

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.

Honorary dinner hosted in commemoration of 79th Anniversary of Union Day 2026

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

On their arrival at the square of the Nay Pyi Taw City Hall, where an honorary dinner would be held, the Senior General and his wife were welcomed by Vice-Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission Vice-Senior General Thiri Pyanchi Maha Thray Sithu Soe Win and his wife Daw Than Than Nwe, Commission Member Prime Minister Zeya Kyaw Htin Thray Sithu U Nyo Saw and his wife, the Commission Secretary and his wife, Union ministers and their wives, and the Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman and his wife.

The Senior General and his wife, and the Vice-Senior General and his wife cordially greeted those who attended the dinner — traditional ethnic cultural troupes from regions and states, chairpersons and representatives from political parties, leaders from NCA signatory ethnic armed organizations and representatives, MSME businesspeople from regions and states, economic ministers and ethnic ministers from regions and states, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, Union ministers, Union-level dignitaries and their wives, and commission members and their wives.

The Senior General and his wife, together with attendees to the dinner, watched the fireworks launched to honour the 79th Anniversary of Union Day 2026.

Afterwards, the Senior General and



Acting President and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing warmly greets the participating dignitaries at yesterday's honorary dinner reception.

his wife had dinner together with the distinguished attendees. Before and during the dinner, vocalists from the modern band of Myanmar Radio and Television and artistes performed songs.

After dinner, the Senior General and his wife enjoyed traditional ethnic dances performed by artistes from the

Department of Fine Arts under the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, as well as by traditional ethnic cultural troupes, at the open-air theatre of the City Hall, together with the attendees at the dinner.

Artistes from the Department of Fine Arts and traditional dance troupes

from the Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine, and Shan ethnic groups performed songs and dances.

After the entertainment, the Senior General and his wife presented the flower basket to the ethnic cultural troupes and cordially greeted them. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

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

Myanmar Gazette

Appointment of Head of Service Organization

THE National Defence and Security Council has appointed U Myat Tun Kyaw, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Transport Planning under the Ministry of Transport and Communications, as Director-General of the Union Minister's Office at the same ministry on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

Mawtinsun Buddha Pujaniya Festival to be held from 16 Feb to 2 Mar

THE Buddha Pujaniya Festival at the Mawtinsun Pagoda in Ngaputaw Township, Pathein District, Ayeyawady Region, will be held for 15 days from 16 February to 2 March, according to the pagoda's Board of Trustees.

The Buddha Pujaniya Festival at the Santawshin Myat Mawtinsun Pagoda is scheduled to take place from the first waxing

day of Taboung (16 February) to the Full Moon Day of Taboung (2 March).

"As in previous years, the festival will be held this year with great enthusiasm and in keeping with tradition. As an act of reverence to the Buddha, 45 monks will consecrate the pagoda, and the Maha Pathana treatise will be recited in homage to the

Dhamma. In honour of the Sangha, a rice-offering ceremony for 160 monks will be held on the Full Moon Day of Taboung," said U Kyaw Swa Win, a member of the pagoda's Board of Trustees.

The Santawshin Myat Mawtinsun Pagoda in Ayeyawady Region can be reached by speedboat from Pathein to Hainggyikyun. The pagoda, lo-



This photo depicts the Buddha Pujaniya Festival held at the Santawshin Myat Mawtinsun Pagoda in the previous year.

cated on Mawtin Cape along the coast of Ngaputaw Township, Pathein District, Ayeyawady Region, is accessible by both water and land routes. — ASH/MKKS

Myanmar bags 24 ASEAN Tourism Standard Awards

MYANMAR won 24 ASEAN Tourism Standard Awards at the ASEAN Tourism Forum 2026 held in Cebu, the Philippines, on 29-30 January, according to the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

