

# 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.

**SUNDAY EDITION**

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FDA-approved edible oil mills to hold 4-day Pre-Thingyan Market Fair

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MRF urges against fuel, fertilizer stockpiling in rice industry

## MT Dapeng Princess Brings in 33,800 Tonnes of LNG to Meet Demand



The MT Dapeng Princess, laden with 33,800 tonnes of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), is pictured at Thilawa Port.

LNG-fuelled power plants in Yangon Region deliver 24-hour electricity to industrial zones, including Myaungtaga, linked areas and key government departments.

**MT** Dapeng Princess tanker carrying 33,800 Liquefied Natural Gas tonnes docked at Thilawa Port in Thanlyin Township, Yangon Region, to fulfil LNG needs.

It is the fifth arrival of this tanker at Thilawa Port to supply LNG. The vessel is scheduled to call at the Thilawa Port

in early April for the sixth time during the operation.

Through this LNG supply, LNG power plants in Yangon Region are generating 500 megawatts, covering LNG fuel in the industrial zones in Yangon Region, including Thilawa SEZ and other critical areas in the region.

The LNG-fuelled power plants in Yangon Region are supplying 24-hour electricity to industrial zones within Yangon Region, including the Myaungtaga Industrial Zone for iron melting, areas directly connected to the LNG power plants, and the key government departments in the region. — ASH/KK

**CYCLE TYRE**

သုံးဘီးဆိုင်ကယ် တာယာ

**LIGHT TRUCK TYRE**

**CAR TYRE**

Sales Department Ph- 09 254272843, 09 453255545	STARMART NINE MILE Showroom (9)mile, Pyay Road, Yangon Ph-09 30860180	KHA YAE PIN MART Mingalardone, Pyay Road, Yangon Ph- 09 671443555	STARMART MANDALAY Wholesale Corner of 26 <sup>th</sup> and 66 <sup>th</sup> road, Mandalay Ph-09 661702244
			STARMART Nay Pyi Taw Yangon-Mandalay Highway Road, Ywar Gauk Ward, Pynmana Ph- 09 685119077

# NATIONAL

## Developed Countries Steadfastly Support Education in Their Communities

- \* Only then can the present era be identified as the education era; since ancient times, humanity has built the world based on knowledge.
- \* Education has helped transform and progress human civilization throughout history.
- \* We can observe that developed countries have been encouraging the education sector for many years, contributing towards the prevalence of educated people.

*(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 38<sup>th</sup> Mingala Discourse and Buddhism Examination to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> 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 81<sup>st</sup> 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



## Shwesandaw to hold 1,388<sup>th</sup> Buddha Pujaniya, Kason Water Pouring festivals

THE 1,388<sup>th</sup> Buddha Pujaniya Festival and Kason Water Pouring Festival will be held on a grand scale from 23 April to 7 May 2026 at Shwesandaw Pagoda in Toungoo, Bago Region, according to the Buddha Pujaniya Festival Organizing Committee.

This 15-day festival from the 8<sup>th</sup> waxing day to the 7<sup>th</sup> waning day of Kason, 1388 ME will feature festival stalls, performance and fun events. The stalls and designated vending sites will be allocated to those previous

occupants back on 1-7 April in 2017 and to new applicants on 8-12 April. Those wishing to operate bicycle parking lots, market fee collection, theatrical performances, and entertainment businesses will be put up for auction and submission of tender will be closed at 4 pm on 30 March. Tender opening will be held at 10 am on 31 March. Individuals can enquire about details at 09 771636892, according to the Buddha Pujaniya Festival Organizing Committee. — NN/KK

## MNHRC inspects Phaya Ngazu Labour Camp, Police Lock-ups and Home for the Aged

AN inspection team led by Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Member U Kyaw Myint conducted the inspection visits to the Phaya Ngazu Labour Camp and Thazi Myoma Police Station Lock-up in Thazi Township, Mandalay Region, on 18 March 2026, and Meiktila Myoma Police Station Lock-up, No 2 Local Police Station Lock-up and Meiktila Home for the Aged in Meiktila Township, Mandalay Region, on 19 March 2026, under Sections 43 and 44 of the Commission's Law.

During the inspection at the Phaya Ngazu Labour Camp, under the

Commission Law and its procedures, the team met prisoners in their dormitories and enquired into matters relating to their fundamental rights, including an adequate food supply, access to health-care facilities, and provision of sufficient purified drinking water and water for domestic use, the situation of allowing family visits, the right to freedom of religion, the receipt of items issued by the prison and those sent by family members, the provision of physical exercise and sports activities for health and fitness, the status of workplace safety measures

implemented and whether or not prisoners are made to put in extra working hours, and any instances of discrimination and any torture incidents in the workplace. In addition, the team inspected the prisoners' dormitories, prison clinic, library, kitchen, dining room, food warehouse, water purifier, water storage tank for domestic use and the cleanliness of toilets and the family visiting area, as well as followed up and checked the implementation of the previous recommendations made by the commission. Afterwards, the commission donated knowledgeable

books for prisoners to read and study. At the Meiktila Home for the Aged, the inspection team met the elderly in their dormitories and examined the conditions of providing health-care services, food and nutrition supplements, clean drinking water and water for domestic use, freedom of religion, and the hygiene and sanitary conditions of dormitories, bathrooms, toilets, and kitchens. The team also enquired about the arrangements for recreation and relaxation, the accessibility of the Citizenship Scrutiny Card for the elderly, the accessibility of pension payments for

eligible residents and the availability of social pension support for those aged 85 and above.

During the inspection at the Thazi Myoma Police Station Lock-up, Meiktila Myoma Police Station Lock-up and No 2 Local Police Station Lock-up, the team inspected that whether the detainees were being held for more than 24 hours without an arrest warrant, the conditions of detainees during the remand period, whether the items confiscated from the detainees are being stored in an orderly manner, whether any torture occurred during

their stay in the lock-up, and whether there were opportunities to meet with family members, as well as the provision of food and healthcare, sanitation conditions in lock-up, and the status of meeting with family members and access to legal assistance during the court appearance period. The team also inspected the cleanliness, availability of lighting, and adequacy of ventilation in the lock-ups.

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

# 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 Speaker meets needs of representatives at Nay Pyi Taw Sipin Guest House No 2

PYIDAUNGSU Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe, accompanied by Deputy Speaker Jeng Phang Naw Taung, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Representatives U Tun Ohn and U Than Tun Oo, and officials from the Hluttaw Office, inspected the Nay Pyi Taw Sipin Guest House No 2, which accommo-

dates Hluttaw representatives, yesterday morning.

During his inspection, the Speaker asked about accommodation and transport measures of Hluttaw representatives, inspected the hostels for Hluttaw representatives and observed the work process of issuing



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe meets Hluttaw representatives at the Nay Pyi Taw Sipin Guest House No 2 yesterday.

daily allowance to the Hluttaw representatives and providing

healthcare services. He fulfilled the requirements and gave gifts

to the Hluttaw representatives. — MNA/TTA

## Aerial survey conducted on land-use changes around Inlay Lake

DEPUTY Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Min Thu and officials inspected land-use changes around Inlay Lake in Nyaungshwe Township from the air yesterday morning.

The deputy minister and his team then conducted a helicopter tour to inspect illegal encroachment into forest lands in Nyaungshwe Township, including forest reserves and protected public forests, vacant land and farmlands being converted to other uses, as well as land under government management that had been used without permission.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation is accelerating efforts to increase forest cover



Deputy Minister U Min Thu and officials pose for a documentary group photo at Heho Airport yesterday.

and green Nyaungshwe Township, conserve and systematically manage natural forests, and establish forest plantations to protect the Inlay Lake watershed and create greenery. Representatives from relevant departments will form teams to conduct field inspections to ensure that there is no illegal

encroachment or land use, and that land use is systematic and in accordance with the law.

The ministry is also conducting aerial surveillance to effectively supervise forest conservation, watershed conservation, and forest fire and haze prevention efforts. — MNA/TH

## Palm oil subsidy scheme extends one more day

YANGON Region Palm Oil Door-to-Door Distribution Committee stated that the palm oil subsidy scheme has been extended one more day from Monday to Saturday, starting from 21 March, to reserve it for Thingyan holidays.

