-recovery framework, meaning that end-user tariffs reflect underlying generation expenses. He said the administration's priority is to address those cost drivers over the medium term rather than rely solely on periodic tariff changes. — Xinhua

China's Spring Festival spending surge becomes a global harvest

WHEN the Spring Festival lanterns light up the streets of her hometown Hangzhou in east China's Zhejiang Province, Lu Jing is watching the northern lights dance over Norway.

Arranging such an overseas trip during the Spring Festival — China's most cherished time for family reunions — would have been unthinkable for many just a decade ago. Yet this year, Lu is among millions of Chinese tourists celebrating the New Year abroad.

The 2026 Spring Festival holiday, extended to nine days, is the longest in recent years, and

Chinese tourists are making the most of it. The National Immigration Administration estimates that daily inbound and outbound passenger traffic nationwide will average 2.05 million during the holiday, a 14.1 per cent increase from last year.

Data from Tongcheng Travel, a leading Chinese online travel agency, shows that searches and bookings for visas, flights and hotels around the holiday have all exceeded 2025 levels.

Eager to tap into the surge, international operators are ramping up capacity, with many adding flights and sailings to meet Spring



Cold-chain containers carrying fresh products are unloaded at Tianjin Port in Tianjin, north China, on 11 February 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Festival demand.

MSC Cruises, for instance, has added three special voyages from Shanghai to its South Korea itineraries tailored specifically for the Chinese New Year, with one for early birds, one for the official Golden Week, and one for travelers extending their holidays. The current travel fervour, peaking during the holiday, is attributable to sustained policy tailwinds. Last year, the Central Economic Work Conference, an annual meeting that sets the country's economic agenda for 2026, called for an action plan to boost urban and rural incomes. — Xinhua

Thailand economic growth slows year-on-year: govt data

THAILAND'S economic growth slowed last year, official figures showed Monday, with the incoming government facing a struggling tourism sector and declining private and public consumption.

The economy expanded by 2.4 per cent last year compared with 2.9 per cent growth in 2024, the National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDC) said.

Private and government consumption grew in 2025 by 2.7 per cent and 0.6 per cent, the council said, also below the previous year.

Exports rose 11.9 per cent compared to 4.4 per cent in 2024, despite global

uncertainty amid a slew of US tariff announcements last year.

Growth in the South-east Asian nation is anaemic, with the tourism sector vital but arrivals yet to return to their pre-Covid highs, and fast-growing Vietnam is now attracting more foreign direct investment.

"Thailand has adjusted this year's growth forecast to between 1.5 to 2.5 per cent, with supporting factors including the expansion of private consumption, government spending and the recovery of tourism," NESDC secretary general Danucha Pichayanan told a press conference.



Packages of instant noodles are displayed for sale at a supermarket in Bangkok on 15 December 2025. PHOTO: AFP

Ahead of the 8 February general election, all three major parties offered

various populist handouts and socioeconomic policies to boost the economy.

Shivaan Tandon, Asia economist at Capital Economics, said the election

outcome should "reduce near-term political risk", but the country's economic outlook remained challenging.

"We doubt fiscal policy will provide sustained support as authorities remain committed to tight fiscal targets," Tandon said in a note.

In the fourth quarter of 2025, Thailand's GDP grew by 2.5 per cent year-on-year, picking up pace from the previous quarter, NESDC figures showed.

But Tandon said despite the "quarter of broad-based strength, we expect growth to soften again, reflecting both cyclical headwinds and structural constraints". — AFP

Hong Kong welcomes tourist influx as Spring Festival holiday begins

HONG Kong's tourist sites and commercial complexes were abuzz with excitement as tourists poured in on Sunday, the first day of the nine-day Spring Festival holiday on the Chinese mainland.

Over 377,000 visitor arrivals had been recorded by 9 pm, data from the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) government showed.

Mainland tourists thronged shopping malls in Hong Kong, many of whom were here to pick out accessories or ornaments crafted in pure gold with



People walk past Lee Tung Street in Hong Kong, south China, on 5 February 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA

horse motifs to celebrate the Year of the Horse.

Paul Chan, financial secretary of the HKSAR

government, estimated in his blog post on Sunday that tourist arrivals from the mainland could hit 1.43

million during the holiday. This represents a six per cent increase in average daily visits from the previous year.

