

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.



Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe leads the first regular session of the Third Pyidaungsu Hluttaw at the Hluttaw Complex in Nay Pyi Taw.

First regular session of Third Pyidaungsu Hluttaw commences

Hluttaw representative group meetings will take place on 30 March to elect the President and Vice-Presidents.

The first regular session of the Third Pyidaungsu Hluttaw was held on the first day at the convention hall of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw at the Hluttaw Complex in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe delivered an introductory speech. (The speech delivered by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker is reported on page 3.)

The Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw announced that, of the total 586 Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives eligible to attend the first day of the First Regular Session of the Third Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, 585 were present at today's session, representing 99.83 per cent attendance. As more than half were in attendance, the session met the quorum requirement and was duly opened. The attendance record was submitted for

Hluttaw approval and formally recorded.

The Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw then announced that, in accordance with Section 60 of the Constitution and Section 4 of the Election Law of the President and Vice-Presidents, meetings of Hluttaw representative groups will be held starting on 30 March to nominate Vice-Presidential candidates and enable each group to elect one Vice-President.

The elected Pyithu Hluttaw representative group, the elected Amyotha Hluttaw representative group and the Defence Services Personnel representative group will be formed to elect one Vice-President each.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced that, in group-wise meetings, the elected Pyithu Hluttaw representative group will hold its meeting at the convention hall of the Pyithu Hluttaw, while the elected Amyotha Hluttaw

representatives will host their meeting at the convention hall of the Amyotha Hluttaw, adding that the Defence Services Personnel representative group will stage its meeting at the venue set by the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker also announced that when each group has elected a Vice-President, the relevant Hluttaw Speaker must send the nomination of the elected Vice-President to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker. Likewise, a Defence Services Personnel representative must send the nomination of the Vice-President elected by their group to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker. Furthermore, these groups have to select an elected Pyithu Hluttaw representative, an elected Amyotha Hluttaw representative and a Hluttaw representative of the Defence Services

Personnel representative group to be involved in the Presidential Electoral College together with speakers and deputy speakers of two Hluttaws and send their nominations to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker.

The Speaker also announced that when the nomination lists are received, the scrutiny of whether the presidential candidates meet the required qualifications, as well as the election of the President and Vice-Presidents, will proceed in accordance with the relevant Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law and Rules, and the Election Law of the President and Vice-Presidents and Rules.

The first-day event of the first regular session of the Third Pyidaungsu Hluttaw was adjourned in the morning. The date and time for the second-day session will be announced in advance. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

All Born on This Land Must Value Their Language and Literature

- ❖ The value of a language is often truly recognized only when one reaches a foreign land outside one's homeland.
- ❖ It is then that people can realize the greater significance of their own language and literature.
- ❖ Everyone who is born on this land should respect and hold in high regard their own language and literature.

(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, Life Patron of the Young Men's Buddhist Association Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the awarding of the 38th Mingala Discourse and Buddhism Examination to mark the 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) of YMBA (Central) on 14 November 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.

Objectives of 81st Armed Forces Day

- To participate in national politics in a leadership role of the country, not to deviate from the path of democracy in accordance with the fundamental principles of the Constitution, safeguarding the national policy, the Our Three Main National Causes
- To cooperate with the government and people in performing measures for State stability, ethnic unity and the nation's development
- To act with utmost care based on the agreements of NCA without deviating from the Our Three Main National Causes while serving duties for durable peace, as the resolution of armed conflicts play key role in moving towards a genuine and disciplined multiparty democratic pathway
- To continuously improve three main tasks of Tatmadaw – Study, Practise, Comply – and the ability to apply modern technologies in structuring Tatmadaw into a Standard Army

Foreign investments allowed to use USD and CNY in Myanmar

IN order to facilitate smoother investment processes and better meet the needs of investors, Myanmar is accepting foreign investments not only in US dollars (USD) but also in Chinese yuan (CNY), according to the Myanmar Investment Commission.

According to the MIC's news bulletin 1/2026 issued on 16 March, proposals for permits and endorsements of

the businesses submitted to the Commission can be made using either US dollars or Chinese yuan for foreign capital.

Investors bringing foreign capital in US dollars and Chinese yuan can conduct transfer payments for investments through authorized dealer banks.

As of the end of February 2026, among the 53 foreign countries, Singapore, China,

and Thailand are the leading countries with the largest foreign investments in the country. Of 12 sectors, the electricity sector accounts for 28.27 per cent by drawing the most significant investments, followed by the oil and natural gas sector at 24.62 per cent and the manufacturing sector at 14.67 per cent. — MNA/KTZH

Notification

20 March 2026

- To enable mobile phone users in Myanmar to use handsets with confidence – ensuring that they comply with standards and that the required taxes have been paid to the State — the Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) system will be implemented from the first week of March 2026. According to the CEIR and EIR System Project Steering Committee, companies intending to import mobile handsets and mobile network communication equipment from abroad must do so in pursuance of prescribed procedures. Once the relevant taxes have been paid, the devices will be included in the approved list of the CEIR system.
- Accordingly, companies importing mobile handsets and mobile network communication equipment from abroad are hereby notified that they must apply for and obtain official import licences and pay the relevant taxes to the State.

Department of Trade

“March 2026” group art exhibition to open at Yangon's Artistic Space Gallery

A group art exhibition titled “March 2026” will be held from 21 to 25 March at the Artistic Space Art Gallery in Botahtaung Township, Yangon, according to an announcement from the gallery.

The exhibition will feature a diverse collection of watercolours, oils, and acrylics by a range of artists, including Aung Myint Baw, Aung Naing, Aung Naing

Soe, K Moe Ko, Ko Soe, Kyaw Yin, Min Kyaw Swa, Mor Mor, M Myo Kyaw, Nilar San, Shwe Aung, Saw Lin Aung, and Yan Lin Aung.

An official from the Artistic Space Art Gallery stated that the exhibition will be open daily from 10 am to 5 pm throughout the event period. The gallery has extended a warm invitation to

the public to attend and view the collection.

The artworks on display will be presented in various dimensions, including 24 by 24 inches, 36 by 24 inches, 18 by 24 inches, and 18 by 18 inches. — ASH/KZL

This image displays paintings by participating artists at the “March 2026” exhibition.



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)

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Upholds Separation of Powers, Checks and Balances

Every law enacted by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw must primarily protect the interests of the State and its citizens rather than those of any organization or private entity.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker extended greetings at the first regular session of the Third Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on its first day. The full text of the translated greetings is as follows: -

First and foremost, I would like to extend my greetings, Mingalaba, to all and wish all Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives and distinguished guests attending the first day of the First Regular Session of the Third Pyidaungsu Hluttaw held today good health and peace of mind.

I would like to state that I am deeply honoured and pleased that, having been elected as the Speaker of the Third Amyotha Hluttaw, I will, under Section 76 (a) of the Constitution, concurrently serve as the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker for a term of two and a half years, or 30 months.

Today is the first day of the first regular session of the Third Pyidaungsu Hluttaw fully attended by Hluttaw representatives elected by the people based on their will in the 2025 multiparty democratic general election and Defence Services Personnel Hluttaw Representatives.

Esteemed Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives,

According to the historical events of our country and the demands of the current time, the State and the majority of the people ultimately aim to establish a Union based on genuine, disciplined democracy and a federal system. Flourishing the multiparty democracy is very important for reaching the goal as early as possible. Amid various difficulties and challenges along the path towards democracy, the current government, with relentless efforts and determination, successfully held a free, fair, and dignified multiparty general election in the presence of international observers. So, the Hluttaw meetings are held for those representatives elected by the people to serve the legislative responsibilities.

During the first regular sessions of the third relevant Hluttaws, key matters of importance to the State and its citizens will be addressed. These include the election of the President and Vice-Presidents; the election of Speakers and Deputy Speakers of the Hluttaws; the formation of the Union Government; the appointment and assignment of duties to members of Union-level bodies; the formation of regional and state governments, including Chief Ministers and cabinets; and the establishment of Hluttaw affairs committees and joint committees. These procedures will be implemented with the approval of the Hluttaws.