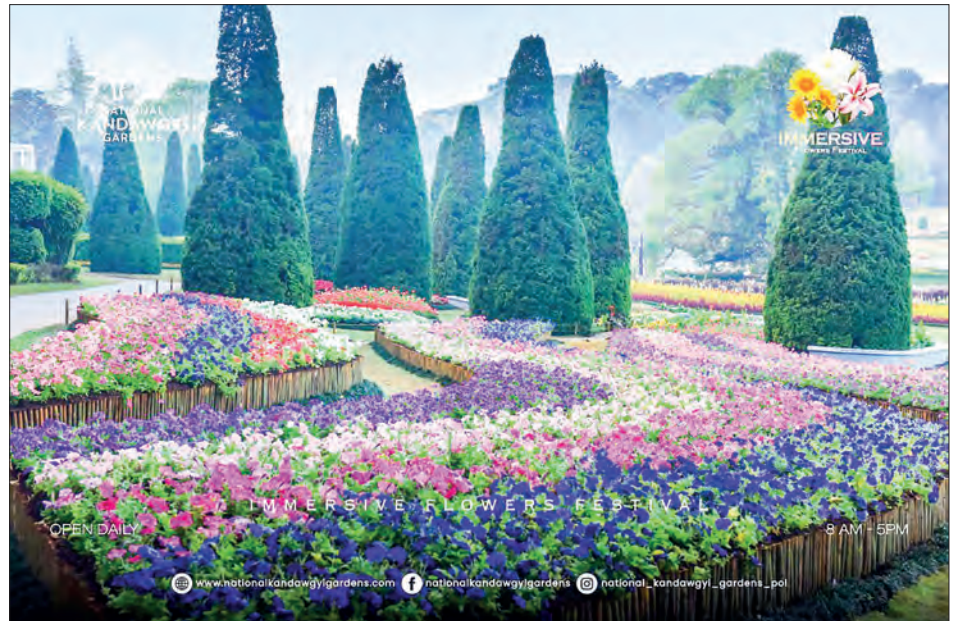
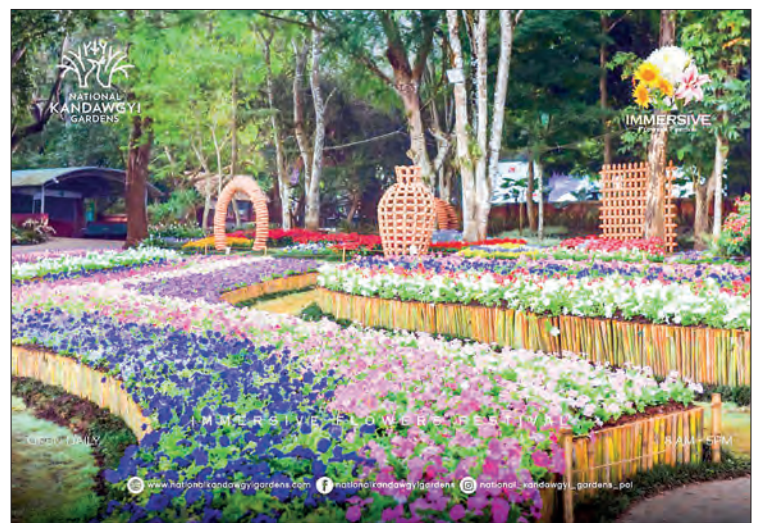
The Ministry stated that Myanmar received a total of 158 ASEAN Tourism Standard

Awards between 2008 and 2026.

Myanmar has been implementing tourism development initiatives in line with the ASEAN standard to ensure comprehensive services and reliable quality experiences to tourists and create tourism destinations.

The 24 awards include ASE-

AN Clean Tourism City Award (three awards), ASEAN Green Hotel Award (five awards), ASEAN Mice Venue Award (10 awards), ASEAN Sustainable Tourism Award (two awards) and ASEAN Public Toilet Standard Award (four awards). — ASH/KK



Photos feature a stunning view of the National Kandawgyi Gardens in PyinOoLwin, recognized as a recipient of the ASEAN Clean Tourist City Award.

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)



State Security and Peace Commission Member and Prime Minister Zeya Kyaw Htin Thray Sithu U Nyo Saw reads the message delivered by Acting President & SSPC Chairman Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing to the 79th Union Day celebration in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The State flag hoisting and saluting ceremonies to mark the 79th Anniversary of the Union Day 2026 took place at the square of the City Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The 79th Anniversary of Union Day 2026 was held under five national objectives, fully embodying their essence. These objectives are: To work together among all ethnic nationals to achieve the country's prosperity and food security, the national goal of the country; To cooperate hand-in-hand with the government, Tatmadaw and all ethnic nationals in successfully implementing the measures for stability and rule of law; To strive together with ethnic armed groups to establish a lasting peace, while propagat-

State flag hoisted, saluted to mark 79th Union Day in Nay Pyi Taw

ing justice, freedom and equality within the country; To build a Union based on democracy and federalism, practising a genuine and disciplined multiparty democratic system through the friendship, trust, unity and collaboration of ethnic people; and To cooperate, ensuring the development of education, health and socioeconomic status of ethnic nationals and the emergence of a developing country.