Various Chinese New Year celebrations in the HKSAR, including float parade, fireworks show, horse racing and soccer games, are expected to feast visitors worldwide on the festivities, he said. Local data showed that total visits to Hong Kong from 1 January to 13 February climbed 9.6 per cent year on year, with those from overseas hiking 16.4 per cent from a year earlier. — Xinhua

Swiss economy rebounds in fourth quarter after US tariffs hit

SWITZERLAND'S economy returned to growth at the end of last year, mainly thanks to its services sector after steep US tariffs stalled exports and pulled down GDP in the third quarter.

Fourth-quarter growth reached 0.2 per cent after the 0.5 per cent slump in the previous quarter, when the key pharmaceutical and chemical sectors saw

export declines, the economy ministry said.

"The services sector saw slight growth while the industrial sector stagnated," the ministry said, adding that "Exporters have been curtailed by the difficult international context."

For 2025 as a whole, GDP growth reached 1.4 per cent, up from 1.2 per cent the previous year. — AFP

Israel's annual inflation falls to lowest level since Jun 2021

ISRAEL'S 12-month inflation rate fell to 1.8 per cent in January, down 0.8 percentage points from December and the lowest level in more than four and a half years, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported Sunday.

The rate last stood at 1.7 per cent in June 2021

before climbing gradually to peak at 5.4 per cent in January 2023.

With inflation now comfortably within the government's target range of 1-3 per cent, the Bank of Israel has cut its benchmark interest rate twice after holding it steady since January 2024.

The latest figure prompted the Manufacturers Association of Israel to urge another rate cut in the central bank's next meeting later this month.

The association explained in a statement that the inflation environment in Israel has been in consistent decline for several

months, arguing that the current four-per-cent interest rate is significantly high compared to that in other countries.

"This creates ongoing pressure for the shekel to strengthen and harms the competitiveness of exports and local industry," the statement read. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CHANA BHUM VOY.NO. (915N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CHANA BHUM VOY.NO. (915N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **16-2-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/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
Myanmar Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Iranian FM, IAEA chief meet in Geneva for technical discussions ahead of US talks

IRAN'S Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi on Monday met Rafael Grossi, director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), for technical discussions on Tehran's nuclear issue.

The meeting was held at Araghchi's place of stay in Geneva, Switzerland, ahead of indirect nuclear negotiations between Iran and the United States that are scheduled for Tuesday in the Swiss city, according to a statement released by the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

During the meeting, the two sides exchanged views on certain technical issues pertaining to cooperation between Iran and the IAEA within the framework of Tehran's safeguards obligations and in view of a law passed by the Iranian parliament in June last year to suspend bilateral collaborations, the statement said, adding that the Iranian side presented its technical viewpoints in relation to



In this handout photo released by the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (L) shakes hands with International Atomic Energy Agency head Rafael Grossi during a meeting in Geneva on 16 February 2026. **PHOTO: IRANIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS/ AFP**

the indirect nuclear talks with the United States.

Following the meeting, Grossi said in a post on social media platform X that

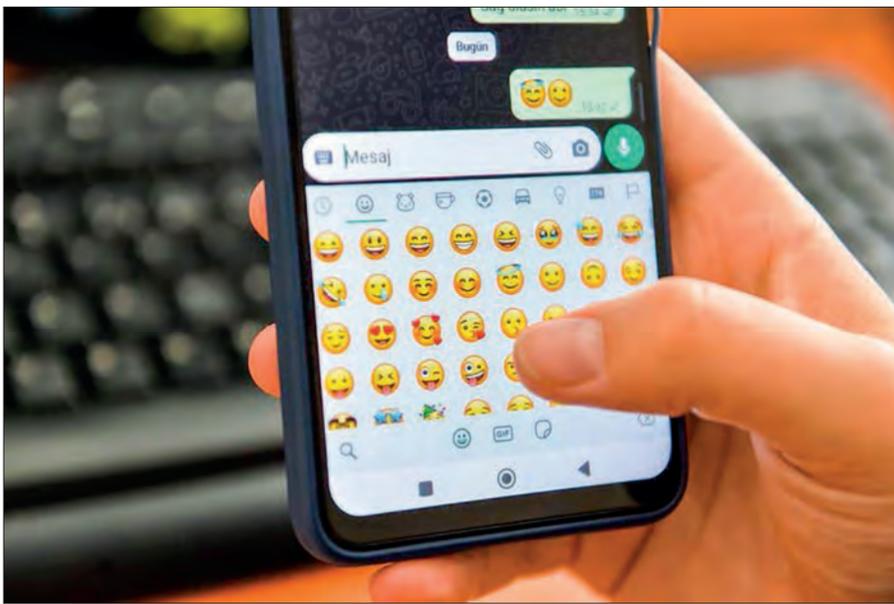
the two sides held "in-depth technical discussions" in preparation for Tuesday's "important" negotiations.