The palm oil subsidy scheme has been offering door-to-door service for the consumers in 44 townships of Yangon Region, allowing two visses and 50 ticals of palm oil per household starting from August 2024.

Each household in 44 townships is entitled to buy two visses and 50 ticals of palm oil packed in a five-litre bottle every month through

a door-to-door delivery service by dialling the Call Centre from 9 am to 4 pm every working day from Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays. The scheme has been extended one more day, Saturday, starting from 21 March, as the committee will not take any orders during the long Thingyan holidays from 11 to 19 April.

The wholesale reference price is issued in newspapers every Monday, and the door-to-door sales will add only some delivery cost. Consumers can place an order with cash on the delivery system, the committee stated. — NN/KK

# NATIONAL

## Undocumented foreign immigrants arrested near Kaungsan Village of Laikha Township

DEPARTMENTAL combined teams across regions and states are conducting thorough inspections and enforcement measures to combat telecom fraud and online gambling, and to ensure that foreign nationals do not illegally enter or reside within the country.

Authorities have released the information on seizures of residential buildings and related accessories used in committing telecom fraud and online gambling at the place, some 3,000 metres west of Kaungsan Village in Laikha Township, Shan State (South), where security forces carried out security measures in the area.

Security forces conducted security measures around Kaungsan Village of Laikha Township. At about 9:30 pm on 20 March, they arrested 23 Chinese



These images show detained undocumented foreign immigrants in Laikha Township, Shan State (South).

men and one Vietnamese woman carrying out telecom fraud and gambling at the venue, some 1,700 metres west of the first venue of seizures and also arrested

26 more Chinese nationals at the place, some 1,100 metres north of the second place of the arrest. So, those arrestees are detained under the procedures.

The State is continuing to actively implement measures to combat telecom fraud and online gambling, in cooperation with neighbouring countries, re-

gional nations, and international organizations, to eradicate such crimes and prevent them from being established or operated within Myanmar. — MNA/TTA

## K8.9B worth of WY stimulant tablets seized in Tachilek

SECURITY forces seized 17.8 million WY stimulant tablets worth more than K8.9 billion during an inspection in Tachilek, Shan State, yesterday morning.

Acting on information about suspicious vehicles parked near Myalinpint motel on Padauk Street in Macaokham Ward, a joint security team searched three unlicensed vehicles and discovered the drugs packed in sacks.

The seizure included six million tablets from a Toyota Fortuner, 7.4 million tablets from a Toyota Hilux single cab, and 4.4 million tablets from a Ford, totalling 17.8 million WY stimulant tablets.

Authorities confiscated the drugs and vehicles as unclaimed items and are taking further action in accordance with procedures while continuing efforts to identify and arrest those involved. — MNA/KZL



This photo shows confiscated stimulant tablets and unregistered vehicles.

### Daily newspapers available online

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# NATIONAL

## WEEKLY ROUNDUP

**15 March**

### **NDSC enacts Space Science Law**

The National Defence and Security Council enacted the Space Science and Technology Development Commission Law as the National Defence and Security Council Law 17/2026, on 14 March.

**16 March**

### **NDSC issues Order 13/2026**

The National Defence and Security Council has appointed and assigned duties to the Security and Border Affairs Ministers of Kayin State and Ayeyawady Region.

### **Union Tax Law 2026 enacted**

The National Defence and Security Council of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar issued the Union Tax Law 2026 as the National Defence and Security Council Law 18/2026 on 15 March. The Law will come into effect, starting from 1 April 2026.

**17 March**

### **Pyithu Hluttaw elects Speaker and Deputy Speaker**



The first day of the first regular session of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw was convened at the Pyithu Hluttaw Building of Hluttaw Complex in Nay Pyi Taw. U Khin Yi from the Zeyathiri Constituency was elected as Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw, while U Maung Maung Ohn from the Tatkon Constituency was elected as the Deputy Speaker.

### **Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker extends greetings**

Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Khin Yi extended greetings on the first day of the first regular session of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw, urging Hluttaw representatives to prioritize the interests of the State and the people.

### **UEC issues announcement**

The Union Election Commission issued Announcement 36/2026 to substitute the two Defence Services Personnel Representatives for the Region or State Hluttaws. At the Kayin State Hluttaw, BC 27238 Colonel Min Thu Kyaw was replaced by BC 32835 Colonel Soe Moe Win, and BC 30107 Colonel Khant Mon Swe was replaced by BC 30339 Colonel Soe Min Oo at the Ayeyawady Region Hluttaw.

**18 March**

### **NDSC enacts Myanmar Passport Law**

The National Defence and Security Council enacted the Myanmar Passport Law as the National Defence and Security Council Law 19/2026.

**19 March**

### **Head of State receives Thai delegation**

State Security and Peace Commission Chairman and Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received a delegation led by General Ukris Boontanondha, Chief of Defence Forces of the Royal Thai Armed Forces, at Zeyathiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw.

### **Head of State sends message to Mon State Day**

Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudamma Min Aung Hlaing sent a message to the ceremony to mark the 52<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of Mon State Day.

### **5<sup>th</sup> Amendment to Union Judiciary Law enacted**

The National Defence and Security Council enacted the Fifth Amendment to the Union Judiciary Law as the National Defence and Security Council Law 20/2026.

### **Amyotha Hluttaw elects Speaker and Deputy Speaker**

The first day of the first regular session of the Third Amyotha Hluttaw was convened at the Amyotha Hluttaw Building of Hluttaw Complex in Nay Pyi Taw. U Aung Lin Dwe from the Mandalay Region Constituency 11 was elected as Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw, while Jeng Phang Naw Taung from the Kachin State Constituency 2 was elected as the Deputy Speaker.

### **Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker extends greetings**



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe extended greetings at the first-day event of the first regular session of the Third Amyotha Hluttaw, urging Hluttaw representatives to put the people before parties.

**20 March**

### **Over 500 PDF members return to legal fold**

A total of 506 individuals, including 453 men and 53 women, identified as members of PDF groups, who have come to accept and trust the peace processes of the State and Tatmadaw, entered the legal fold together with weapons and munitions and were transferred to their parents or guardians.

**21 March**

### **Third Pyidaungsu Hluttaw commences first regular session**

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.

### **Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker extends greetings**

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe extended greetings at the first regular session of the Third Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on its first day, urging Hluttaw representatives to uphold the separation of powers and checks and balances.

### **Region and State Hluttaws commence first regular sessions**

The first regular session of the Third Hluttaw took place in all regions and states across the nation to elect the speaker and deputy speakers at relevant Hluttaws. — GNLM/TTA

## Myanmar Daily Weather Report

Issued at 7 pm Saturday, 21 March 2026

**BAY INFERENCE:** Weather is cloudy over the Northeast Bay of Bengal and a few clouds over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL MORNING OF 22 March 2026:** Weather will be partly cloudy in Yangon and Ayeyawady regions and Kayin and Mon states. Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, upper Sagaing Region and Chin State, scattered in Mandalay, Magway and lower Sagaing regions and Kachin State and isolated in the remaining regions and states, with the likelihood of isolated heavy falls in upper Sagaing Region. The degree of certainty is 80 per cent.

**THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD:** The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Sagaing and Taninthayi regions and Chin, Rakhine and Shan states. In the area along the movement of cumulonimbus clouds, the weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied by rain, thunder, lightning and hails may occur, and therefore it is recommended

to be aware in advance of these phenomena.

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Sea will be slight to moderate in the Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about 4-6 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

**OUTLOOK FOR THE SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Chin, Rakhine and northern Shan states.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22 March 2026:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 80 per cent.

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22 March 2026:** Partly cloudy.