Esteemed Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives,

Due to the prompt repair and rehabilitation efforts carried out following the damage caused by the major Mandalay earthquake on 28 March 2025, the Hluttaw sessions are held successfully at present. In line with the country's situation and the dignity of its citizens, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw would like to respectfully express its special gratitude to the State Government and the National Defence and Security Council for reconstructing and restoring these grand Hluttaw buildings and for making thorough and well-prepared arrangements in advance to ensure that nothing is lacking for the attending Hluttaw representatives.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is not only the body that approves bills submitted and debated in the Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw, but also the institution that makes final decisions on important matters of the State. Therefore, the role of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is of high significance. Likewise, the role of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives is also important.

Therefore, Hluttaw representatives are required to comply with the established laws and rules and to conduct themselves as role models. In addition, without personal cult or party bias, they should prioritize only the national interest and the interests of the State and its citizens, and engage in mutual respect and dialogue to ensure that better decisions emerge from differing viewpoints.

Sometimes, when the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Amyotha Hluttaw have differing views on bills and they are discussed and decided in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, those representatives should not be influenced by institutional bias, ideology, or party allegiance. Instead, they should focus solely on producing better legal provisions and con-

ducting discussions based on understanding and unity.

The desire to ensure that the State remains stable, peaceful, and developed, and to build a genuine, disciplined, democratic and federal Union that achieves durable peace, is the shared aspiration and common goal of all of our Hluttaw representatives. Therefore, we should consult, coordinate, and deliberate on matters that will benefit the State and its citizens through mutual understanding, unity, and solidarity.

The main duty of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is, in accordance with the Constitution, to carry out legislation and oversight in exercising the three branches of State sovereign power – legislative, executive, and judicial – to the extent possible through separation of powers and mutual checks and balances.

Every law enacted and approved by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw must be one that primarily promotes the interests of the State and its citizens, rather than the interests of any organization or private entity. At present, outdated laws that are no longer consistent with current times and systems should be reviewed and analyzed, and amended or repealed as necessary. New laws that benefit the State and its citizens should be submitted, debated, and approved. In addition, the effectiveness and applicability of existing laws should be reassessed, and they should be amended where necessary.

We, Hluttaw representatives, are required to thoroughly study and precisely comply with the legislative provisions contained in the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, as well as the Hluttaw laws and rules. As members of the legislative body, we must work together in the Hluttaw, in cooperation with the executive and judicial branches, to deliberate and make decisions in the interests of the State and the people. Therefore, we should engage in discussions and carry out our duties based on the spirit of the Union and cooperation.

Esteemed Hluttaw representatives,

In conclusion, I would like to state that, during my tenure as Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, I will work with integrity and loyalty, giving priority to the realization of a Union based on genuine, disciplined democracy and a federal system desired by the citizens of the country. In this Hluttaw, which operates in accordance with democratic practices, I urge all of us to work together in unity so that the laws, rules, and Hluttaw traditions we follow will become good precedents and exemplary practices for future generations. I also conclude by expressing my confidence that we will be able to build a Hluttaw that the public can trust.

NATIONAL

1st regular session of 3rd Kachin State Hluttaw begins

THE first regular session of the Third Kachin State Hluttaw took place at the Kachin State Hluttaw meeting hall in Myitkyina yesterday.

Dr Than Htay Aung, Constituency 2 from Myitkyina Township, was elect-

ed as the meeting chair.

The meeting chair announced that the meeting had officially commenced, and U Rawam Jone, Constituency 1 from Machanbaw Township, was elected as Kachin State Hluttaw Speaker,

whereas U Than Tun Aye, Constituency 2 from Mohnyin Township, was Deputy Speaker.

The meeting chair transferred the responsibilities to Kachin State Hluttaw Speaker U Rawam Jone.

The Speaker extended greetings, highlighting the role of Hluttaw, the need to develop Kachin State, improve livelihoods, and reduce poverty through effective laws, and also pledged to perform his duties fairly



and work to strengthen ties in the state. — State democratic opportuni- IPRD/KTZH

1st regular session of 3rd Sagaing Region Hluttaw commences

THE first regular session of the Third Sagaing Region Hluttaw was convened at the Sagaing Region Hluttaw meeting hall in Monywa yesterday.

The session was attended by elected Sagaing Region Hluttaw Representatives and Defence Services Personnel Rep-

resentatives.

Sagaing Region Hluttaw Representative U Hla Tun from the Nanyun Constituency 2 was elected as the meeting chair.

The meeting chair announced that the meeting had officially commenced, and U Tint Hlaing Myint from the Monywa Town-

ship Constituency 1 was elected as Sagaing Region Hluttaw Speaker, and U Myo Thant from the Kanbalu Township Constituency 2 was Deputy Speaker.

The meeting chair transferred the responsibilities to Sagaing Region Hluttaw Speaker U Tint

Hlaing Myint.

The Speaker extended greetings. The first-day event of the first regular session of the Sagaing Region Hluttaw was adjourned, and the date and time for the second-day session will be announced in advance. — IPRD/KTZH



3rd Mandalay Region Hluttaw holds 1st regular session

THE Third Mandalay Region Hluttaw held its first regular session yesterday with 72 representatives in attendance. U Thein Lwin from the Pyigyidagun

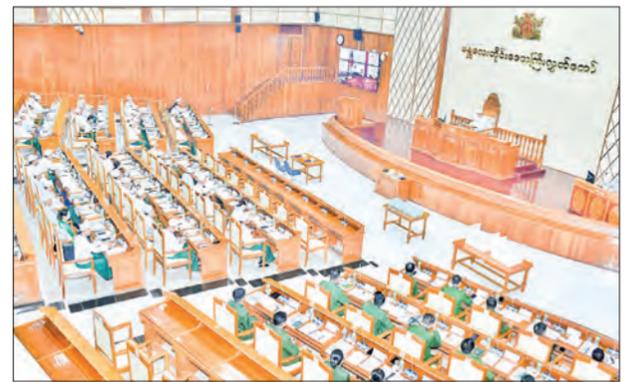
Constituency 1 served as chairman, making an affirmation and overseeing the proceedings.

U Aung Kyaw Moe from the Meiktila Constit-

uency 1 was elected Speaker, and U Kyaw Myint from the Yamethin Constituency 1 was elected Deputy Speaker. Both made affirmations and officially

assumed their roles.

The session concluded at 11 am, with further proceedings to follow on the next day. — Myint Maw Tun (IPRD)/KZL



1st regular session of 3rd Yangon Region Hluttaw commences

THE first regular session of the Third Yangon Region Hluttaw took place at the Yangon Region Hluttaw meeting hall in Dagon Township yesterday.

Yangon Region Representative U Min Thein Tun

from Mayangon Township was elected as the meeting chair.

The meeting chair announced that the meeting had officially commenced, and U Htay Aung from the Thakayta Township Con-

stituency was elected as Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker, and U Kyaw Kyaw Soe from the South Okkalapa Township Constituency was elected as Deputy Speaker.

The Speaker extend-

ed greetings. The first-day event of the first regular session of the Third Yangon Region Hluttaw was adjourned. The Meeting was attended by 123 Region Hluttaw representatives. — MNA/KTZH



1st regular session of 3rd Ayeyawady Region Hluttaw begins

THE first regular session of the Third Ayeyawady Region Hluttaw took place at the Ayeyawady Region Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday.

U Kyaw Win Naing from Lemyethna Township

Constituency 1 was elected as the meeting chair.

The meeting chair announced that the meeting had officially commenced, and U Thein Tun, Kyaungon Township Constituency 1, was elected as Ay-

eyawady Region Hluttaw Speaker, whereas U Saw Thet Naing Oo, Kangyidaunt Township Constituency 1, was elected as Deputy Speaker.

The Speaker extend-

ed greetings. The first-day event of the first regular session of the Third Ayeyawady Region Hluttaw was adjourned, and the date and time for the second-day session will be announced in advance. — Region IPRD/KTZH



NATIONAL

Kayin State Hluttaw elects Speaker, Deputy Speaker on opening day

THE first-day meeting of the First Regular Session of the Third Kayin State Hluttaw was held at 10 am on 20 March in the meeting hall of the State Hluttaw Office, with all 23 members permitted to attend, resulting in full attendance.

U Saw Myint Oo, Hluttaw Representative of Hpa-an Township Constituency 1, was elected as the meet-

ing chair. The meeting chair took affirmations in front of the Hluttaw, signed the form of affirmations and extended greetings.