Earlier in the day, Araghchi wrote on X that during his visit to Geneva, he is accompanied by Iranian nuclear experts, along with whom he would meet Grossi for "deep technical discussion". He added that he will also meet Omani Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi ahead of Tuesday's indirect talks.

"I am in Geneva with real ideas to achieve a fair and equitable deal. What is not on the table: submission before threats," said Araghchi.

Iranian and US delegations, led by Araghchi and US President Donald Trump's special envoy Steve Witkoff separately, held a first round of talks in Oman's Muscat on 6 February. Witkoff will again lead the US delegation in Geneva, according to US media reports. — Xinhua

Portugal joins growing EU push to tighten social media age limits



Emojis are seen on a mobile phone in Ankara, Türkiye, on 28 July 2023. Emojis have become an integral part of Turks' daily social media chats and have made their way into digital texting of all kinds. The Turkish people, especially the younger generation, love using them. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

PORTUGAL has proposed legislation requiring parental consent for minors under 16 to access social media platforms, becoming the latest European country to tighten age restrictions amid growing concerns over child safety online.

The draft law, introduced on Thursday, would require platforms to implement effective age-verification systems and comply with national child protection standards. The proposal places Portugal alongside Spain, France, Denmark, and

Greece in strengthening safeguards for young users.

Earlier this month, Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez announced plans to raise the minimum age for social media use from 14 to 16, pledging to protect the children from what he described as "the digital Wild West".

Sanchez said his government would also introduce legal accountability for technology executives who fail to remove illegal or harmful content, including child

sexual abuse material and nonconsensual deepfake imagery.

France's lower house of parliament recently approved legislation banning children under 15 from accessing social media, pending Senate approval. French President Emmanuel Macron has called for coordinated European action, saying platforms have the technical capacity to verify users' ages.

Several European governments are pursuing similar measures, though age thresholds vary. Denmark and Greece are working toward setting a minimum age of 15, while Austria is considering a threshold of 14. Italy has introduced proposals addressing social media use by minors, including rules affecting child influencers. In November 2025, the European Parliament adopted a non-binding resolution recommending a minimum age of 16 for unrestricted access to social media across the bloc, with parental consent permitted for younger teenagers. The European Commission has said age limits remain a matter of national competence under the General Data Protection Regulation. Instead of imposing a bloc-wide threshold, Brussels is developing a European Union (EU) age-verification tool that member states may customize. Platforms would not be required to adopt it if they can demonstrate equally effective alternatives. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Severe weather triggers landslides, flooding across Greece

HEAVY rainfall and strong winds struck multiple parts of Greece in recent days, triggering landslides, flooding and extensive damage to infrastructure, Greek national broadcaster ERT reported on Sunday.

Western and central Greece have experienced persistent heavy rain, while strong winds struck coastal areas along the Ionian Sea and the Aegean Sea, and the western coastal region of Preveza was among the hardest hit. In the coastal town of Mytikas, floodwaters damaged agricultural and livestock facilities, and several major transport routes were blocked by landslides. — Xinhua

Madagascar cyclone death toll rises to 59

FLOODING and fierce winds have pushed Madagascar's death toll from Cyclone Gezani to 59, with more than a dozen people still unaccounted for, the country's disaster agency said on Monday.

It is the latest in a string of tropical storms to batter the southern African island in recent months, underscoring its vulnerability to increasingly extreme weather fuelled by climate change. — AFP

SPORTS

4th International MAI Chairman's Cup Golf Tourney held in Yangon

THE Fourth Myanmar Airways International (MAI) Chairman's Cup Golf Tournament was held on the morning of 14 February at the City Golf Resort – Silvery Course in Insein Township, Yangon Region.

The tournament was organized in honour of aviators serving in various sectors of the aviation industry. It was also intended to promote unity within the domestic air transport sector through team-based competition and collaboration.