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22 March 2026:** Partly cloudy and likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 60 per cent. — DMH

# NATIONAL

## Union Tax Law 2026

### CONTINUED FROM 20 MARCH

20. According to Section 6 (a) (1) and (2) of the Income Tax Law, the basic allowance for relief must correspond to 20 per cent of each type of income. However, the total basic allowance for relief for one year must not exceed K10 million.
21. According to Section 6 (a) (2) of the Income Tax Law, the relief allowance is as follows:
- K1 million per cohabiting parent,
  - K1 million per spouse,
  - K500,000 per child,
22. (a) According to Sections 6 and 6-a of the Income Tax Law, without deducting relief allowances, for foreign nationals earning income abroad under Section 8 (a) of the Income Tax Law, 10 per cent income tax shall be levied on the total income earned abroad in foreign currency.
- (b) Regardless of other provisions in the income tax regulations, for foreign nationals earning total salary income abroad in foreign currency, lesser income tax shall be calculated using one of the following two methods, based on the type of foreign currency received:
- After deducting relief allowances under Section 6 of the Income Tax Law, calculate and assess according to the tax rates specified in Section 19 (c) of this law, and the provisions of Rule 8 of the Income Tax Rules.
  - Without deducting relief allowances under Sections 6 and 6-a, calculate and assess at 2 per cent.
- (c) The income tax calculated under this section must allow a credit for taxes already paid abroad corresponding to the type of income being taxed.
23. To support the recovery and growth of economic activities and investments affected by the COVID-19 (Coronavirus Disease 2019) pandemic: -
- Regarding the following categories of taxpayers, without deducting relief allowances under Section 6 of the Income Tax Law, income tax shall be levied at 22 per cent on total net profits: -
    - Companies registered and incorporated in Myanmar under the Myanmar Companies Law or the Special Companies Act of 1950,
    - Other income of foreign nationals apart from salary income,
    - Businesses operated under licences granted by the Myanmar Investment Commission,
    - State-owned economic enterprises
  - For net profits of subsidiaries of basic partnerships, after deducting relief allowances under Sections 6 and 6-a of the Income Tax Law, income tax shall be levied at 22 per cent.
  - For publicly listed companies on the Yangon Stock Exchange, without deducting relief allowances under Section 6 of the Income Tax Law, income tax shall be levied at 17 per cent on total net profits. In addition, newly listed companies on the Yangon Stock Exchange that previously failed to fully pay income tax must, before the financial year in which they are listed, disclose the actual income for the two preceding financial years and pay the income tax owed. If the income tax is fully paid, they shall be punished with fines under the tax administration law.
24. (a) A group of individuals engaged in Myanmar's oil and natural gas exploration and production sector shall, without deducting relief allowances under Section 6 of the Income Tax Law, pay 25 per cent income tax on total net profits.
- (b) For foreign nationals, without deducting relief allowances under Sections 6 and 6-a, if the total income consists of salary income, income tax shall be calculated according to the tariffs under Section 19 (c) of this law.
25. (a) Without deducting relief allowances under Sections 6 and 6-a, income tax shall be levied at 30 per cent on exempt income. However, to support the recovery and growth of businesses and investments affected by COVID-19, for any income used to purchase assets, construct, acquire, establish new businesses, or expand operations, if the source of the income can be fully documented, income tax shall be levied on the remaining incomes except the documented income. If they cannot submit the documents for income, these shall be levied under the following tariffs. If they can show off exact documents for incomes spent, they do not need to pay income tax.

This section does not apply to illegal ownership, trade of goods, or cases under anti-money laundering laws: -

No	Income (in Kyat)		Income tax rate
	From	To	
1	1	300,000,000	3 per cent
2	300,000,001	600,000,000	5 per cent
3	600,000,001	1,000,000,000	10 per cent
4	1,000,000,001	3,000,000,000	15 per cent
5	3,000,000,001 and above		30 per cent

- (b) The income exempted from assessment under subsection (a) means the income that remains exempt from assessment before 1 April 2027.
- (c) If it is necessary to adjust the tariffs under subsection (a) by reviewing the country's economic conditions and international impact, the Ministry of Finance and Revenue shall carry out the necessary adjustments and submit them to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw through the Union Government.
26. For the net profit income of basic cooperative societies registered under the Cooperative Societies Law, after the exemptions under Sections 6 and 6-a of the Income Tax Law are deducted, income tax shall be assessed on the remaining income at the rates specified in Section 19 (c) of this Law.
27. If profit is earned from the sale, exchange, or transfer by any other means of one or more assets, such profit — whether in Kyat or foreign currency — shall be subject to income tax without applying the exemptions under Sections 6 and 6-a of the Income Tax Law as follows:
- For a company engaged in the exploration and production of oil and natural gas in Myanmar, income tax shall be assessed on the profit earned, according to the applicable tariffs listed alongside the respective profit type: -
 

Profit	Tariff for payment
(1) Up to K100,000 million	40 per cent
(2) From K100,000 million above to K150,000 million	45 per cent
(3) K150,000 million and above	50 per cent
  - If the profit is earned by individuals or groups of individuals who are part of a company engaged in the exploration and production of oil and natural gas in Myanmar, income tax shall be levied at 10 per cent upon the profit, whether in Kyat or foreign currency. The tax due must be paid in the same type of currency in which the profit was earned.
28. If the total value of basic commodities sold, exchanged, or transferred in one year does not exceed K10 million, no income tax shall be levied upon the profit arising from those basic commodities.
29. Notwithstanding any provision in the Income Tax Law, newly established small, micro, and medium-sized enterprises based on domestic production, household industrial businesses, or small industrial businesses shall be exempt from income tax on a total annual net profit of up to K20 million during a consecutive three-year period, including the year the business is established. Any income exceeding this amount shall be taxed only on the excess.
30. For the remaining income arising from the profit of basic commodities, if income is received in foreign currency, income tax shall be calculated according to the provisions of Rule 8 and paid in the same type of currency in which the income was received.
31. (a) Income tax exemptions shall apply to the following types of income or categories of income:-
- Any prize money received within a year under reward programmes for seizures made under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, whether received once or multiple times,
  - Any prize money received within a year under reward programmes for seizures of illegal goods, whether received once or multiple times,
  - Prize money received together with honours or medals awarded by the State,
  - Money received from government lottery winnings,
  - Pensions, converted pension amounts, and gratuities received upon retirement,
  - Monetary awards from the State in recognition of discoveries of antiquities.
- (b) For the following cases, the Ministry of Planning and Finance may, with the agreement of the Union Government, grant income tax exemptions or relief: -
- Income tax matters related to projects carried out with donations or support funds provided by domestic or foreign organizations to the State,
  - Income tax matters related to the development of the certified bond market.
32. The definitions of the terms used in Chapter 7 of this law shall have the same meaning as provided in the Income Tax Law.

**TO BE CONTINUED**

## Yangon palm oil reference price set at K6,600 per viss in late Mar

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil for the Yangon market increased a bit to K6,600 per viss during the week ending 26 March, indicating a small increase from K6,575 per viss recorded last week, according to the Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution.

The rise in palm oil price was attributed to a sharp drop in the palm oil output in major producing countries starting from January 2026, a large stockpile and a surge in demand during the Chinese New Year Festival and Ramadan. According to Reuters and industry reports, palm oil output in major producing nations is experiencing stagnant production levels in the first quarter of 2026, keeping the price supported. The Department of Consumer Affairs speculated palm oil market constraints that other factors include strengthening Malaysia Ringgits, Indonesia's tax hike in palm oil export from 10 per cent to 12.5 per cent starting from 1 March, low global stock levels in palm oil reserve situation with tight supplies dropping to 19 per cent in 2025-2026 Financial Year from 20 per cent, increase in palm oil demand ahead of Eid al-Fitr, pushing the FOB price in the producing countries.

The Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has been closely observing the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia, adding transport costs, tariffs and banking services to decide the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil weekly. Despite the reference price, the market price is still high. To control overcharging, the Consumer Affairs Department under the Ministry of Commerce informed consumers of lodging complaints for overcharging through the call centre hotline in late August. The department urges consumers not to buy palm oil at high prices.

The Committee notified that any person who is involved in price gouging and oil storage to attempt market manipulation will face legal action under the Essential Goods and Services Law. The department is working together with the Myanmar Oil Dealers' Association and the cooking oil importing companies to offer affordable rates of imported palm oil for consumers. The complaints for overcharging can be lodged over hotline 1535 of the call centre of the Consumers Affairs Department, or sent to the Facebook page of the department and the region and state departments concerned. The domestic palm oil consumption is estimated at one million tonnes per year. The local palm oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. About 700,000 tonnes of palm oil are annually imported through Malaysia and Indonesia to meet domestic demands. — NN/KK



This photo depicts cooking oil being sold at lower prices at the MSME Fair marking the 78<sup>th</sup> Union Day.