The Chair then declared that the first regular session of the Third Kayin State Hluttaw was quorate and that the meeting officially commenced. State Hluttaw representatives made affirmations in the

presence of the Chair and signed the oath affirmations. The Chair presided over the meeting and nominated and supported U San Ko, Hluttaw Representative from Thandaunggyi Township Constituency 1 and U Aye Min Htwe, Hluttaw Representative from Myawady Township Constituency 1, as Speaker and Deputy Speaker of

the Kayin State Hluttaw, respectively.

Afterwards, the Speaker and Deputy Speaker made affirmations before the Chair and signed the oath of office. The Chair then handed over the Hluttaw session's responsibilities to Speaker U San Ko of the Kayin State Hluttaw, who delivered a speech. — District IPRD/TH



Bago Region Hluttaw holds first regular session

THE Third Bago Region Hluttaw held its first regular session yesterday, attended by elected regional representatives and Defence Services personnel representatives. U Naing Min Swe (aka) U Tun Tun

Oo was elected chairman to oversee proceedings until the formal election.

U Aung Cho Oo from the Pyay Constituency 1 was elected Speaker, and U Kyaw Htay from the Phyu Constituency 2 was

elected Deputy Speaker under the 2013 Region or State Hluttaw Rules. Both signed the oath of office in the presence of the chairman.

With 76 representatives present, the session

commenced successfully. The Speaker announced that the first day of the regular session had concluded and that details of the second day would be announced later. — Thet Phyo Kyaing (IPRD)/KZL



3rd Mon State Hluttaw holds 1st regular session

THE Third Mon State Hluttaw held its first regular session on 20 March, attended by state representatives and officials. U Aung Kyi Thein from the Chaungzon Constituency

1 was elected chairman, took the affirmations, and opened the session.

For Speaker and Deputy Speaker elections, U Thet Htwe from the Mawlamyine Constituency 2

was elected Speaker, and U Min Aung Myint from the Ye Constituency 2 was elected Deputy Speaker. Both made affirmations in the presence of the chairman, who then formally

handed over duties to the Speaker.

The session concluded with the announcement of the next day's meeting schedule. — Si Thu (IPRD)/KZL



3rd Rakhine State Hluttaw holds 1st regular session

THE Third Rakhine State Hluttaw held its first regular session yesterday morning at the state Hluttaw hall. U Naing Oo from the Sittway Constituency 1 was elected chairman,

took the affirmations, and opened the session.

State representatives then took their affirmations before the chairman. For Speaker and Deputy Speaker elections, Dr San

Shwe of Sittway Constituency 2 was elected Speaker and Dr Htin Lin Oo of Myebon Constituency 2 as Deputy Speaker, with both making their affirmations.

The chairman handed

over responsibilities to the Speaker, who delivered a speech before adjourning the session and announcing the schedule for the next day. — Tin Htun (IPRD)/KZL



1st session of 3rd Shan State Hluttaw commences

THE first regular session of the Third Shan State Hluttaw took place at the Shan State Hluttaw meeting hall in Taunggyi yesterday.

The meeting was attended by elected representatives of the Shan State Hluttaw and Defence Services Personnel Repre-

sentatives.

During the meeting, U Lin Aung Swe from the Namhsam Constituency 1 was elected as the meeting chair.

The chair announced that the meeting had officially commenced, and U Sai Lone Kyaw from the

Pekhon Constituency 2 was elected as the Shan State Hluttaw Speaker, whereas U Sai Tun Sein from the Mongping Constituency 1 was Deputy Speaker.

The meeting chair transferred the responsibilities to State Hluttaw Speaker U Sai Lone Kyaw.

The Speaker extended a greeting. The first-day event of the first regular session of the Third Shan State Hluttaw was adjourned, and the date and time for the second-day session will be announced in advance. — Maung Maung Than (Taunggyi)/KTZH



NATIONAL

MoD Union Minister encourages patients at Mawlamyine Tatmadaw hospital

UNION Minister for Defence General Maung Maung Aye, accompanied by Commander Maj-Gen Kyaw Lin Maung of the South-East Command, visited Tatmadaw members and members of the People's Militia (local) receiving medical treatment at the local Tatmadaw hospital in Mawlamyine yesterday

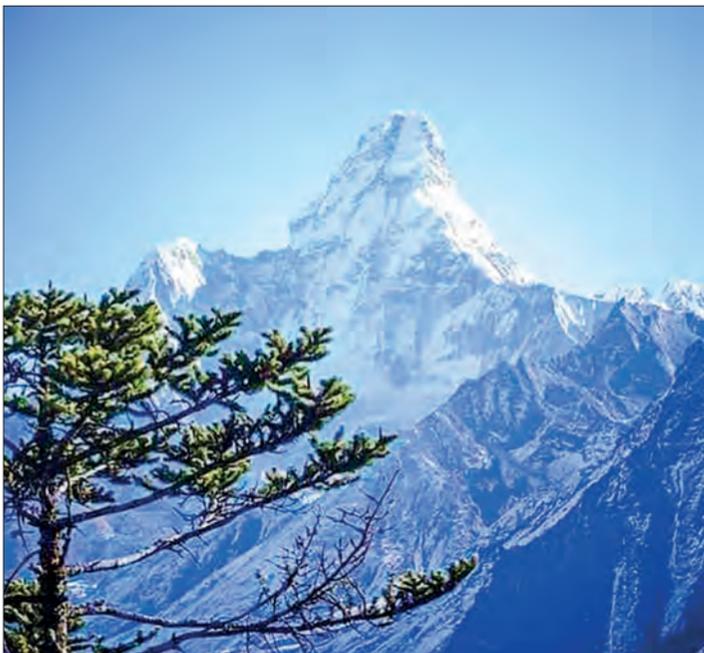
morning.

The Union minister and officials reportedly enquired about the patients' injuries, illnesses, medical treatment, and recovery, offered words of encouragement, and provided cash assistance and nutritious meals to those hospitalized. — MNA/TH



Union Minister General Maung Maung Aye provides cash assistance and nutritious foodstuffs.

Putao to compete for ASEAN's 7th ESC Award and 6th COR



This photo features the beauty of Kachin State's glacial landscape.

PUTAO Township in Kachin State will compete for the 7th ASEAN Environmentally Sustainable Cities (ESC) Award and the 6th Certificate of Recognition (COR), according to the Kachin State Government.

Putao is located in northern Myanmar. It has a cool

and pleasant climate and is surrounded by snow-capped mountains, making it a city rich in natural beauty. If it's clean, attractive, and environmentally friendly, an environment can be showcased among ASEAN countries, which will enhance the country's image

and greatly contribute to tourism development.

The ESC Award programme was launched in 2008 and is held every three years. Cities that meet the criteria set by ASEAN member countries are invited to submit nominations and compete for the award.

Myanmar has already secured the award for the following cities: Taunggyi (2008), PyinOoLwin (2011), Yangon (2014), Nay Pyi Taw (2017), NyaungU (2021), and Hpa-an (2025).

By participating in the ESC Award programme, opportunities will be created to further enhance environmental conservation efforts, including waste management, wastewater treatment, access to clean drinking water, water resource conservation and management, air quality monitoring and improvement, and forest conservation, thereby ensuring clean water, land, and air. — ASH/TH

NMA College holds fourth graduation ceremony



The commemorative group photo of the fourth graduation ceremony of NMA College. **PHOTO: KOLWIN**

THE fourth graduation ceremony of NMA College was held yesterday morning at the Lotte Hotel in Yangon.

The NMA College principal, along with professors and members of the academic staff, first took the stage to present certificates to 240 students who graduated with a Master of Business Administration (MBA), Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA), Diploma in Computing, and Diploma in Computing with Business Management, and to present awards to outstanding students.

The principal then delivered

an opening speech, urging students to speak and act appropriately every day in accordance with the school's curriculum, to strive to improve their moral character and pursue knowledge with diligence, to contribute to the peace, prosperity, and development of the people to the best of their abilities, and to fulfil their duties in various sectors and fields as outstanding professionals who live and work under discipline. Afterwards, the Carry Connect CEO outlined the job opportunities available to graduates and students. — Oktha (MNA)/TH

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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

Capacity-Building Course 1/2026 on AML-CFT concludes

THE closing ceremony of the Capacity-Building Course 1/2026 on the Anti-Money Laundering and Combatting the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) was held yesterday morning at the Public Finance Management Academy of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue in Nay Pyi Taw.

The closing ceremony was attended by Dr Kan Zaw, Union Minister for Finance and Revenue, Deputy Minister Daw Than Than Lin, Heads of Departments, invitees, trainers and trainees.