“We are extremely delighted that MAI has been able to organize the Chairman's Cup Golf Tournament for four consecutive years. This event brings together aviators from the domestic aviation sector as

well as colleagues from international organizations outside the workplace, fostering closer relationships. It also unites golf enthusiasts and aims to enhance sportsmanship and cooperation,” said MAI Chief Executive Officer Mr Tanes Kumar.

The tournament was conducted in a stroke play format, comprising two categories: Scratch Play and Handicap Play. More than 100 golfers participated, including responsible officials from the domestic aviation sector, representatives of domestic and international airlines, airport operators, related companies, international organizations, and partner associations.

Following the competitions,



Participants gather together at the MAI Chairman's Cup Golf Tournament.

an awards ceremony was held, attended by special guests from the Department of Civil Aviation (DCA) and other relevant de-

partments. Prizes were presented by MAI officials to the first-, second-, and third-place winners in each category, as well as to

recipients of special awards, including Longest Drive, Nearest Pin, Nearest Line, Most Birdies and Most Pars. — ASH/KNN

Rayo stuns Atletico as Betis sends Mallorca into bottom three in La Liga



Oscar Valentin (3rd R) of Vallecana scores during the La Liga football match between Rayo Vallecano and Atletico de Madrid in Madrid, Spain, 15 February 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA

ATLETICO Madrid produced another poor away display on Sunday as Diego Simeone's side slumped to a 3-0 defeat to Rayo Vallecano.

The loss came three days after Atletico's impressive first-leg win over FC Barcelona in the Copa del Rey semifinals. Simeone rotated heavily, but still named a strong starting lineup.

With Rayo's Vallecana pitch deemed unplayable, the match was moved to Leganes' Bu-

tarque Stadium. Despite home fans chanting for club president Martin Presa to resign, Rayo looked the more composed side and went 2-0 up at half-time thanks to goals from Fran Perez in the 40th minute and Oscar Valentin in the 45th. Nobel Mendy added a third in the 76th with a powerful header.

Rayo's win meant Valencia kicked off its local derby away to Levante inside the bottom three, but Carlos Corberan's side eased clear with a 2-0 vic-

tory thanks to two excellent second-half goals from Largie Ramazani and Umar Sadiq.

Valencia's win leaves Mallorca in the relegation zone after a 2-1 home defeat to Betis. Abde Ezzalzouli and Cedric Bakambu put Betis 2-0 up with goals in the 18th and 45th minutes, and although Vedat Muriqi pulled one back with a header in the 66th, Mallorca could not find an equalizer despite going close through Jan Virgili. — Xinhua

Dutch skater Kok claims women's 500m speed skating gold in Olympic record at Milan-Cortina

DUTCH skater Femke Kok won her first Olympic gold in the women's 500-metre speed skating on Sunday, setting a new Olympic record of 36.49 seconds.

Her teammate Jutta Leerdam took silver, while Japanese veteran Miho Takagi claimed bronze.

Leerdam, who raced in the 12th pair, initially took the lead with a time of 37.15 seconds, but Kok overtook her in the 15th

pair by 0.66 seconds. Takagi finished in 37.27 seconds to secure her ninth Olympic medal.

“At first, I only saw green [on the scoreboard], and I thought ‘nice’. When I saw the time, I thought, ‘Wow, that’s super fast on sea level’,” Kok said after her win.

“It was a relief. It doesn't get any better than this. I was so nervous, I was shaking at the start. During the race, I could only think about skating as fast as possible. It worked out,” she added.

Kok and Leerdam swapped their positions compared to Monday's 1,000-metre race, while Takagi also came in third place in that match.

Speaking of Kok, Leerdam said, “She is super impressive. I have a lot of respect for her. She is a worthy Olympic champion.

It is the other way around now (compared to the 1,000-metre). We have a lot of respect for each other and wish each other the best in our distances.” — Xinhua

Femke Kok of the Netherlands competes during the speed skating women's 500-metre final match at the Milan-Cortina 2026 Olympic Winter Games in Milan, Italy, 15 February 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA



Iranian FM, IAEA chief meet in Geneva for technical discussions ahead of US talks

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WORLD

India hosts AI summit as safety concerns grow

A global artificial intelligence summit kicks off in New Delhi on Monday with big issues on the agenda, from job disruption to child safety, but some attendees warn the broad focus could diminish the chance of concrete commitments from world leaders.