First, at 5:30 am, the 79th Union Day State Flag-Raising Ceremony was held, during which the

flag-raising troop, surrounded by ethnic people, hoisted the State flag.

Then, Union-level officials, Union ministers, officials from Union-level organizations, senior Tatmadaw officers, deputy ministers, departmental officials and employees, representatives of social organizations, traditional and cultural ethnic troupes, representatives of ethnic peoples, and guests who attended the State flag saluting ceremony took their positions at the square in front of City Hall, where the

ceremony was held.

Afterwards, at 7 am, the ceremony was held, and the Guard of Honour (Army, Navy, Air Force) marched to the square and took up position.

Next, State Security and Peace Commission Member and Prime Minister Zeya Kyaw Htin Thray Sithu U Nyo Saw arrived at the saluting dais and took a salute of the guard of honour.

Then, Prime Minister Zeya Kyaw Htin Thray Sithu U Nyo Saw, those attending the ceremony, and the guard of honour

saluted the flag of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Then, the Prime Minister read out a message sent by the Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing, to the 79th Union Day celebration.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister took a salute from the guard of honour, before closing the ceremony. — MNA/TH

Strong public turnout at Union-Level MSME Expo

TO commemorate the 79th Anniversary of Union Day, the Union-level MSME Products Exhibition and Market Fair (Nay Pyi Taw) is currently held at the Nay Pyi Taw Square. On the fifth day of the exhibition today, large numbers of residents came to explore the displays.

Visitors to the MSME Products Exhibition and Market Fair showed keen interest in MSME products, traditional ethnic souvenirs and traditional cos-

tumes, purchasing them enthusiastically. They also enjoyed buying and tasting freshly prepared traditional ethnic foods available at the fair.

The exhibition features ministerial booths, MSME booths from Nay Pyi Taw and various regions and states, stalls selling traditional ethnic foods, business matching programmes, technology booths, agricultural machinery and product displays, small-scale in-

dustrial and manufacturing cooperative booths, association booths, solar farms, SKD-priority electric vehicle (EV), motorcycle and three-wheeled motorcycle displays, and CMP garment factory booths.

Officials at the respective booths are providing detailed explanations to interested visitors regarding the exhibited products, the use of locally sourced raw materials, and production technol-

ogies. Products are also being sold at reasonable prices.

As there has been a large turnout of interested visitors and strong sales of products, and the event coincides with public holidays, the exhibition has been extended by one day and will now run until 14 February to enable families to continue visiting and making purchases, according to the Organizing Committee.

— MNA/MKKS

NATIONAL

79th Union Day celebrated across regions and states

CEREMONIES commemorating the 79th Anniversary of Union Day were wonderfully held yesterday across the regions, states and self-administered division/zones of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. Chief ministers of the regions and states, commanders of the respective commands, departmental officials, representatives of social organizations, teachers, students and residents attended the events.

At the ceremonies, attendees saluted the State Flag of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and paid

tribute to fallen national leaders and comrades. The Chief Ministers read out the Union Day message sent by the Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission, Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing.

To mark the occasion, opening ceremonies were held for commemorative signboards, MSME products exhibition and market fairs, food and agricultural produce displays, and sports competitions. Chief Ministers, com-

manders and officials formally inaugurated the events and toured the knowledge-sharing booths and private exhibition stands together with attendees.

Officials presented honorary awards and cash prizes to departmental staff and students who were winners in the commemorative contests and sporting events. Guests were served traditional ethnic cuisines.

In the evening, the regions, states and self-administered regions organized celebratory activities, including illuminations and fireworks displays. — MNA/KZL



Taunggyi.



Hopong.



Sittway.



Kawthoung.



Nawngkhio.



Loikaw.



Myitkyina.



Magway.



Hpa-an.



Monywa.



Muse.



Patheingyi.

Public transport centres crowded with travellers

THE public transport hubs are crowded with travellers on Union Day during the six-day holiday from 12 to 17 February. Here is the interview with the train passengers at the Yangon Railway Station.