At the ceremony, Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw highlighted that the training was opened to enable the ministry to collaborate more effectively with relevant sectors in the anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing programs being implemented by the State. Therefore,

he stated that it is necessary for supervisory authorities and law enforcement agencies to closely supervise and cooperate effectively by sector. He noted that the training covered relevant domestic laws on AML/CFT, including the recently enacted Anti-Money Laundering Law of 2026, international standards on AML/CFT, current AML/CFT measures and progress of Myanmar, key implementation steps of Myanmar's National Strategy 2024-2028, guidelines for supervision and risk assessment, risk-based supervision and on-site and off-site field inspections, reporting responsibilities, and preventive measures.

He encouraged trainees to better understand the AML/CFT legal frameworks and processes implemented by the State, applying them practically in the



Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw speaks at the concluding event of the AML-CFT Capacity-Building Course 1/2026.

workplace, and to effectively cooperate with relevant sectors in the AML/CFT processes of Myanmar. The Union minister then

presented awards to those who excelled in the training and presented certificates of completion.

Thirty-five officers from de-

partments under the Ministry of Finance and Revenue reportedly attended the course, and it lasted five days. — MoFR

MNHRC inspects Youth Development Charity Home, District and Township Court Lock-ups, and Myoma Police Lock-up in Hlegu

AN inspection team led by U Kyaw Soe and Dr Than Myint, members of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, conducted an inspection visit to the Metta Aye Yeik Myon Youth Development Charity Home, Hlegu Township, Yangon Region, on 19 March 2026, under Sections 43 and 44 of the Commission Law. During the inspection, the team inspected the conditions of the children being cared for and educated at the Charity Home, the acceptance of children in line with the home's rules and regulations, provision of healthcare services, food and nutrition supplement, clean drinking water and water for domestic use, accommodation arrangements in dormitories, provision of academic education, vocational training, the accessibility of Citizenship Scrutiny Card, the arrangements for doing physical exercises and sport activities, the right to contact with their families, the right



MNHRC members are seen during their inspection tour in Hlegu.

to family reintegration, and the right to practice religion in accordance with their faith.

Subsequently, the team visited the Hlegu District Court Lock-up, the Hlegu Township Court Lock-up, and the Hlegu Myoma Police Station Lock-up, and inspected the conditions of detainees during the remand period, whether any torture occurred while in custody, and whether there were opportunities to meet their family members, as well as the ar-

range for food, provision during the court appearance period, the disposal of sewage and overall cleanliness of the facilities, and access to legal assistance. The team conducted interviews with detainees and recorded their statements.

The findings and recommendations from the inspection team's visits will be sent to the relevant department for necessary action under the Commission law. — MNHRC

MOL forms inspection teams to investigate and prosecute lawbreakers

THE Ministry of Labour announced on 18 March that it has formed inspection teams to investigate and take legal action against those who violate overseas employment laws.

Regarding complaints filed by victimized workers, the Department of Labour has organized specialized inspection teams led by relevant regional or state heads of department, including the township officer, as well as a representative from the Myanmar Overseas Employment Agencies Association. Investigations are conducted through a tripartite system, involving workers, agencies or brokers, and authorities.

According to the announcement, in a case filed by a group of workers, including Ma Tin Nilar Htay, and Maung Tin Zaw Moe, Ma Zin Nwe Aung and Maung Than Zaw Oo against Su Latt Myint Mo Services Co, Ltd, the investigation confirmed that the company collected fees but failed to send the workers abroad or return their money. Consequently, due to violations of the 1999 Law Relating to Overseas Employment, the company's licence was permanently revoked, effective from 13 May 2025. Furthermore, the department filed a case on 11 February against Daw Lar Shan Thang Ngee, the managing director of that company as she was accused of fraudulently collecting money for sending workers to Japan. However, the suspect is currently reported to be a fugitive.

The ministry's Safe Migration page stated that inspection teams will assist in legal negotiations to ensure the money is returned and victims also have the right to file civil lawsuits in the relevant courts. The ministry remains committed to assisting workers according to laws to ensure they do not suffer losses. — MT/ZN



The Ministry of Labour office.

OPINION

Strive to develop across Mon State with public participation

MON State serves not only as a coastal region but also as an important hub with favourable transport routes for trade and commercial processes, including a key central port. In addition, it enjoys a pleasant climate, with scenic mountains and rivers, lush green forests, abundant natural resources, and plentiful local fruits and produce, making it a region with rich natural endowments and favourable conditions.

Given that Mon State possesses favourable natural conditions and abundant resources, expanding the agriculture, livestock, and production sectors would increase the income of local people, reduce poverty, and further improve socioeconomic living standards. Therefore, people in Mon State have to carry out these activities with emphasis on integrating technology to produce value-added products so as to boost their economy as well as improve socioeconomic life.

Unity among ethnic groups is critically important for safeguarding the Union, maintaining national stability and peace, and upholding the rule of law. Achieving peace and unity is essential to ending armed conflicts and violent disturbances so that all ethnic peoples can live safely and securely within the Union. As the ethnic brethren in Mon State participate in building a Union based on democracy and a federal system desired by all ethnic peoples.

As part of efforts to promote all-round development in Mon State and facilitate the flow of goods both domestically and internationally, two key bridges, namely the new Gyaing (Zathabyin) Bridge and the new Attaran Bridge, were inaugurated on 8 March. Thanks to these two bridges, travel will become more convenient, enabling easier access from Mon State and Kayin State to the Mawlamyine Special Economic Zone and the Dawei Deep-Sea Port, as well as to other parts of the country, thereby accelerating the flow of goods.

At present, authorities and the people need to nurture young people who represent the strength of the future by enhancing their character and capabilities so that they become well-rounded and capable individuals. In addition, systematic efforts are required to cultivate good moral conduct among youth, instil patriotism, and encourage a sense of responsibility to safeguard the nation and uphold its dignity.

Unity among ethnic groups is critically important for safeguarding the Union, maintaining national stability and peace, and upholding the rule of law. Achieving peace and unity is essential to ending armed conflicts and violent disturbances so that all ethnic peoples can live safely and securely within the Union. As the ethnic brethren in Mon State participate in building a Union based on democracy and a federal system desired by all ethnic peoples.

Poet Ngwe Tar Yi's two literary products: A translation and commentary

By Myint Zan

POETESS Ngwe Tar Yi (real name Daw Khin Yee) was born in British Burma on 16 February 1925 and passed away in Rangoon (now Yangon) on 18 March 1958. 18 March 2026 would be the 68th anniversary of the esteemed poet's passing. (I used the somewhat outdated 'poetess' above to indicate Ngwe Tar Yi was a female.)

PART I BRIEF GLIMPSE OF NGWE TAR YI'S BACKGROUND

Ngwe Tar Yi studied in schools in colonial Burma till the age of 14. Since childhood, she has apparently been in poor health with heart problems. Due to ill health, she had to discontinue her formal studies. But she taught herself quite a few subjects and obtained a lot of knowledge. She was especially interested in poetry. She started composing poems in Burmese when she was about 12 years old. Her early poems were published when she was about 15 years old. Just after the end of the Second World War in 1946, she published her first collection of poems when she was only about 21 years old. She was indeed a gifted poet. Throughout her short life of 33 years, she composed about 800 poems. Not all, but perhaps half or more of the poems were published. After her death, her husband (also a poet), Min Yu Wai (26 October 1928-29 July 2021), published in 1960 a selection of 100 of her poems in a collection. That book won Burma's national literary prize (in the poetry genre) in 1960.

Brief juxtaposition of the number of poems composed by Emily Dickinson in English and Ngwe Tar Yi in Burmese

I would like to juxtapose (not necessarily compare) the literary products, numerically, of a very eminent

American poet, Emily Dickinson (10 December 1830-15 May 1886), with those of Ngwe Tar Yi. Emily Dickinson apparently wrote nearly 1,800 poems, but only about ten poems were published during her lifetime. The remaining 1,700-plus poems were discovered only after her passing and were published posthumously. Emily Dickinson (died at the age of 55 years and five months) lived about 22 years and four months longer than Ngwe Tar Yi (died at the age of 33 years and one month). IF Ngwe Tar Yi had lived up to the age of 55, as Emily Dickinson did would she have produced around 1,800 poems or not?