## FDA-approved edible oil mills to hold 4-day Pre-Thingyan Market Fair

LED by the Myanmar Edible Oil Millers Association, the pre-Thingyan market fair of cooking oils (peanut oil, sesame oil, sunflower oil and soybean oil) manufactured domestically will be held for four days at two separate locations in Yangon.

The first is located in front of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) on Min Ye Kyawswa Street in Lanmadaw Township, and the second is located in front of Shwe Ohn Pin Housing on Yan Shin Street in Yankin Township. The event is scheduled from 9

am to 5 pm.

“We have two main objectives: first, we want consumers who enjoy peanut oil, sesame oil and sunflower oil, to have access to good-quality oil at affordable prices, and second, our local products can be used for import substitution, so we are making an effort to prove it. To make sure, our oil millers have also worked together with farmers for edible oil crops security,” an official from MEOMA told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

Regional MEOMA members from Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Yangon have initially set

K18,500 for peanut oil per viss; the price may vary depending on transport and packaging costs. For the welfare of consumers, MEOMA has occasionally held similar events in Yangon, the most populous region, in Thadingyut, the new year period, December or January and the Myanmar New Year, April, approximately 10 times so far.

“We will sell oil, which can provide enough for a family, but we are unable to provide for resellers. We hold the market fair three times a year so families can buy enough stock for a year,” he added. — MT/ZS

## CBM pumps THB3.37M, US\$2.6M into forex market

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold US\$1.5 million to edible oil-importing companies and \$1.16 million to fuel oil-importing companies on 20 March, along with an injection of 3.37 million baht into the market.

CBM has been injecting US dollars to stabilize the foreign exchange market and calm edible oil prices, with over \$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 mil-



The facade of the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) in Nay Pyi Taw.

lion 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 one million dollars into the fuel oil import sector on 3 March.

CBM injected foreign ex-

change 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

# OPINION

# BOOKRACK POEM

## Serve responsibilities to the best of one's ability and capacity

**T**HE First Regular Session of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw commenced on 16 March. On the first day, the election of the meeting chair as well as the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw was carried out. The public has shown keen interest in witnessing the collective strength of the elected representatives and the functioning of the Pyithu Hluttaw.

Hluttaw representatives from various regions and states across the country, including the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, will now have to shoulder responsibilities for the interests of the State and the people. They must work toward ensuring national stability and peace, as well as the emergence of a modern, developed nation, while also upholding Our Three Main National Causes.

In taking affirmations, Hluttaw representatives have solemnly declared that they will uphold, protect, and safeguard

Hluttaw representatives should maintain friendly, cordial, and open relations with one another, and work in unity in accordance with democratic practices to collectively advance the interests of the State and its citizens. They should engage with and consult the public, and strive to reflect the voice and will of the people on their behalf. For the benefit of the State and the people, they should also share and communicate the work of the Hluttaw so that the people can understand and appreciate its activities.

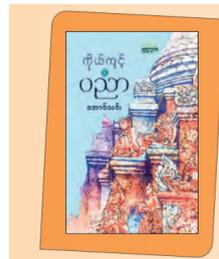
the Constitution and abide by the laws of the country. They have also pledged to faithfully and dutifully carry out their responsibilities to the best of their ability and capacity. If Hluttaw representatives faithfully uphold the Constitution as they have pledged, comply with the laws of the State, and consistently prioritize the non-disintegration of the Union, the non-disintegration of national solidarity, and the perpetuation of sovereignty, then the path toward a genuine and disciplined multi-party democratic system will remain steady and straight.

As representatives, they are to seriously take the trust and responsibilities entrusted by the people, and to fulfil the duties by making their best efforts in accordance with the Constitution, relevant laws, and by-laws. According to the Constitution, among the three main estates of the State, the legislative branch is the primary responsibility of the Hluttaw.

As a developing country like Myanmar strives for national development, it is necessary to raise the level of political experience and political culture. At the same time, there must also be political ideas and political institutions that are capable of promoting development. Political culture refers to the overall set of political attitudes and practices of people within a society.

Hluttaw representatives should maintain friendly, cordial, and open relations with one another, and work in unity in accordance with democratic practices to collectively advance the interests of the State and its citizens. They should engage with and consult the public, and strive to reflect the voice and will of the people on their behalf. For the benefit of the State and the people, they should also share and communicate the work of the Hluttaw so that the people can understand and appreciate its activities.

Hluttaw representatives should maintain friendly, cordial, and open relations with one another, and work in unity in accordance with democratic practices to collectively advance the interests of the State and its citizens. They should engage with and consult the public, and strive to reflect the voice and will of the people on their behalf. For the benefit of the State and the people, they should also share and communicate the work of the Hluttaw so that the people can understand and appreciate its activities.



Book Title	-	Virtue and Wisdom
Author	-	Aung Thin
Publishing House	-	Maha
Publication Date	-	December 2025 (Republished)
Price	-	K10,000

## Virtue and Wisdom

**THIS** week's pick is a book, Virtue and Wisdom, written by Sayagyi Aung Thin, with a compelling book cover quote: "Only when each individual is good, will the country progress. If everyone is a thief, how can the country develop? Just think about it." First published in August 1998 by Thint Bawa Publishing House, this book has been reprinted numerous times by various publishing houses, with the latest edition released by Mahar Sarpay.

Sayagyi Aung Thin remained true to his vocation as a teacher and dedicated himself to youth-centric literary works to inspire and empower the hearts and minds of young people. He is renowned for his inspirational literary works; delivering talks, participating in writer-reader discussions, writing literary criticism articles, advocating for the flourishing of literary culture through reading groups for young people, producing non-fiction and creative works on education, ethics, and culture, the present and future lives of young people, and cultivating a bright and vibrant personality.

He was truly a guiding star, a great author devoted to the youth. This book is a collection of his talks to younger generations.

He affirmed in a preface that it is true that I have held discussions under the titles Virtue and Wisdom, but I admit that I am not an expert with the right to write on such matters. However, I conducted these discussions with the desire to help the younger generation as well as I could. Some might be unsatisfactory answers, and some might be a great response during talk shows. Those with great wisdom will forgive them.

One can clearly see some ask weird and random questions, and some ask serious questions. We can also find out what problems are lurking in the hearts of today's youth through their questions. I urge all readers to try to collectively solve these problems and work together for it."

In the Q&A section with the youth, readers will encounter numerous questions that can give them a few thoughts.

If you had to choose between virtue and

material wealth, which would you choose?

Between adults and youth, who is more responsible for moral decline?

Why is someone highly educated yet considered worthless by society?

Readers will find that Saya Aung Thin gave good answers with humour and precision to the questions on the spot. Furthermore, some serve as a piece of thought.

In summary, Aung Thin's "Virtue and Wisdom," a work of inspirational literature, profoundly and effectively examines the importance of morality and education. This book provides detailed guidance on how to build a life of peace and harmony by combining knowledge and moral integrity, how to cultivate honesty and integrity and earn the love and respect of others within society, and how to work with self-confidence in the workplace and social environment. Thus, it is a must-read for aspiring youth and middle-aged adults to build trustworthy and sustainable communities through honesty, responsibility and civic engagement.



Book Title	-	Language and Literature, Literature and Language
Author	-	Maung Khin Min (Danubyu)
Publishing House	-	Gangaw Wuttyi
Publication Date	-	March 2026 (1st Edition)
Price	-	K18,000

## Language and Literature, Literature and Language

**THIS** week, we pick a book that makes a definition such as Language serves as the foundation of literature, and literature is the fruit of language.

The book is Language and Literature, Literature and Language by Sayagyi Maung Khin Min (Danubyu). In this book, Sayagyi presents how language and literature are inseparably interconnected and mutually dependent. The book is a collection of more than 50 essays, organized into four main sections-

1. Connection between language and literature - he explains, starting from the importance of grammar, dictionary, Sann, four Alinka treatises, to the connection of modern linguistics and literary criticism.
2. Literary study and Rasa (feeling) - Sayagyi shares his personal insights on how readers experience aesthetic pleasure when reading poetry, plays, prose and novels, and how the behaviours of humans in the literature are vividly portrayed.