U Yin Min Oo
(MR Dvision7, Manager)



During long holiday periods, Myanma Railways operates special trains. From 12 to 17 February 2026, we are running special services to ensure convenient travel for the public and government employees. Starting 12 February, special up and down trains are operating on the Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw route, along with an up special train from Yangon to Mawlamyine and another up special train from Yangon to Pyay. On 17 February, special trains will run on the Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw-Yangon, Mawlamyine-Yangon and Pyay-Yangon routes. Tickets for the Yangon-Mandalay and Mandalay-Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay routes are also being sold online. For Yangon, Mandalay, and Nay Pyi Taw routes, tickets can be purchased online one week in advance for full journeys and three days in advance for intermediate stations. On busy routes like Mawlamyine, air-conditioned special trains are also operating. Today, trains are fully occupied, including trains for the Pyay route. Myanma Railways is committed to transporting passengers quickly and efficiently to their destinations. We are pleased to provide special trains in addition to regular services during this long holiday, ensuring smooth and comfortable transport for both passengers and goods”.



- Thitsa (MNA)

U Maung Maung Naing
(special Mawlamyine train, engine driver 2)

As today is Union Day, I am happy to serve train passengers. It feels as though we were carrying our ethnic brethren in unity as one toward a modern and developed nation. I believe passengers will be satisfied with the operation of special trains to ensure convenient travel. I have 31 years of service. This morning at 9:15 am, we departed for Mawlamyine and will return to Yangon Railway Station from Mawlamyine on 17 February.

Daw Kyi Kyi Than
(passenger)

I'm travelling to Mawlamyine. I have been travelling by train for many years. I prefer it over buses because it feels freer and more peaceful. Regular train travellers in Myanmar are mostly those on the Mawlamyine and Pyay trains. These routes have been operating for many years, so long-time passengers like us have a strong attachment to Myanma Railways. The railway understands the bond between passengers and these two lines. Currently, the online ticket system covers only Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw, and Mandalay routes. Since Mawlamyine and Pyay are not yet included, I had to queue at 5 am yesterday at Yangon Railway Station to buy my ticket. It would be more convenient if tickets were also sold online. People who prefer queuing could still do so, while others could buy online. However, buying online requires a strong internet connection, and sometimes, when many passengers try to access the

QR code system simultaneously, it may not work properly. So, improvements are needed to make online purchasing more reliable at any time. It is also important to prevent seat duplication. But travelling by train is enjoyable. Travelling on Union Day is especially memorable and exciting. I am happy to see improvements in Myanma Railways and feel proud of the country. I hope services will continue to improve and wish Myanma Railways continued success.

Ma Thoon Nadi San
(university student)



I'm travelling to Pyay. It feels special and joyful to travel on Union Day. I'm going with my family to visit pagodas. The train coaches are clean and tidy, which makes the journey satisfying. If the coaches, seating, and services continue to improve, both domestic and international travellers will choose trains even when it is not in holiday periods. For the tourism sector to grow, cooperation between the public and staff is also important. In my opinion, Myanmar Railways should showcase its modernization and

development more widely so that the public becomes more aware. This would inspire people to travel by train, foster patriotism, and encourage responsible behaviour. Knowing that I'll be riding an air-conditioned train makes the journey even more exciting.

Ko Ye Yint Aung
(passenger)