While frenzied demand for generative AI has turbocharged profits for many tech companies, anxiety is growing over the risks that it poses to society and the environment.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will on Monday afternoon inaugurate the five-day AI Impact Summit, which aims to declare a “shared roadmap for global AI governance and collaboration”.

“This occasion is further proof that our country is progressing rapidly in the field of science and technology,” and it “shows the capability of our country’s youth”, he said in an X post on Monday.

It is the fourth annual gathering addressing the problems and opportunities posed by AI,

after previous international meetings in Paris, Seoul and Britain’s wartime code-breaking hub Bletchley.

Touted as the biggest edition yet, the Indian government is expecting 250,000 visitors from across the sector, including 20 national leaders and 45 ministerial-level delegations.

Also in attendance will be tech CEOs including Sam Altman of OpenAI and Google’s Sundar Pichai, although unforeseen circumstances have reportedly led Jensen Huang, head of US chip titan Nvidia, to cancel his planned appearance.

Modi will seek to “strengthen global partnerships and define India’s leadership in the AI decade ahead” in talks with the likes of France’s Emmanuel Macron and Brazil’s Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, organizers say.

But whether they will take meaningful steps to hold AI giants accountable is in doubt, Amba Kak, co-executive director of the AI Now Institute, told AFP.

Industry commitments made at previous events “have



A motorcyclist rides past the hoarding of ‘India AI Impact Summit 2026’ along a street on the eve of the summit in New Delhi on 15 February 2026. PHOTO: AFP

largely been narrow ‘self regulatory’ frameworks that position AI companies to continue to grade their own homework”, said Kak, a former AI advisor to the US Federal Trade Commission who is taking part in

the summit.

AI safety

The Bletchley gathering, held in 2023 — a year after ChatGPT stunned the world — was called the AI Safety Summit.

The meetings’ names have

changed as they have grown in size and scope, and at last year’s AI Action Summit in Paris, dozens of nations signed a statement calling for efforts to flank AI tech with regulation to make it “open” and “ethical”. — AFP

EU to take part in Trump’s ‘Board of Peace’ but not as member



Hungary’s Prime Minister Viktor Orban (L) and Indonesia’s President Prabowo Subianto (R) hold a signed founding charter next to US President Donald Trump (C) at the “Board of Peace” meeting during the World Economic Forum (WEF) annual meeting in Davos on 22 January 2026. PHOTO: AFP

THE European Union will take part in this week’s inaugural meeting of US President Donald Trump’s “Board of Peace”, but a spokesman insisted Monday that Brussels would not be joining as a member.

The European Commissioner for

the Mediterranean, Dubravka Suica, will head to Washington to represent the EU at the meeting Thursday.

“She will participate in the meeting of the Board of Peace for the specific part dedicated to Gaza. Let me stress that the European Commission, it’s

not becoming a member to the Board of Peace,” EU spokesman Guillaume Mercier said.

He added the EU executive was participating as part of its “long-standing commitment” to the implementation of the Gaza ceasefire and “to support the reconstruction and the post-recovery in Gaza”, he added.

The Board of Peace, of which Trump is the chairman, was initially designed to oversee the Gaza truce and reconstruction after the war between Hamas and Israel.

But its purpose has since morphed into resolving all sorts of international conflicts, triggering fears the US president wants to create a rival to the UN.

Some EU member states have raised concerns about the board.

“We still have a number of questions regarding several elements in the Board of Peace: one concerning its scope, two concerning its governance, and three, its compatibility with the UN Charter,” EU spokesman Anouar El Anouni said. — AFP

MSC chairman highlights doubts over transatlantic ties

CHAIRMAN of the Munich Security Conference (MSC) Wolfgang Ischinger on Sunday underscored growing doubts within the transatlantic relationship as the three-day event concluded here.

In his closing remarks, Ischinger said this year’s Munich Security Report, titled “Under Destruction,” had sparked diverse views. While German Chancellor Friedrich Merz argued that the international system is not only under attack but “already gone”, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio called for its “renewal and restoration.”

Ischinger pointed to mounting questions over whether “what we used to call the West” still shares common values, adheres to the same rules, and truly remains on the same team.

He also referred to warnings voiced by participants from Denmark and Greenland, noting that if certain lines are crossed, they must be taken seriously. — Xinhua