3. Culture and ethnic people characteristics- This section examines how Myanmar's cultural traditions, the languages and literatures of ethnic groups, and unity among the ethnic groups are reflected in literary works.
4. Contemporary literature and memoirs- This section highlights the history of Myanmar magazines such as Myawady, Ngwe Tar Yi and Kalya, and memories of Sayagyi throughout his life in literature.

In the beginning of the book, it reads: "Although one is an expert in four treatises such as grammar, dictionary, Sann and Alinka, and continues his learning, he does not make any thesis. But he will be considered an expert in treatises. If he is not an expert in these four treatises, he will not be considered an expert even if he is well-versed in three Pitaka treatises."

The final paragraph of Pyo states, "Pyo carries the conclusion. The conclusion of Pyo depicts the life events of the poets and the intention of composing Pyo.

Therefore, the conclusion of Pyo is the evidence in studying the biographies of poets. The communication between Wungyi Padetha Raza from the Nyaungyan era and Hanthawady York Min (Maha Dhamma Raza Dipati) is widely presented in Thuza Pyo and Manikat Pyo. Therefore, it is a well-known proof that the later scholars rely on it as a reference. The term Pyo is said to mean pleasing by the experts. Pyos are compositions that are full of pleasing qualities.

This book is highly recommended for those who wish not only to read Myanmar literature superficially but to deeply appreciate its essence and those who want to understand how the rules of language (grammar) shape the beauty of literature (poetic devices). Covering knowledge from classical to modern literature, it serves as an excellent guidebook for students, writers, and literature enthusiasts. Therefore, it is truly a remarkable work that lovers of literature should not miss.

### This Candlelight

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

Before the Image of the Lord,  
With smoke piping hot  
And a delicate fragrance,  
The only candlelight  
Is shimmering pretty bright.

Until its tiny yellow flame  
Conducts another once again,  
Whoever lights so yet,  
Not known whether less,  
As always, it's shining that.

16 March 2026

### ဤမီးတိုင်

ဘုရားရှေ့ဝယ်  
အငွေ့လျှင်လျှင်  
နံ့ကြိုင်ကြိုင်ဖြင့်  
တစ်တိုင်ဆီမီး  
ထိန်ထိန်နူးတည့်

သူ့အလျှံမှ  
တစ်ဖန်ကူးဆီ  
သူချိညှိလေညှိ  
မခပ်လျော့ရာ  
ထိန်နူးသောတည့်

၁၆ မတ် ၂၀၂၆

### The Essence of Summer Holidays

By Min Min Zan

When summer comes with golden light,  
The days grow warm, the skies shine bright,  
Our school days pause, our hearts feel free,  
In joyful time and memory.  
The quiet halls we leave behind,  
Yet gentle thoughts stay in the mind,  
Those carefree days now drift away,  
And leave a dream we miss each day.  
(Welcoming the long vacation of the students...)

### Revolutionary act

By Dagon Taya (Translated by Myint Zan)

when the summer months come  
the golden Padauk flowers  
shimmer, radiate  
from the roots  
entangling with each other  
they blossom profusely, abundantly

when summer ends  
and the rains come  
the summer is left behind  
the earth is emerald green:  
facing the sky, in the rains  
the flower  
continues to flourish

the golden Padauk  
fearlessly and perseveringly  
reach for the sky  
its style is revolutionary  
indeed 'tis a noble flower!

First published in Ganhtalawka magazine in 1940. Translated on 19 March 2026.

တော်လှန်မှု

နေ့လပေါက်လျှင်၊ ပိတောက်ရွှေဝါ  
ဝင်းဝင်းဖြူဖြူ၊ အညှာပွင့်လှိုင်း  
ခိုင်ချင်းဆိုင်ချင်း၊ မျိုးမျိုးစုံစုံအောင်ဖူး  
ကြ၏။

မြေတလျှောက်လျှင်၊ နေ့ပျောက်မိုးဝင်  
မြေညှိမင်သော်၊ စွန့်စွန့် တစ်  
စွန့်တစ်လှမ်း၍၊ မိုးလန်းမာလာ ဝင်မြေကို။

ရွှေပိတောက်လျှင်၊ မကြောက်ရွံ့  
မိုးညှိလည်း၊ စွန့်စွန့် တစ်  
သူ့ဟန်ပန်သည့်၊ တော်လှန်ပွင့်သည့်  
ပန်းမြတ်တည်း။

ဒဂုံတာရာ

# NATIONAL Entertainment



### Mee Pwar

Director Mee Pwar has begun filming the movie Love Is Intense, produced by Angel Film Production. The filming ceremony was held on 18 March, and shooting started on the same day. The film features artistes Nay Win, Ye Yint Thaw, Moe Hay Ko, and Thazin Nwe Win, among others. Fans are eagerly waiting to see how this film will be made by Academy director Mee Pwar.

### May

Singer and actress May, who recently won the Most Streamed Song of the Year (Female) award with her song Cigarette and Lighter, shared a photoshoot on her social media with the caption: "The most beautiful places in the world... walking together with him and enjoying the journey." She is currently travelling in Japan with Yu Thandar Tin, San Yati Moe Myint, and Alin Yaung.

## Artistes of 'Tan Tal' film meet fans

THE premiere event of the movie 'Tan Tal' (Gold Digger) was held on 20 March, Friday.

The cast happily met audiences at the Mingala Cinema (Gamone Pwint), San Yeik Nyein, and Wazira Cinema, Hlinethaya, where the film was being screened. Moreover, on 21 March, artistes also met fans at the Maso-eyein

Cinema in Mandalay. The film, based on a love and marriage theme, was directed by Soe Moe Min for Lucky 10 Production.

"It's really worth watching. Every single artiste performed very well. The director did a great job without any flaws. Also, the storyline fits well with today, so I believe audiences will like it," said actress Khin Zarchi Kyaw, who watched the movie. The cast includes Aye Chan Maung, May Grace, Ye Aung, Lin Zarni Zaw, Kyaw Htet, and other artistes. — Htun Htun/KTZH



# Celebrity BRIEF

### Chue Lay

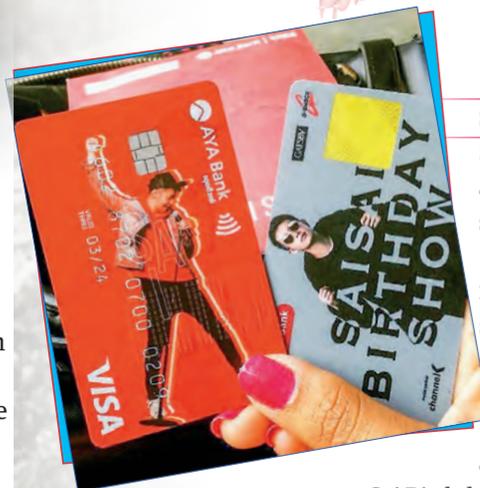
Academy Chue Lay takes a unique role as a Bagan girl named Mya Kyay in the upcoming film 'Anwal Taw'. The film is produced by Triple Six Production, with the story and screenplay by Thet Oo Maung, directed by Ko Zaw (Aryon Oo), and featuring well-known artistes such as Kyaw Kyaw Bo, Shin Mway La, and Oak Awe Than Thar.

### Thin Zar Wint Kyaw

The film 'Summer Thingyan', marking the comeback of Thin Zar Wint Kyaw, was screened nationwide in Myanmar on 20 March. The movie showcases the lively atmosphere of the traditional Thingyan festival, with Thin Zar Wint Kyaw playing the role of a rich girl named April Soe. She expressed her hope that fans will love the film as much as she does and urged the audience to watch and support her comeback movie.

### May Grace

Actress May Grace leads the major role in the 'Tan Tal' film, and script writer Saya Moe Ni Lwin also commented on her outstanding acting skills. He said, "This is a must-watch film. May, who debuted beautifully as an angel of Ko Sai in a film I wrote over 10 years ago, is now receiving great praise in this movie, and I feel very proud and happy."