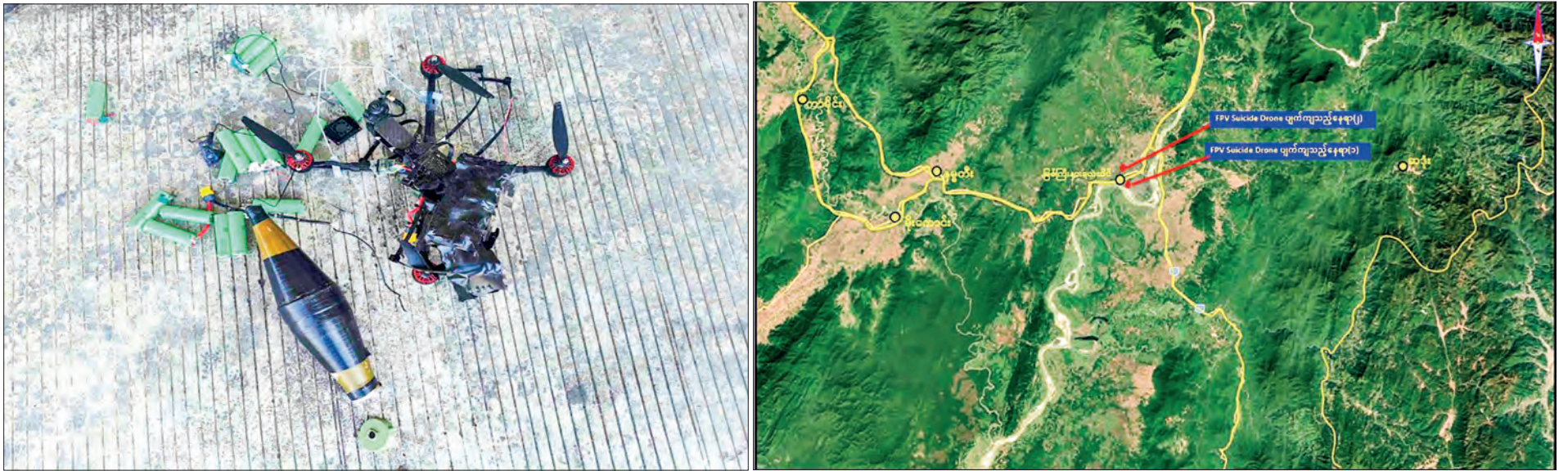


We bought tickets in advance to travel on Union Day when the children finished their exam yesterday. Even though there are many travellers, everything is going smoothly. Seeing my children happy while looking at the train makes me happy as a father. This train journey will become a cherished memory for them when they grow up. When we were young, our parents gave us similar experiences. I have noticed significant improvements in Myanma Railways compared to before. I hope Myanma Railways continues to progress and further enhances its services.

Translated by KTZH

NATIONAL

Security forces prevent FPV suicide drone attack of KIA, PDF terrorists



Images show the downed drone (L) and a map illustrating the FPV suicide drone attack carried out by KIA and PDF terrorists.

KIA and PDF terrorists perpetrated destructive acts with the intention of undermining regional development, disrupting the government's administrative mechanisms, and destabilizing peace and security in the region. They planted mines and carried out bomb attacks targeting infra-

structure such as roads, bridges, schools, and hospitals, launched rocket attacks and used drones to drop bombs.

Yesterday morning, combined terrorist groups launched attacks against the Myitkyina Airport and its vicinity area in Panti Ward, Myitkyina in Kachin

State, using FPV suicide drones. Meanwhile, security forces for air defence detected such attacks and were able to eliminate the drones in advance. Therefore, the drones did not explode within the airport but crashed onto the ground near the runway and surrounding areas. Secu-

riety forces then systematically deactivated the explosive devices carried by the drones to ensure public safety. There were no casualties and no damage to buildings or the runway.

Targeting an airport, an essential facility that helps transport for people and goods, is a

sign of committing a war crime under the Geneva Conventions and international law, and the people strongly condemned their actions. Security forces cooperate with people to investigate the terrorists who brutally committed such destructive actions. — MNA/KTZH

Public urged to use 191 app for rapid emergency and fire response



The Myanmar Fire Brigade Headquarters Command and Control Centre conducts the monitoring.

ACCORDING to U Thein Tun Oo, Director of the Fire Services Department, in addition to fires, the public may request assistance through the Fire Services Department's 191 application in the event of other emergencies.

"In the case of fires as

well as other emergencies, people can use the Fire Services Department's 191 application to request assistance. By using the 191 application, rescue operations can be carried out more swiftly at the scene of the emergency. The application 191 can be easily

downloaded from the Google Play Store. To ensure that reports of emergencies submitted through 191 are received and responded to promptly, Command and Control Centres have been established at the headquarters of the Myanmar Fire Brigade to monitor and oversee operations," said U Thein Tun Oo, Director of the Fire Services Department.

At present, more than 50,000 people, including members of the Myanmar Fire Brigade, social welfare and rescue organizations, and members of the public, are using the application 191. Smoke-detection cameras are reportedly installed across various regions and states to enable real-time monitoring of fire outbreaks, according to the Myanmar Fire Brigade Headquarters. — ASH/MKKS

Bereaved family receives THB800,000 payout from Thai employer

THE Labour Attaché Office (Bangkok) has reported that an employer paid 800,000 baht in compensation to the family of a Myanmar migrant worker who died in a construction site accident in Chachoengsao, Thailand.