Daughter Ngwe Tar Yi's commemorative Volume about her mother

Snippets of the biography of Ngwe Tar Yi can be read in the commemorative volume published in 2025 on the 100th anniversary of her birth. This commemorative edition includes tribute articles, *belles' lettres* and poems published between the years 1946 (when Ngwe Tar Yi's first collection of poems was published) to 2024, where more recent contributions are made by around thirty scholars, poets and writers. The collection was arranged by Ngwe Tar Yi and Min Yu Wai's only child (a daughter), Dr Khin Yi Win (born 18 March 1958). Dr Khin Yi Win is a retired Professor of Myanmar. She wrote her master's thesis analyzing and commenting on some of her mother's poems. Excerpts from her typed thesis are reproduced in the commemorative volume.

Ngwe Tar Yi passed away at Rangoon's Dufferin (maternity) hospital (now Central Women's Hospital) a day after she gave birth to her only child. It was stated (in articles in the commemorative volume) that she did not even see her daughter but only heard her cries after she gave birth. Because of Ngwe Tar Yi's health problems and in order to protect the new-born child Ngwe Tar Yi was quarantined after giving birth.

As she had heart problems since she was a child doctors had reminded her that she should not have children. Her heart problem and high blood pressure

exacerbated during the process and after giving birth. She passed away on 19 March 1958 a day after her daughter was born. Her daughter Myanmar professor Dr Khin Yi Win used the pseudonym daughter (of) Ngwe Tar Yi in some of her essays in the collection of tributes which she collected, collated and published under the title (in translation) *The Centennial of 'Rose' Ngwe Tar Yi*. In her foreword 'Daughter Ngwe Tar Yi wrote affectingly that she 'honours, bows and give obeisance and homage to her benefactor her mother poet Ngwe Tar Yi who brought her into the world by sacrificing her life' (at page 14).

Two articles in tribute of his late wife by the late Min Yu Wai were also reproduced in the book. One was published soon after his wife passed away and another was first published in 2011 when Min Yu Wai was 83 years old.

In both the tribute articles written decades apart Min Yu Wai reproduced the *belles lettres* Ngwe Tar Yi composed on her hospital bed probably just a few days before her daughter was born and before she passed away.

PART II TRANSLATION OF THE LAST LITERARY PIECE OF NGWE TAR YI WHICH WAS COMPOSED A FEW DAYS BEFORE HER PASSING

The last literary product of the esteemed poet and writer may or may not have been translated by others. I am not aware of any. This is my own translation and I do so to commemorate the 68th anniversary of Ngwe Tar Yi's passing.

Start of translation

The True Outlook
By Ngwe Tar Yi
Translated by Myint Zan
The majestic moon shines inside my body. But my

blinded eyes cannot see that moon.

Just as the moon resides in my body, the majestic sun likewise does so.

The drum that automatically makes sound without being struck reverberates inside my body. But, oh, my deafened ears cannot hear them!

Until humans let go of all the 'I', 'this is mine' clinging, all the tasks they have done will come to nought.

Only when the clinging, the craving



'me' 'mine' ceases, the noble persons' task will be completed.

Only that task, that effort, can bring forth the correct outlook.

As soon as the correct outlook is adopted the task indeed comes to completion

End of translation

PART III TRANSLATION OF NGWE TAR YI'S POEM ENGRAVED ON HER TOMBSTONE

After Ngwe Tar Yi passed away, her husband engraved the following poem of hers on her tombstone:

On the turn(s) of life
By Ngwe Tar Yi
Translated by Myint Zan

'tis that in this life
while being happy, serene
inevitably, we have to
part ways:
like forks on the road

in this short life
we traverse, we rest
we meet each other fleetingly:
like lightning in the sky
hence let's build the edifice
of loving-kindness together
let's love each other to the extent
that we can

while journeying in this short life
let's try to build happiness
with a clear heart and mind:
free of defilements
let's help each other
let's help all

End of translation

'The lamp is extinguished but the lights are still pervasive'

To quote and slightly paraphrase, poet Ngwe Tar Yi, her life was indeed quite short. She lived, she traversed, and when she finally rested sixty-eight years ago in 1958, it was to the great sorrow of her family and many of her admirers then and throughout the decades. Her life had all too quickly passed, like lightning. But as another late poet Tin Moe (19 November 1933-22 January 2007) wrote in his own tribute published in the March 1962 issue of *Ngwe Tar Yi* magazine (which poet Min Yu Wai established starting in July 1960 to commemorate his beloved wife) 'although the lamp is extinguished all the environs are in the light' ('reflecting' *Ngwe Tar Yi's* poetic and literary contributions).

The Jigsaw of the Default Mind: Where Dhamma Finds Its Place

By Khin Maung Myint

things must be otherwise. The jigsaw becomes restless not because it is broken, but because it is driven.

The Possibility of Release

The third truth introduces a quiet but radical idea: the grip can loosen. When craving softens, the pieces do not disappear, but they lose their dominance. The mind no longer cycles endlessly through

the same patterns. What changes is not the presence of the pieces, but the urgency with which they demand arrangement.

The Eightfold Path: A Method of Assembly

The Eightfold Path offers not belief, but method. Right View allows one to recognise each piece without distortion.

Right Intention guides the placement with clarity rather than impulse.

Right Speech, Action, and Livelihood ensure that the emerging pattern does not harm others, maintaining the boundary between expression and danger.

Right Effort prevents regression into habitual loops.

Right Mindfulness observes without entanglement.

Right Concentration gathers the scattered attention of the default mind into steadiness.

This is not the completion of the puzzle, but a disciplined way of working with it.

Offloading and Catharsis: Supporting Tools, Not Solutions

Cognitive offloading and catharsis play their roles within this framework. Offloading clears the

board of excess burden; catharsis reshapes emotionally charged pieces. Yet without guidance, they risk becoming repetitive, writing without insight, speaking without transformation. Within the Dhamma, they become purposeful, aligned with understanding rather than mere relief.

Myanmar's Challenge: Ritual Without Integration

In Myanmar, where Buddhism is deeply embedded in public life, the difficulty lies not in belief but in integration. When religious practice becomes performative – displayed rather than lived – it risks reinforcing ego rather than

dissolving it. The Eightfold Path was never meant as a spectacle; it is a private discipline with public consequences.

An Unfinished but Meaningful Work

The jigsaw of the mind will never be complete. Fear will return, ego will reassert, and the need to belong will continue to shape behaviour. But with the Dhamma properly understood, the aim shifts – from forcing completion to cultivating wise arrangement. Religion, then, is no longer an identity to display, but a way of seeing, placing, and ultimately letting go.

NATIONAL

22 PDFs, including one AA member, rejoin legal fold with arms

THE government is extending an invitation to those involved in various armed groups, including the PDF, to return to the legal fold. Those who do so are being provided with necessary assistance and support.

A total of 21 PDF members — 20 males and one female, and one AA male member — totaling 22 individuals entered the legal fold yesterday. They were handed over to their parents or guardians at the Aye Chan Phy Hall of the Southern Command Headquarters.

These returning members stated that they could no longer accept the terrorist acts committed by the armed groups and PDF, such as forced conscription, threatening, arresting, and killing innocent civilians and

civil servants for the benefit of terrorist organizations, planting mines and destroying non-military infrastructure like roads and bridges. They also cited discrimination, internal hierarchical oppression, torture, killings, violence, poor living conditions, and demoralization due to an inability to resist Tatmadaw operations as reasons for leaving. Moreover, they expressed trust in the State and Tatmadaw's peace processes and a desire to live peacefully under the law, hoping to contribute back to the State and people whom they had caused losses to.

These 22 individuals from Nyaunglebin, Shwegyin, Shwedaung, Yedashe, Padaung, Okpo, Minhla, Pyu and Paukhaung townships of Bago Region entered the legal fold, and



Ceremony welcomes PDF members rejoining society with weapons and munitions at Southern Command, provides cash assistance.

were accepted by responsible officials.

At the handover ceremony, PDF members were handed over to their parents or guardians at Aye Chan Phy Hall of the Southern Command Headquarters yesterday.

The returnees handed over 13 assorted firearms, 569 bullets,

16 magazines, four grenades, seven 40MM grenade shells and 88 lead bullets. Authorities provided cash rewards and assistance worth K58 million to the returnees.

The returnees signed pledges and were handed back to their parents or guardians.