### Sai Sai Kham Leng

Sai Sai Kham Leng informed his fans that right after finishing the matriculation exam, he will start preparing for the reunion festival, saying, "Now that the exam is over, I'll begin preparing for the big celebration. The date is confirmed, so buy your tickets now as they sell out fast." The Sai Sai Birthday Show, which first started at Blazon Car Parking, has been held many times over the years, even as he is now approaching his 40s and 50s. This year's Sai Sai Birthday Show 26 will start at 4 pm on Friday, 10 April 2026. — Htun Htun/KTZH

# NATIONAL

## Pyu Creek hydropower plant feeds 120M kWh annually into National Grid

THE Pyu Creek hydropower plant, located in Pyu Township, Bago Region, generates 120 million kilowatt hours per year according to its design, and supplies power to the national grid through Toungoo 230KV lines.

The hydropower plant includes water intake structures, water conveyance tunnels, high-pressure steel pipelines, a 230kV switchyard, and two turbine-generator units, each with a capacity of 20 megawatts, making a total capacity of 40 megawatts. Besides contributing to the national electricity demand, the plant also serves as an irrigation dam, supplying water needed by farmers during the summer paddy season.

The power plant is part of a comprehensive development plan within the Sittoung River Basin, initially proposed in 1964 under the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Implementation began in 2000, and the plant was completed in August 2014, after which electricity generation commenced. The power station measures 130 feet in length, 110 feet in width,

and 110 feet in height. It uses Francis vertical shaft turbines, with two 20-megawatt units installed. With a turbine flow rate of 2,031.65 cubic feet per second, the plant produces about 120 million kilowatt hours of electricity annually.

It is estimated to produce 10.85200 million units in January, 10.163000 million units in February and 13.33500 million units in

March of the 2026-2027 financial year.

“The Pyu Creek hydropower plant normally produces about 120 million kilowatt hours annually, according to its design. However, last year, it was able to generate over 290.19 million kilowatt hours. In 2024, it produced 156.11 million units, in 2025, 209.19 million units, and as of 20 March 2026, it has already generated



This image shows two 20-megawatt facilities of the Pyu Creek Hydropower Plant in Pyu, Bago Region. **PHOTO: KANU**



This image captures the Pyu Creek Hydropower Plant in Pyu, Bago Region. **PHOTO: KANU**

38.49 million kilowatt hours, and it continues production. The plant has two 20-megawatt turbines. Due to irrigation water management requirements, one unit is operated continuously for 24 hours, while the other operates depending on demand. Not only is it crucial for summer paddy cultivation, but we are also pleased that the plant contributes to national development by supplying electricity,” said plant manager U Min Thu Aung.

Among the 25 state-owned hydropower plants, a total of 7,262.738 million units of electricity generation is targeted for the 2026-2027 financial year. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/KTZH

## MRF urges against fuel, fertilizer stockpiling in rice industry



This image shows machinery used in rice production that requires fuel.

THE Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) stated on 21 March, requesting that stakeholders in the industry refrain from stockpiling fuel and fertilizers exceeding their actual needs.

The MRF noted that the tensions in the Middle East have led to price hikes and instability in the international oil market. Consequently, the government has issued notices to practise fuel conservation.

It highlighted that fuel is essential across various stages, including cultivation, pumping water, harvesting, milling, and transportation. To ensure efficiency, the MRF has advised millers, traders, and companies to assist farmers in obtaining the

required diesel, to adopt solar energy, and to provide rental services for small-scale farmers.

Milling and transportation sectors should reduce fuel consumption, and rice mills are encouraged to integrate solar power. As fertilizer prices are rising, the MRF advises producing and using organic and bio-fertilizers.

The MRF is working in coordination with government departments, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Chambers of Commerce and Industry and its associations, and private companies. Individuals or businesses facing difficulties can report their situation to the MRF via: Viber: 09-40067240, 09-40067260 and its Facebook Messenger. — MT/ZN

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# ECONOMY

## WORLD

# Airlines suffer losses estimated at \$53 bln due to Middle East conflict



Passengers at Dubai International Airport, the UAE, on 7 March 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA

*US and Israeli actions against Iran resulted in approximately \$53 billion in damages to the 20 largest publicly traded airlines.*

ON 28 February, the United States and Israel began striking targets in Iran, including in Tehran, causing damage and civilian casualties. Iran has carried out retaliatory strikes on Israeli territory, as well as on US military targets in the Middle East.

The damage caused by US and Israeli aggression against Iran amounted to approximately \$53 billion for the 20 largest publicly traded airlines, the Financial Times reported, based

on its own calculations.

Airline executives are warning of the consequences caused by the sustained rise in oil prices, disruptions at Gulf airports, and a potential hit to global demand, the Financial Times added.

In the coming months, passengers planning trips on routes that are not related to the Middle East will face a sharp rise in ticket prices as airlines try to protect their revenues, the newspaper reported. — SPUTNIK

## Sri Lanka asks electric vehicle owners to unplug at night

SRI Lanka has urged electric vehicle owners to stop charging their cars at night, saying the surge in demand is forcing the country to burn more coal and diesel to keep the power grid running. In an address to the nation, President Anura Kumara Disanayake said electric cars were adding an extra 300 megawatts of demand at night, straining the grid.

“Electric car owners charge their vehicles when they return from work. This is placing an additional burden on the grid, and we are compelled to operate all our generators to meet this

surge,” he said on Tuesday night.

Much of the electricity at night is generated by a 900-megawatt coal power station and another 1,000 megawatts from diesel — a far cry from the clean-green image EVs might hope to project.

Sri Lanka, still waiting for large-scale battery storage, currently has no way to bottle its abundant daytime solar power.

“Charge your car during the day when we have excess electricity from solar,” Disanayake said, adding that authorities plan to introduce tariffs shortly to curb night-time charging. — AFP

## Japan opens “sky paths” for drones to inspect power lines

JAPAN is moving to open government-approved “sky paths” for drones above the power lines that span the country, as utilities seek safer and faster ways to inspect infrastructure in mountainous regions.

Some routes are already in operation, allowing drones to patrol and inspect power transmission and distribution facilities. The aim is to expand the network nationwide to 40,000 kilometres by fiscal 2035, with future use also being considered for disaster response and logistics.

“All right, up it goes,” a worker said last November as a drone lifted off in the moun-



A drone flies around power lines for inspection in Chichibu, Saitama Prefecture, on 14 November 2025. PHOTO: KYODO

tains of Chichibu, Saitama Prefecture. Rising to about 140 metres, the aircraft flew

a 500-metre round trip along a power line, its camera trained on cables and towers. — Kyodo

## Norway launches new strategy for cooperation with World Bank

THE Norwegian government on Friday launched a new strategy for cooperation with the World Bank for the 2026-2030 period, aiming to strengthen multilateral cooperation and channel more

support to the world’s poorest countries amid rising development needs and a more fragmented global aid landscape.

Minister of International Development Asmund Aukrust said the strategy

is designed to reinforce the World Bank’s role as a key global actor in development and climate efforts, while advancing Norway’s priorities within the institution. — Xinhua



Fuel tankers, along with other vehicles, enter Colombo, Sri Lanka, 18 March 2026. PHOTO: AFP

# China's commerce minister meets Apple CEO Tim Cook

CHINA'S Minister of Commerce Wang Wentao met Apple CEO Tim Cook on Friday and exchanged views on topics including China-US economic and trade relations, and Apple's business operations and development in China, according to a press release from the Ministry of Commerce.

During their meeting,

Wang said that under the strategic guidance of the two countries' head-of-state diplomacy, Chinese and US economic and trade teams have held six rounds of talks that led to a series of important consensus, and both sides agreed that a healthy, stable and sustainable China-US economic and trade relationship serves the in-

terests of both countries and is important for the stability and development of the global economy.

Wang said China is committed to building an open world economy, and the country is providing stability and certainty for a turbulent world with its economic development. — Xinhua



Apple CEO Tim Cook attends the opening of a new flagship Apple store in east China's Shanghai, 21 March 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA/LIU YING/FILE

# US authorizes 30-day window for Iranian oil sales at sea amid supply concerns

THE US Treasury Department on Friday issued a general licence temporarily lifting sanctions on Iranian oil at sea for 30 days to address the supply shortage amid shipping interruptions in the Strait of Hormuz.

The general licence, issued by the department's Office of Foreign Assets Control, authorized the delivery and sales of crude oil and petroleum products of Iranian origin loaded on vessels as of Friday.

Transactions for safe docking and anchoring of relevant vessels, preser-

vation of health or safety of crew members, emergency repairs or environmental protection as well as various services were also allowed. Notably, transactions authorized by this general license include the importation into the United States of crude oil and petroleum products of Iranian origin.