Regarding the death of the Myanmar worker, U Naing Win, the Labour Office notified the Thai Department of Employment on 9 February. Officials, accompanied by the deceased's relatives, coordinated with the local police station to handle the necessary legal procedures.

After meeting with the bereaved family members to negotiate compensation, the employer offered THB800,000, which the family accepted, resolving the matter.

The Labour Attaché Office advises Myanmar migrant workers that if any of their labour rights are violated, they can contact the call centre: 02 0030015, Labour Attaché (Bangkok): 06 18108454, 06 26890119, 06 52206952, Labour Attaché (Mae Sot): 06 52206953, Labour Attaché (Chiang Mai): 09 45866607, and Labour Attaché (Ranong): 06 34818121. — MT/ZN

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NATIONAL

Imported battery vehicles, machinery, and spare parts exempt from customs duty

THE Ministry of Finance and Revenue reduced customs tariff to zero on imported battery-operated special-purpose vehicles, municipal vehicles, machinery, related components and spare parts.

According to the ministry's notification 19/2026, to encourage the number of EV users and improve the related business, the customs tariff rates set on imported battery electric vehicles (BEVs), municipal vehicles and machineries, related components and spare parts having of technical verification by the Ministry of Electric Power and recommendation by the Ministry of Industry in the Myanmar Customs Tariff 2022 have been reduced to zero per cent in accordance with the decision of the Union Government.

The special-purpose vehicles and municipal vehicles and machinery are crane lorries, mobile drilling derrick lorries,

concrete mixer lorries, motor breakdown lorries, lorries, fitted with ladder or elevator platform, mobile clinic (medical or dental), mobile bakeries, mobile banks, travelling libraries and mobile showrooms, Bitumen distributor trucks, lorries used for cleansing streets, lorries, cesspool emptiers, spraying lorries, excavators, bulldozers, wheel loaders, vibratory rollers, clamp loaders, motor graders, road rollers compactor, bridge cranes, gantry cranes, tower cranes, piling machines, crawler drills, crawler cranes, overhead travelling cranes, mobile cranes, rough-terrain cranes, forklifts, boom lifts, asphalt finishers, angledozers, stacking machines (rack stacker), stacking machines (reach stacker), scrapers, tamping machines, coal or rock cutters, mechanical shovels, self-propelled shovel loaders, well sinking or boring machines and loader transporter.

The zero per cent customs duty applies to those related components and spare parts: traction battery packs, electric traction motors, the battery management system (BMS), drive control unit (DCU), DC-DC converters, electrical circuit breaker For EV or disconnect parts, charge ports, portable EV chargers, on-board chargers, power inverters, EV connectors, high voltage harness, controllers, the battery cooling system (Thermal), charging cables and charging adapters.

Therefore, importers can enjoy tax exemption under the EBVD - Exemption Battery EV Ministry. Exemption code in the MACS system until 31 March 2026, while bringing in the aforementioned goods.

Individuals can enquire through the Helpdesk Section at 01 379429 and the Export/Import Supervision Department. — NN/KK

CBM to inject US\$30M in fuel oil sector



Greenbacks are seen at the money changer counter.

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) announced on 11 February that it would pump US\$30 million into the fuel oil sector.

Additionally, CBM sold \$851,000 to edible oil-importing companies, after selling over 737,600 yuan and over 1.45 million baht in the foreign exchange market on the same day.

CBM continued to inject over 94,120 yuan and 4.9 million baht into the market, along with selling over \$481,400 to edible oil-importing countries on 10 February.

CBM pumped \$945,800 into the edible oil import sector after selling \$190,000, 527,288 yuan and 2.255 million baht on 9 February.

CBM sold over \$1.366 million to edible oil-importing

companies on 6 February, along with an injection of \$24,287 and over 2.54 million baht into the market.

CBM sold over \$43 million, 65 million baht and over four million yuan in January 2026.

CBM aims to curb 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

TTI to open export business startup course on 23-27 Feb

THE Trade Training Institute (TTI) of the Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce will offer intensive training on how to start an export business (batch 19) from 9 am to 4 pm on 23-27 February 2026.

The institute is located at

228/240, the corner of Strand Road and Shwebontha Street. The maximum number of trainees is 50. Trainees can register at the institute, providing an application form, three licensed photos, a bachelor's degree certificate, a matriculation

pass certificate, a citizenship scrutiny card and other related documents.