There are still individuals

who wish to return to the legal fold. Those who intend to do so are encouraged to promptly contact and report to the nearest Tatmadaw bases or police stations. They will be welcomed and accepted, provided with the necessary assistance and support, and cash rewards for any arms and ammunition. — MNA/KTZH

Veteran comedian passes away at 67

VETERAN comedian U Nay Kyaw passed away at the age of 67 at his home in Dagon Myothit (East) Township, Yangon Region, at 3 pm on 19 March, according to comedian Kaung Kyaw.

U Nay Kyaw, who was reportedly suffering from kidney disease, had been undergoing medical treatment.

“He had been suffering from diabetes and kidney disease for a long time and had been in and out of the hospital. On the last day, he developed a brain infection and could not recognize his family. He didn’t even remember me when I visited him. Yesterday, we tried to admit him to the hospital, but the doctor said his condition could not improve, so we kept him at home. It’s a great loss to the art community. He was older than me and also a good



Veteran comedian U Nay Kyaw.

teacher. I learned a lot from him,” said comedian Kaung Kyaw.

U Nay Kyaw first entered

the comedy and drama community as a villain before becoming a successful comedian and appearing in films and videos in comedic roles.

“One sad thing is that even at the hospital, he would make fun of us. Just one raised eyebrow from him could make us laugh for a lifetime. We are truly sorry to lose such a great artiste,” said theatrical performer Tin Maung San Min Win, a long-time collaborator of U Nay Kyaw.

U Nay Kyaw’s body will be taken to the Kyisu Cemetery at 2 pm on 21 March for cremation, and an alms offering will be held at his home in Dagon Myothit (East) Township on 25 March.

He is survived by his wife, Daw Ah Win, and his son, comedian La Kyaw. — ASH/MKKS

OWIC holders must obtain clearance before departure, authorities reiterate

THE Ministry of Labour has issued a renewed notice stating that, effective from 14 January, 2026, all Overseas Worker Identification Card (OWIC) holders must obtain official permission from the Department of Labour in line with prescribed regulations before departing for foreign countries.

Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the overseas deployment of skilled workers holding PJ passports were released in March 2025. According to these guidelines, travellers must apply for departure clearance from the department at least five working days in advance.

The department currently

reviews and approves departure clearances and OWIC issuances for workers travelling abroad. But the ministry noted that data received from international airports revealed a trend where individuals holding OWICs have been attempting to depart without reporting to the department.

Detailed procedures regarding departure clearances are available on the official platforms— www.mol.gov.mm, Facebook: Safe Migration Page, and Telegram: Safe Migration Channel. The ministry once again emphasizes that all OWIC holders must strictly follow these regulations and secure the department’s approval before departure. — MT/ZN

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NATIONAL

Offenders involved in telecom fraud and online gambling arrested in Shan State (North)

THE government has also taken the fight against telecom fraud and online gambling as a national duty and is actively carrying out suppression efforts in coordination not only with domestic forces but also with the governments of neighbouring countries, to prevent such crimes from establishing any foothold within Myanmar.

Security force members taking security measures in Shan State (North) raided Kaungmuton, Tawywet and Swansaw wards in Muse yesterday following the reports regarding online fraud and gambling.

During the raid in a house in Kaungmutone ward, 85 Chinese male nationals who were conducting online scams and gambling activities were arrested along with 286 mobile phones, 30 computers, 28 laptops, and one



This photo shows arrested telecom fraudsters and online scammers alongside confiscated scam-related materials in Muse.

building. Similarly, in a house in Tawywet ward, 46 mobile phones and 18 computers used in online scam and gambling operations

were seized. In another house in Swansaw Ward, 85 mobile phones and 10 computers used for such illegal activities were

also confiscated.

Moreover, while conducting security operations in the vicinity of Kaungsan Village,

Laihka Township, Shan State (South), security forces discovered and seized further related items on the same evening at a location about 3,000 metres west of the village. These included two buildings measuring 130 feet by 50 feet, three residential buildings measuring 90 feet by 30 feet, three residential buildings measuring 60 feet by 30 feet, one warehouse measuring 150 feet by 50 feet, one building measuring 180 feet by 60 feet, 10 Starlink devices, 55 all-in-one computers, 10 power stations, and other related equipment.

The seized materials and equipment used in online scam and gambling activities will be managed in accordance with the procedures. Those involved in the cases will also be thoroughly identified and effectively prosecuted. — MNA/KTZH



Images reveal buildings, facilities, and sites of online scam arrests in Kaungmuton Ward, Muse, southern Shan State.

62 foreign nationals arrested in Myawady for illegal entry

A total of 62 foreign nationals who had illegally crossed into Myanmar were arrested yesterday at a former garment factory on Kyundaw Road in Ward 5, Myawady, Kayin State.

The Government of Myanmar is actively implementing measures to eradicate online scams and gambling operations to ensure such activities do not take root within the country. During these operations, authorities received information that foreign nationals who had entered the country illegally were hiding in the vicinity of Kyundaw Road. Consequently, a joint team comprising security personnel, administrative officials, and departmental repre-

sentatives conducted a targeted inspection of the area.

At approximately 1:30 pm,

yesterday the combined team discovered and apprehended 62 Chinese nationals — 61 men



Images show detained undocumented foreign immigrants and a map of scam crackdown sites in Myawady Township.

and one woman — hiding inside the disused factory.

Individuals are currently detained, and legal proceedings have been initiated against them under Sections 3 (1) and 13(1) of the Myanmar Immigration (Emergency Provisions) Act 1947. — MNA/KZL

NATIONAL

Myanmar coffee sector lures investment from China, Indonesia, Japan, ROK

INVESTORS from China, Indonesia, Japan and the Republic of Korea showed growing interest in the Myanmar coffee production sector, and they are closely observing the investment policies of the Myanmar Coffee Association.

“China, Indonesia, Japan and South Korea are eyeing Myanmar’s coffee production sector for investment due to its significant potential. Myanmar has favourable conditions for coffee production with abundant land resources suitable both for highland and lowland coffee cultivation, and leveraging processing technology to produce premium

coffee. Therefore, businesses from China, Indonesia, Japan and South Korea are keen on investing in the sector and studying investment policies,” said an official of the association.

Myanmar Coffee Association is also a member of the ASEAN Coffee Federation, bringing significant benefits to the sector.

Domestic entrepreneurs and local farmers are the primary producers of Myanmar’s raw coffee bean, with an annual production estimated at around 10,000 tonnes of highland and lowland coffee. Myanmar exports approximately 50 per



This image depicts sun-drying coffee beans – a traditional coffee processing method.

cent of its coffee production, primarily to China and Thailand. A

small volume of speciality coffee is conveyed to the United States,

Europe, the UAE, Japan, and South Korea. — ASH/KK

Constructive Engineers Limited blacklisted for failure to contractual obligations

THE Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) announced that the Ministry of Energy put Constructive Engineers Limited on the blacklist between the 2025-2026 financial year and the 2026-2027 financial year for withdrawing from a contract and failing to submit the required Performance Bank Guarantees.

DICA has already notified that the registrar will publicly declare the deny list and weak compliance matters on the DICA’s website if companies registered on the online registry system, MyCO, fail to comply with the existing law, rules and bylaws of the government institutions concerned and provisions stipulated in the Myanmar Companies Law.

M Sinai Co Ltd has been blacklisted until the 2026-2027 financial year as the company

inflated the percentage of work from 35 per cent to 75 per cent to obtain progress payments. The company’s director won a tender to construct a Double Single Bailey in Ramhtalo village in Falam Township with K122.5 million funds allocated by the National Disaster Management Committee in the 2020-2021 financial year. Nonetheless, the company conducted fraudulent practices by overstating the progress of the project from 35 to 75 per cent, resulting in the blacklisting until the 2026-2027 financial year, according to the Chin State government’s meeting decision on 12 December 2025.

DICA stated that the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture put two companies (Manarsik Co Ltd and E-Visa Services & Travels Co Ltd) on the blacklist for deceptive practices in soliciting money

from three companies operating Hajj pilgrimage services and for damaging the reputation of the government and the ministry.

In early December 2025, DICA declared blacklisting of 25 companies for fraudulent addresses for registration until the end of the 2026-2027 financial year.