"This temporary, short-term authorization is strictly limited to oil that is already in transit and does not allow new purchases or production," said US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent in an X post on Friday. — Xinhua

# Cambodia reduces fuel import duties, VAT to stabilize retail prices

THE Cambodian government has reduced import duties and value-added tax (VAT) for gasoline and diesel to zero in an attempt to stabilize retail oil prices in the kingdom amid the escalation of the Middle East conflict, the Ministry of Commerce announced on Friday.

The government also reduced special excise tax for gasoline to 15.71 US cents per litre, and for diesel to zero, the announcement added. The announcement said the Cambodian government

has decided to reduce the retail fuel prices as the international fuel prices continue to rise.

According to the announcement, a litre of regular gasoline costs 5,400 riels (about US \$ 1.35) on Friday, down 1.8 per cent from the last three days, while diesel costs 6,700 riels per litre, up 2.29 per cent. Since the outbreak of the Middle East conflict, the regular gasoline price in Cambodia rose by 40 per cent, as the diesel price increased by 74 per cent, according to the ministry. — Xinhua

# Fuel prices rise in India amid Mideast conflicts

PRICES of premium quality petrol and industrial diesel rose in India by nearly 2.30 Indian rupees (nearly 2 US cents) per litre and 22 Indian rupees (23 US cents) per litre, respectively, on Friday, confirmed the oil marketing companies.

Attributed to ongoing conflicts in the Middle East, the increase in fuel prices took effect immediately.

Costlier industrial diesel would have an adverse impact on various activities, including manufacturing, logistics and power generation. It would increase production and transport costs, potentially making everyday products more expensive, according to local media reports.

The federal government, however, played down the rise in the price of premium petrol, describing it as a small rise, as premium petrol was consumed by only 2-4 per cent of the total petrol buyers in the country. — Xinhua



The general licence authorized the delivery and sales of crude oil and petroleum products of Iranian origin loaded on vessels as of Friday. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/PIXABAY

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MSC QINGDAO F VOY.NO. (SB611A)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MSC QINGDAO F VOY.NO. (SB611A)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **22-3-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

**M/S MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY S.A**

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (280N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (280N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **22-3-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

**M/S NEWGOLDEN SEA LINES**

# WEEKLY WORLD NEWS DIGEST



Japan plans to use underground malls and train stations as bunkers during wartime emergencies **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/WIKIPEDIA**

## Japan to push use of underground malls, subways as emergency bunkers

MARCH 21

**JAPAN** will encourage the wider use of underground shopping malls and train stations as dual-use bunkers in the event of an attack or emergency, sources familiar with the matter said Saturday.

The Japanese government hopes to utilize more private underground spaces, which are considered safe and secure, as nearly 90 per cent of the currently designated shelters in the country are publicly

owned, such as schools.

The Cabinet is expected to finalize the plan later this month and review it approximately every five years, the sources said.

As of April 2025, Japan has designated around 61,000 temporary shelters as being capable of withstanding a blast released by a ballistic missile, but only about 4,000 are situated in underground facilities. — Kyodo

MARCH 20

## Bahrain food prices surge amid war

**IN BAHRAIN'S** supermarket, Mahmoud Ali, a father of four, fills his cart amid stocked shelves. Yet, Middle East war impacts hit checkout, with food prices surging noticeably over recent days.

Meat costs have nearly doubled, despite no outright shortages.

The Gulf monarchy, like its arid neighbors, relies heavily on food imports. Israel's US-backed strikes on Iran since Feb-

ruary 28 have shut the Strait of Hormuz, crippling goods transport.

Major UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, and Bahrain ports have slashed cargo handling, economist Frederic Schneider of the Middle East Council notes.

Air freight, another key lifeline, operates below capacity amid daily Iranian drone and missile strikes. — AFP

March 19

## Japan PM meets Trump under pressure on Hormuz

**JAPANESE** Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi risks the wrath of US President Donald Trump at the White House Thursday after rebuffing his call to help reopen the Strait of Hormuz.

The first female premier in Japan's history, conservative Takaichi has had a strong supporter in Trump, who backed her ahead of her recent landslide election victory.

But she now faces a difficult balancing

act, after Trump lashed out at Washington's Asian and European allies for rejecting his demand that they help reopen the key oil waterway that Iran has in effect shut down to retaliate for the US and Israel war campaign.

Takaichi must balance navigating demands from Donald Trump with the constraints of Japan's pacifist constitution and a weakening economy. — AFP

MARCH 18

## Germany 'would have advised against' war on Iran

**GERMAN** Chancellor Friedrich Merz said Wednesday that if the United States had consulted Berlin about the US-Israel war against Iran, "we would have advised against taking this course of action".

"We share with Israel and the United States the objective that Iran should no longer pose a threat in future," Merz told parliament.

"For years and decades, the Iranian regime has broken rule after rule, spread

terror across the world and destabilized the neighbourhood. This regime bears responsibility for the current crisis in the region," he said. "At the same time, however, we have also made it clear that we still have many questions regarding this war," Merz said, adding that the US and Israel had shown "no convincing plan as to how this operation could succeed".

Washington had "not consulted" Germany about the war, Merz noted. — AFP

MARCH 17

## Pakistan airstrike hits hospital in Kabul

**PAKISTAN'S** air force carried out an airstrike late Monday night targeting a drug addiction treatment hospital in the Afghan capital of Kabul, killing at least 400 people and injuring around 250 others, an Afghan official said Tuesday.

Hamdullah Fitrat, deputy spokesman of the Afghan government, said in a statement posted on the social media platform X that the airstrike, launched at around 9 pm local time on Monday, struck the Omid Addiction Treatment

Hospital in Kabul.

The hospital, a 2,000-bed facility dedicated to the treatment of drug addiction patients, was largely destroyed in the attack, Fitrat said, warning that the number of casualties could further rise.

According to the official, the airstrike triggered a large fire at the hospital. Rescue teams are working to control the fire and recover the remaining bodies of the victims. — Xinhua

MARCH 16

## EU wants to tap citizens' savings

**THE** idea sounds simple: tap trillions of euros of EU citizens' savings to unlock capital for European companies through a more integrated financial market.

Getting over the finish line, however, has been complicated, with EU states unable to agree and the idea languishing for years. More than a decade after the European Union first floated the idea of a deeper capital

market, the issue has come roaring back into the spotlight — and with it the type of concern that dogged previous efforts.

The renewed impetus stems from fears the EU is lagging dangerously behind the world's two biggest economies, the United States and China — one of the topics set to dominate a summit of the bloc's leaders this week. — AFP

MARCH 15

## Canada, Nordics announce deepening of defence ties

**CANADIAN** and Nordic leaders on Sunday announced that they would deepen collaboration, especially in the area of defence and Arctic security, a region where tensions are rising. After a meeting in Oslo, the prime ministers of Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Canada in a joint statement reaffirmed their commitment to cooperation "at a time characterized by

heightened geopolitical tension, war and a multitude of crises".

"With everything going on now, with a war going on in Ukraine, a United States unfortunately lifting up sanctions on Russia, a war in the Middle East, countries like ours have to stand together," Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen told a press conference. — AFP

# SPORTS

## Shan United celebrate 7<sup>th</sup> MNL title

SHAN United held a trophy presentation ceremony and music concert on 21 March at the State Gymnasium in Taunggyi after winning the 2025-2026 season title of the Myanmar National League (MNL). The club secured its seventh league title and sixth consecutive championship.

At the ceremony, Shan State Chief Minister U Aung Aung delivered a congratulatory speech, while club vice chairman U Htaik Khun Naung Myint Wai and players presented the championship trophies to him.

The team received K1,030 million in total honorary awards, including K30 million from the Shan State Chief minister; K700 million from Kanbawza Bank and K300 million from KBZ Life Insurance, presented through Myanmar Football Federation patron U Aung Ko Win. Club chairman U Khun Naung Myint



Myanmar Football Federation patron U Aung Ko Win presents K1 billion in awards from Kanbawza Bank and KBZ Life Insurance to Shan United. **PHOTO: SOE NYUNT THAW**

Wai also awarded an additional K400 million to the team.