Individuals can enquire about details through the contact numbers of the Institute at 01 8250871, 09 795308195, and 09 442134380. — NN/KK

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

Issued at 7 pm Thursday 12 February 2026

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is a few clouds over the North Bay of Bengal and partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 13 February 2026: Isolated light rains are likely in Taninthayi Region and Kachin State. The degree of certainty is 60 per cent. Weather will be generally fair in Bago, Lower Sagaing, Ayeyawady Regions and Chin State and partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States.

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

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

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 13 February 2026: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 13 February 2026: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 13 February 2026: A few clouds. — DMH

First-ever monthly support scheme for veteran theatrical artistes

THE first donation for senior Thabin artistes aged 90 years and above has begun, and the plan will continue monthly, according to the Myanmar Theatrical Association (Central).

The association has planned to provide monthly financial support of K100,000 each to elderly Thabin artists aged 90 years and above across Myanmar.

At present, financial

support has been started giving based on data collected by respective regional or state Thabin associations. The association said it will make sure a long-term plan is in place that will operate in the interest of the fund.

It has also urged donors to contact its phone numbers 01 3640982, 01 3640983 and 01 3640985 for sending contributions. — MT/ZS



Monthly financial support being delivered to senior theatrical artistes.

OPINION

Initiate AI-based radio broadcasting for audiences

As radio remains the most widely consumed medium at the global level, it has been occupying the position of a powerful medium for celebrating humanity in all its diversity and constitutes a platform for democratic discourse in successive eras till today. Even developed countries cannot discard the activities of radio broadcasting in their societies due to the significant advantages of radio.

Especially, radio is essential for developing countries and underdeveloped countries in their daily routine. It is because radio can influence society with its broadcasting in a timely manner whenever any incidents are reported to the audience. Currently, radio stands at a moment of transformation where AI can help strengthen its core mission: informing, educating, and entertaining.

UNESCO's World Radio Day, which falls on 13 February 2026, encourages stations to approach AI as an opportunity for growth

and innovation, while preserving the warmth, reliability, and human touch that audiences value. To use AI responsibly, broadcasters need a thoughtful strategy rather than just technology. This includes creating ethical internal policies, protecting privacy and data ownership, ensuring transparency, and handling generative audio with care. It also means investing in staff skills and collaboration and putting legal and security safeguards in place to manage emerging risks.

In Myanmar society, FM radio stations are still providing education, information and entertainment to the listeners well. As a great chance, FM stations serve their people with people's initiative with their organizational efforts to timely inform the people about any significant events and incidents. Due to the initiatives, any audience, including ordinary people, city taxi drivers, members of voluntary organizations, charity organizations and governmental departments can send any types of information to these FM stations, which air the information to the people in their areas in time. Such a bilateral reporting system can be implemented to broadcast urgent information and emergency cases without delay.

As the entire world is engaging in artificial intelligence (AI) technology, not only FM radio stations of Myanmar but also any other work processes need to improve their outcomes with great efforts to be able to keep abreast of the same industries.

As such, UNESCO encourages broadcasters and audio creators worldwide to reflect on how AI is reshaping radio production in line with this year's theme, "Radio and Artificial Intelligence", on World Radio Day.

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THE NEW DOER AND THE LIFELONG LEARNER

By AUGUSTIN

IN THE first part of this article, I want to talk about how we face the difficulties in our lives. I have written an interesting comparison between the Buddhist concept of Kamma and Western Philosophy. Using the Myanmar saying, "The New Doer and the Old Receiver," I explain how we can learn from the past and plant "good seeds" for our future.

In the second part, I will explain why education is the most important thing for everyone by using a Myanmar proverb. Based on the saying, "One is never too old to learn," I encourage everyone to keep learning and studying throughout their entire lives.