These 25 companies were flagged for unauthorized address as they are no longer at the registered address on the MyCO submitted by the relevant ministries: one by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Bureau of Special Investigation, and the Internal Revenue Department. One was referred by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 13 by the Bureau of Special Investigation, and 11 by the Internal Revenue Department. — NN/KK

CBM’s steady injection of dollars into edible oil import sector



US dollars being counted at a money changer in Yangon.

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) has been injecting US dollars to stabilize the foreign exchange market and calm the edible oil prices, with over US\$1.38 million to edible oil-importing companies on 19 March. CBM also pumped \$743,000 and over 3.8 million baht into the market on that day.

CBM announced on 18 March that it would sell \$34 million to those engaged in the fuel oil industry.

In addition to an injection of large amount of foreign currencies (yuan, dollar, baht) into the foreign exchange market, CBM has been constantly injecting large amount of US dollars to the edible oil sector, with \$1.84 million on 18 March, \$1.55 on 17 March, \$2.38 million on 16 March, \$1.98 million on 13 March, \$1.85 million on 12 March, over one million dollars on 11 March, \$2.1 million on 10 March, \$1.97 million

on 9 March, \$1.96 million on 6 March, \$2.65 million on 5 March, over \$1.24 million on 4 March and \$1 million on 3 March to the edible oil sector, respectively. Additionally, CBM injected \$1 million into the fuel oil import sector on 3 March.

CBM injected foreign exchange into the market, with a view to curbing the instability in the foreign exchange market and currency devaluation. According to CBM’s notification on 15 March 2024, it has been collaborating with law enforcement agencies to combat and prosecute those who attempt to manipulate the currency market under the existing laws. CBM allowed authorized dealers (private banks) to operate online foreign exchange trading freely as per the market rate, depending on supply and demand, starting from 5 December 2023. — NN/KK

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Laos plans wage hike to support workers amid economic pressure

THE Lao National Labour Committee convened its third meeting to discuss on improving the minimum wage and addressing labour shortages, key issues facing the country amid ongoing economic challenges.

According to a report from the Lao Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare on Friday, the meeting was held on Thursday in Lao capital Vientiane, emphasizing the urgent need to address the impact of rising oil and commodity prices on workers' livelihoods.

The meeting reviewed the past year's initiatives and explored solutions to pressing labour issues. Discussions

focused on adjusting the minimum wage by developing a new calculation formula for the business, manufacturing, and service sectors to better reflect actual living costs.

Participants also addressed labour shortages by proposing measures to attract more Lao workers. In addition, the committee discussed labour registration for both domestic and foreign workers to ensure proper order and safeguard workers' rights.

During the meeting, the committee also unveiled a five-year plan (2026-2030) aimed at strengthening the labour force as a key driver of sustainable socioeconomic development. — Xinhua

China's second homegrown large cruise ship undocked in Shanghai

CHINA'S second domestically built large cruise ship was undocked in Shanghai on Friday, mov-

ing a step closer to trial voyages and final delivery as the country expands its push into the cruise

tourism market.

The vessel, Adora Flora City, was slowly pulled and guided out of

the construction dock by powerful tugboats at Shanghai Waigaoqiao Shipbuilding Co Ltd, a subsidiary of China State Shipbuilding Corporation (CSSC). It will fully enter the wharf commissioning stage, said the shipbuilder.

The ship will speed up interior installations and systems commissioning, according to Adora Cruises, operator of the cruise liner. The vessel is scheduled for delivery by the end of this year and will launch international routes from the Nansha International Cruise Home Port in Guangzhou, capital of south China's Guangdong Province. — Xinhua



China's second domestically built large cruise ship Adora Flora City is undocked in Shanghai, east China, 20 March 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA

Unilever receives offer to spin off food business

BRITISH consumer goods giant Unilever said Friday it has received an offer from US firm McCormick & Company for its food business.

A potential sale would mark a major shift for Unilever, whose brands include Dove soap, Cif surface cleaner and Hellmann's mayonnaise, as it undergoes a wider turnaround to boost its performance.

"Unilever confirms that it has received an inbound offer for its Foods business and is in discussions with McCormick & Company," the British company said in a statement Friday.

"There can be no certainty that any transaction will be agreed," it added.

The offer from US-based spices maker McCormick & Company comes as Unilever in-

creasingly prioritizes its personal care and beauty divisions under new chief executive Fernando Fernandez.

The company said its food business remains "highly attractive" and added that it was "confident in the future of the Foods business as part of Unilever".

Unilever has already been reshaping its portfolio.

Last year, it spun off its ice cream division, which included Magnum ice cream and the Ben & Jerry's brand.

Changes at Unilever in 2025 also included job cuts and bringing in Fernandez, who took over as CEO one year ago having served as the company's chief financial officer.

As well as overseeing the ice cream spinoff, he has focused on growing sales in the United States and India. — AFP



Containers of McCormick spices are displayed on a grocery store shelf on 26 June 2025 in San Anselmo, California. Spice maker McCormick reported better-than-expected second-quarter profits. PHOTO: AFP

EXCEL GARMENT MANUFACTURING CO., LTD. (the "Company")

Notice under Section 147, 152 (a) of the Insolvency Law and Rule 9 and 15 of the Insolvency Rules
(Members' Voluntary Winding Up)

As per special resolutions duly passed in writing on 18.3.2026 by all of the members of the company:

1. The process of members' voluntary winding up will proceed and take effect from 18.3.2026.
2. U Sai Aung Sar (CPA No.1105), Insolvency practitioner registration number (105516) shall be and is hereby appointed as liquidator of the Company for the purpose of such members' voluntary winding up and is authorized to carry out the Company's affairs in respect of such winding up; and
3. All of the creditors (if any) of the Company are required to contact the liquidator before 18.4.2026 with detailed particulars of their claim attached with complete supporting documents. The Company shall not take any responsibility for or settle any debts that are claimed and submitted after such date.

U Sai Aung Sar
CPA, Liquidator

No. 14, 5th Floor (Left), San Yeik Nyein (2) Street, (2) Quarter, Hledan, Kamaryut Township, Yangon. Tel: 095240521

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V RANONG MOE VOY.NO. (019)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V RANONG MOE VOY.NO. (019) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21-3-2026 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.

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ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Stocks dip, oil calmer as Mideast war persists

STOCKS dipped and oil prices steadied Friday, at the end of a turbulent week in which attacks on Gulf energy infrastructure rattled global markets and sparked fears of an energy shock.

US President Donald Trump said Israeli forces would not target any more of Tehran's energy infrastructure, while Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu indicated the end of the fighting could be close.

"Some calm has descended on markets after a brutal week, but fears remain elevated about how economies will respond to an inflation shock sparked by rampant energy prices," said Susannah Streeter, chief investment strategist at Wealth Club.

European stock markets dipped around midday Friday, after heavy losses Thursday.

Wall Street ended lower Thursday despite a late rally, while Asian stock markets ended the week lower.



A woman walks past a billboard prices at a petrol station in Madrid on 20 March 2026. PHOTO: AFP

The dollar firmed against main rivals on Friday.

Disruption to energy supplies persisted as Kuwait reported a fire at its Mina Al-Ahmedi

refinery, a day after a direct hit on Qatar's vital Ras Laffan facility.

Brent crude had soared to as high as \$119 a barrel on

Thursday after Tehran struck a number of energy sites around the Gulf in retaliation for Israel's attack on its South Pars field.

As the conflict drags on, eq-

uities remain sensitive to fears over global energy markets, with oil still holding around \$100 a barrel amid the effective closure of the crucial Strait of Hormuz.

The European Central Bank on Thursday warned that the energy shock caused by the war would sharply push up inflation and hit eurozone growth.

Amid concerns over economic impacts of the war, the ECB, Bank of England and the US Federal Reserve all held interest rates steady this week, as did the Bank of Japan.

After the BoE flagged inflation risks, UK 10-year bond yields surged to the highest level since the 2008 global financial crisis.

Russia's central bank on Friday cut its key interest rate to 15 per cent from 15.5 per cent as the country's economy slows under pressure from Moscow's protracted and expensive war in Ukraine and Western sanctions. — AFP

53 injured, 14 missing in South Korea's auto parts factory fire

A large-scale fire broke out on Friday in South Korea's automotive parts manufacturing factory, leaving 53 injured and 14 others missing, according to Yonhap news agency.

The blaze started at about 1:17 pm local time (0417 GMT) at the factory in Daejeon, around 140 km southeast of capital Seoul.