A celebratory concert followed with performances by Sai Sai Kham Leng and other artistes, as fans joined the team in celebrating the title.

Shan United have won the MNL championship seven times in the 2017, 2019, 2020, 2022, 2023, 2024-2025 and 2025-

2026 seasons, becoming the league's most successful club.

The team has also achieved a record six consecutive titles and reached a milestone 100-match unbeaten run in the league. Head coach U Han Win Aung guided the club to three titles in 2022, 2023 and 2025-2026, all with unbeaten seasons. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

## MNL generate over K4.1B in 2025-2026 season

THE Myanmar National League (MNL) generated more than K4.122 billion in revenue during the 2025-2026 season. The income and expenditure were managed systematically and audited by an external accounting firm, according to the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF).

The league's organizing department conducted several competitions, including the MNL League Cup, MNL 1, MNL 2, MNL U21 League, Myanmar Women's League, and MNL2 Promotion Amateur Club Tournament, while also raising funds to support these events.

The main sponsor, AYA



Players and officials of Shan United, champions of the 2025-2026 Myanmar National League season, are seen at Taunggyi Stadium.

Bank, contributed K2 billion, joint sponsors provided K1.2 billion, and other sources generated K0.8 billion.

Total expenditure reached K3.942 billion, including K1.64 billion in annual subsidies for clubs and K1.188 billion for

stadium improvements and general competition expenses.

Expenditure on prize trophies, medals, and cash awards amounted to K609 million, while K504 million was spent on administration and management. — ASH/KZL

## Hamano nets winner as Japan secure 3<sup>rd</sup> Women's Asian Cup

MAIKA Hamano scored the 17<sup>th</sup>-minute winner as Japan edged Australia 1-0 to secure their third Women's Asian Cup on Saturday.

Nadeshiko Japan, eighth in the FIFA rankings, added to their 2014 and 2018 titles while improving their head-to-head record to 14 wins, eight draws and eight defeats against 15<sup>th</sup>-ranked Australia.

"I feel relieved, I think it was a 50-50 game just as I predicted," Japan manager Nils Nielsen said.

"It's very difficult to play Australia in Australia and I have to say they made themselves proud."

"We won six games, I think it's okay we take the trophy. In the end, I'm just happy, the girls fought with everything they had." Australia forward Caitlin Foord wasted an 11<sup>th</sup>-minute chance when she had only Ayaka Yamashita to beat but she shot straight at the Japan keeper before a moment of inspiration from Hamano made the difference at Sydney's Stadium Australia. — Kyodo



This image showcases cyclists racing with vibrant energy in the competition.

## MTB novice cycling race set for 29 Mar

A Mountain Bike (MTB) novice cycling race will be held from Yangon Zoological Gardens to Hlawga National Park on 29 March, under the leadership of the Yangon Region Government, the Forest Department, and the Department of Sports and Physical Education.

The race will start at 6 am from the Yangon Zoological Gardens and is expected to finish at 8 am at Hlawga National Park.

Cash prizes will be awarded as follows: K0.7 million for first place, K0.5 million for second, K0.4 million for third, K0.3 million for fourth, and K0.2 million

for fifth. Competitors finishing sixth to tenth will receive K0.1 million each, while those placing 11<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> will receive K30,000 each. Finishers, up to 300 participants, will also receive commemorative medals.

The race aims to encourage emerging young cyclists and help raise the standard of cycling in Myanmar. National team riders and cyclists who have previously won first, second, or third prizes in competitions are not eligible to compete, and bicycles with electric assistance are not allowed. — Bala/KZL

## Italy's Paris claims first win of season in World Cup downhill finale



Dominik Paris claimed his first win of the season in the final downhill race of the World Cup campaign. **PHOTO: NTB/AFP**

DOMINIK Paris powered to his first World Cup victory of the season in the final downhill race of the campaign in Lillehammer on Saturday.

The 36-year-old Italian edged out Olympic champion Franjo von Allmen by 0.19 seconds, with Vincent Kriechmayr completing the podium in third.

Paris avoided only a second season without a World Cup win since 2012 with a brilliant performance in Norway, notching the 25<sup>th</sup> victory of his ca-

reer on the circuit. "It's really a surprise for me that I had such a good run today," said Paris, whose last three World Cup wins have come at the 1994 Olympic venue.

"It's very cool to race here. It's a nice course, it's not so easy to be fast, but I figured it out."

Swiss star Marco Odermatt could only finish seventh but had already long wrapped up a fifth consecutive overall World Cup crown and third straight downhill crystal globe. — AFP

## AI revives late Val Kilmer for film role



Val Kilmer arrives at the Staples Centre for the 54<sup>th</sup> Grammy Awards in Los Angeles, California, 12 February 2012. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

*Using personal archival footage, AI will “star” the late actor Val Kilmer as a priest in the upcoming film “As Deep as the Grave”.*

THE late Val Kilmer, who died of pneumonia in 2025 after battling throat cancer, will “star” again via AI in “As Deep as the Grave”, a film about archaeologist Ann Morris, co-discoverer of the Anasazi civilization. Director Coerte Voorhees cast him as priest Fintan, citing Kilmer’s Native American heritage and Southwest affinity. Kilmer signed on but fell too ill to film, despite being scheduled. His family supplied vast personal video archives to train the AI likeness. Voorhees called it ideal for the role. Hollywood eyes the project warily amid AI job displacement fears, though it echoes Kilmer’s AI-voiced Iceman in 2022’s “Top Gun: Maverick”. The versatile star, spanning blockbusters and indies, was honoured in the Oscars’ In Memoriam on Sunday. — AFP

## Mt Fuji viewing train for inbound tourists starts operation

*The tour includes bus visits to local shrines and wasabi fields.*

A special Mt Fuji viewing train targeting foreign visitors began operation for a limited time in central Japan on Thursday.

The train, operated as part of a tour designed by Central Japan Railway Co and JTB Global Marketing & Travel Inc, connects Mishima and Fujinomiya stations in Shizuoka Prefecture. It is the first inbound-vis-

itor-only train run by JR Central.

To provide passengers with the best view of Japan’s tallest peak, designated a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site in 2013, the train makes several stops at stations on the route and also travels slowly through some sections.

The tour also includes a visit by bus to a major shrine at the foot of Mt Fuji, as well as wasabi fields and

waterfalls.

The interior of the train is decorated with images related to the “Thirty-Six Views of Mount Fuji” by Ukiyo-e artist Katsushika Hokusai (1760-1849). English-speaking guides are on hand to provide explanations.

The tour will be held on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays through 22 December according to the companies. — Kyodo



The earliest recorded date for cherry blossom blooming in Tokyo is 14 March. The image depicts the Fujisan View Express train travelling through a landscape featuring cherry blossoms with Mount Fuji in the background. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ YOUTUBE

## BTS reunion ignites Seoul’s cultural scene in epic style comeback

*The performance coincides with the release of their fifth album, “ARIRANG”.*



The live show coincides with the release of the group’s fifth album ARIRANG on 20 March just one day before the performance. PHOTO: AFP

SEOULS trendsetters and global K-pop fans are buzzing as BTS, the planet’s biggest boy band, reunites for a dazzling open-air extravaganza this Saturday — their first stage since 2022. Fresh off mandatory military service, the seven icons drop their fifth album “ARIRANG” Friday, promising a lifestyle reset with fashion-forward vibes and royal flair watched by thousands onsite and millions streaming worldwide.

Picture this: the show kicks off in iconic Gyeongbokgung Palace (1395 origins), then struts the “Path of a King” to Gwanghwamun Square. Directed by Super Bowl maestro Hamish Hamilton, it’s pure spectacle — 15,000

tickets vanished instantly, drawing 260,000 fans for an unforgettable night of style and swagger.

Post-2022 crowd lessons learned, Seoul deploys 6,700 police and 8,200 guards, closing the palace for chic, crush-free fun. It’s all about living your best life safely amid the hype. BTS’s progressive edge — think BLM support — fuels a billion-dollar lifestyle empire of merch, tunes, and travel inspo. Hotels are packed with jet-setting ARMYs, sparking booms in shops and stays while elevating Korea’s cool factor. The ARIRANG World Tour launches 9 April in Goyang, hitting 82 gigs across 34 cities through 2026-27. — AFP