As of 3:30 pm local time, 24 people were seriously wounded and 29 people suffered slight injuries.

Some of the victims suffered smoke inhalation, while others sustained injuries after jumping from the burning plant.

Of the 170 employees working inside the factory at the time of the incident, 14 remained unaccounted for.

Less than an hour after the initial report, the National Fire Agency issued a national fire mobilization order to deploy fire-fighting resources from other regions to the affected area. — Xinhua



Rescuers work at the site of a fire that broke out at an automotive parts manufacturing factory in Daejeon, South Korea, on 20 March 2026. PHOTO: NEWSIS/HANDOUT VIA XINHUA

India to tackle global obesity with cheap fat-loss jobs

A deluge of weight loss drugs is set to transform the global fight against obesity as India prepares to unleash low cost generic versions of injections like Ozempic after a key patent expired Friday.

The move will dramatically widen access to treatments that have long been considered a luxury, especially in middle-income countries, where soaring demand has collided with steep prices.

At clinics across Mumbai, doctors say they are already preparing for an influx in new patients. More than 50 people walk into endocrinologist Nadeem Rais's office every week seeking weight-loss injections.

"We have around 70 to 80 patients on active treatment right now," he told AFP.

"When generics come out and prices drop, that could go up to 200 easily."

His colleague Sunera Ghai agrees saying that demand is "very high" but many "probably



This photograph taken on 17 March 2026 shows obesity doctor and consultant Swati Pradhan explaining a body mass index (BMI) chart at her clinic in Mumbai. PHOTO: AFP

aren't taking it just because it is truly a luxury item at this point".

The breakthrough comes as patents on semaglutide — the active ingredient in drugs such as Ozempic and Wegovy — expired Friday in India, the world's largest supplier of generic medicines.

By the end of 2026, core patents on semaglutide will have expired in 10 countries that rep-

resent 48 per cent of the global obesity burden, according to a study published earlier this month by researchers.

These include Brazil, China, South Africa, Türkiye and Canada, the study said.

Launching soon

For India's drug giants, this marks the start of an aggressive new race. — AFP

SPORTS

150 young footballers, 25 coaches join free summer course and festival

AN unpaid summer football training course and the Grassroots Football Festival were held in Bago Region's Thayawady Township, and it drew 150 young generation players and 25 coaches, according to the Myanmar Football Federation.

Aiming to encourage young generation football players and help students spend their summer holiday effectively and joyfully, a free summer football training course and the Grassroots Football Festival were organized, said MFF on 20 March.

The course was conducted from 1 March, and the festival

was held on 18 March.

With the objective of fostering new young generation football players and helping the development of the township sports sector, the festival was held, and 150 young players and 25 coaches, as well as parents, enthusiastically participated in the event.

District administration committee chair U San Ho, township women affairs committee members, respective government staff, community leaders and MFF officials attended the ceremony. — MT/ZS



This image shows a free football training course and the Grassroots Football Festival held in Thayawady.



Real Betis players celebrate their victory at the end of the UEFA Europa League last 16 second leg football match between Real Betis and Panathinaikos FC at Benito Villamarin Stadium in Seville on 19 March 2026.

PHOTO: AFP

Real Betis, Celta Vigo advance to Europa League quarterfinals

REAL Betis overturned a first-leg deficit to reach the Europa League quarterfinals with a 4-0 home win over Panathinaikos on Thursday, advancing 4-1 on aggregate. Betis, which lost 1-0 in Athens last week, drew level in the tie early on when Cucho Hernandez struck the crossbar with a powerful effort and Aitor Ruibal reacted quickest to convert the rebound. The Spanish side dominated possession for long spells, with Antony going close before Betis doubled the

lead just before halftime in bizarre fashion. Winger Ezzalzouli appeared to assume he had been caught offside and lashed the ball high into the air in frustration, but play continued. The loose ball eventually fell to Sofyan Amrabat, whose shot from outside the area took a slight deflection and wrong-footed Panathinaikos goalkeeper Alban Lafont.

Betis extended its advantage in the 54th minute when Ruibal turned provider for Hernandez, and Antony added a fourth in

the 66th after another strong run down the left by Ezzalzouli.

Celta Vigo also advanced to the last eight with a 2-0 win at Lyon, sealing a 3-1 aggregate victory. Javi Rueda opened the scoring in the second half before Ferran Jutgla wrapped up the win in stoppage time. Lyon's task became far more difficult after Moussa Niakhate was sent off in 19 minutes for a high, studs-up challenge. Nicolas Tagliafico was also shown a red card deep into stoppage time. — Xinhua

Suzuki nets, assists as Freiburg reach Europa League q'finals

JAPAN attacker Yuito Suzuki scored a goal and set up another as Freiburg swept Genk aside 5-1 at home in the Europa League round of 16 second leg on Thursday, going through 5-2 on aggregate.

On the day he got his first Japan call-up in half a year ahead of their away friendlies against Scotland and England this month, Suzuki made his presence felt against Genk who had his fellow national team attacker Junya Ito coming off the bench in the 69th minute.

After Freiburg led 2-1 at the break to bring the overall score level, Vincenzo Grifo capitalized on a misplaced pass in the Genk backline to give the German side a 3-2 lead on aggregate in the 53rd minute. — Kyodo



Freiburg's Yuito Suzuki (L) in action during a Europa League round of 16 second leg against Genk at Europa-Park Stadion in Freiburg, Germany, on 19 March 2026. PHOTO: KYODO



European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen talks before an EU summit in Brussels, Belgium, 19 March 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA

EU leaders vow vigilance against migratory flows, call for Mideast de-escalation

European Union (EU) leaders on Thursday pledged to remain vigilant against any spillover from the Middle East conflicts that could trigger migratory pressure on the bloc, as the conflicts pose growing risks to Europe.

Although the conflict “has not translated into immediate migratory flows towards the EU”, leaders at a Europe-

an Council meeting underscored “the importance of maintaining a high level of vigilance and ensuring the necessary level of preparedness”, according to conclusions adopted after the summit.

Drawing on lessons from the 2015 migration crisis, the bloc said it was ready to “fully mobilize its diplomatic, legal, operational and financial tools” to prevent migratory movements to the

EU and preserve security in Europe. “The security and the control of the EU’s external borders will continue to be strengthened,” the conclusions said.

The leaders also urged de-escalation and maximum restraint in the Middle East conflict, calling on all parties to fully respect international law and backing a moratorium on strikes against energy and water facilities. — Xinhua

Indonesian president signals exit from “Board of Peace” if it fails to support Palestine

INDONESIA has signalled it might withdraw from the US-proposed “Board of Peace” if the decisions of the board do not align with Indonesian or Palestinian interests, stated Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto on Thursday.

Speaking during a discussion with journalists and analysts in Bogor, West Java, Prabowo explained that Indonesia’s decision to join the board was driven by a strategic calculation to advance Palestine’s interests from within the forum. He emphasized that participation would provide a more meaningful avenue to influence policy directions compared to staying outside the body.

However, the president underscored that Indonesia’s membership was conditional and subject to evaluation. He warned that his country would not hesitate to exit the board should its outcomes prove counterproductive or fail to align with Indonesia’s commitment to Palestinian independence.

He stressed that Indonesia retained the right to withdraw independently without requiring approval from other members. — Xinhua

Second Russia-India conference on strategic partnership set to be held

RUSSIAN-INDIAN relations have been developing dynamically year after year, achieving record results across numerous indicators.

The evolution of bilateral ties in the 2020s shows that the rapprochement between Moscow and New Delhi is not a tactical manoeuvre but a long-term foreign policy priority for both states.

Consequently, analyzing var-

ious aspects of Russian-Indian cooperation, exchanging views on prospects for expanding interaction, and discussing potential solutions to existing challenges remain perpetually relevant.

In 2025, Russian-Indian cooperation demonstrated significant resilience to external economic pressure. India’s decision not to curb trade with Russia, even under the threat of secondary

US sanctions, served as practical evidence of New Delhi’s commitment to deepening its partnership with Moscow.

Trade, long considered the “weak link” in Russian-Indian relations, has transformed into their main driving force. In the 2024-2025 financial year, bilateral trade turnover reached a record high of \$68.7 billion. — SPUTNIK



Russian and Indian national flags wave during the opening ceremony in Vladivostok for the Indra 2017 joint Russian-Indian expanded military exercise. PHOTO: SPUTNIK