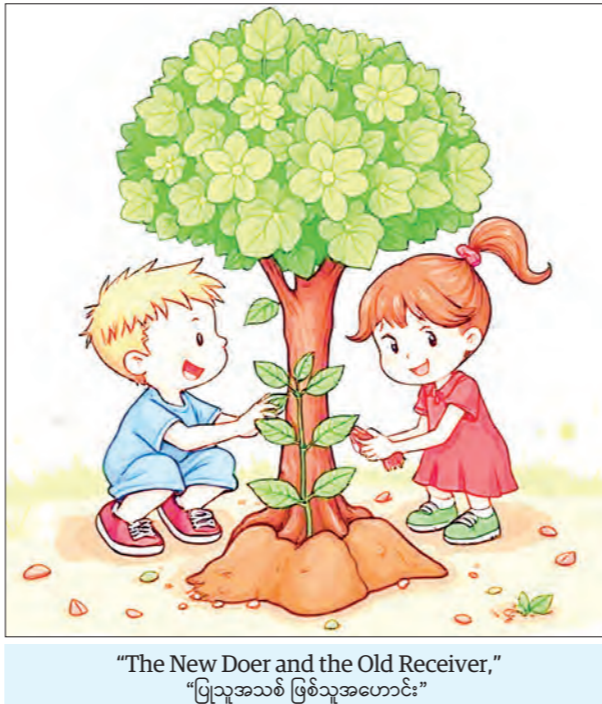
I wrote this article for foreign readers who are studying the Myanmar language, so I have presented it in a bilingual format using both Myanmar and English.

"The New Doer and the Old Receiver,"

"ပြုသူအသစ် ဖြစ်သူအဟောင်း" ကျွန်တော်/ကျွန်မတို့ရဲ့ ဘဝမှာ 'ဘာကြောင့် ဒီလိုအခက်အခဲ ဆင်းရဲဒုက္ခတွေနဲ့ ကြုံတွေ့နေရတာလဲ' ဆိုပြီး တစ်ခါတလေ တွေးမိတတ်ကြပါတယ်။ တကယ်တော့ ဒီမေးခွန်းရဲ့ အဖြေက ထင်ထားတာထက် ပိုပြီး ရှိရင်းပါတယ်။ အခု ကိုယ်ကြုံနေရတဲ့ ကံကောင်းခြင်း၊ ကံဆိုးခြင်းဆိုတာ အရင်က စိုက်ခဲ့တဲ့ မျိုးစေ့တွေ အသီး က လာသီးတာပါ။ ဒါပေမဲ့ စိတ်မယှက်ပါနဲ့။ အခု လက်ရှိ ကိုယ်တွေ့နေတဲ့အတွေ့၊ ပြောနေတဲ့စကား၊ လုပ်နေတဲ့ အလုပ်တွေ ကတော့ "မျိုးစေ့အသစ်" တွေပါ။ အခု ကောင်းတာလုပ်ရင် ကောင်းတဲ့အပင်ပေါက်မယ်။ မကောင်းတာ လုပ်ရင် တော့ ဆူးချုပ်ပင် ပေါက်မှာပေါ့။ အတိတ်ကို ပြင်လိုမရတော့ပေမဲ့ အနာဂတ်ကိုတော့ အခု "ပြုသူအသစ်" အနေနဲ့ ကိုယ်တိုင် ဖန်တီးလို့ရပါတယ်။ ဒီနေ့မှာ မျိုးစေ့ကောင်းလေးတွေပဲ ရွေးစိုက်ကြရအောင်။

"အကျိုးဆိုတာ အကြောင်းကြောင့်ဖြစ်တယ်" ဆိုတဲ့ သဘောတရားကို ကျင့်သုံးကြရပါမယ်။ ဒီနေ့စိုက်တဲ့ မျိုးစေ့၊ နက်ဖြန်ရမယ့် အသီးအပွင့် ဖြစ်ပါမယ်။ အခု ကျွန်တော်တို့ ကမ္ဘာကြီးမှာ မြင်နေရတဲ့ ရာသီဥတု အခြေအနေတွေကနေ ကမ္ဘာ့ရေးရာ နိုင်ငံရေး တွေ အထိ အရာအားလုံးဟာ လွန်ခဲ့တဲ့ နှစ်ပေါင်းများစွာကတည်းက စိုက်ပျိုးခဲ့တဲ့ "မျိုးစေ့" တွေရဲ့ ရလဒ်တွေပဲ ဖြစ်ပါတယ်။ အတိတ်က လုပ်ရပ်တွေကို အခုအချိန်မှာ အသီးအပွင့်တွေအဖြစ် ပေါ်ထွက် လာတာပါ။ ရာသီဥတုအရေးကို ကြည့်မယ်ဆိုရင်လည်း အရင်က စည်းကမ်းမဲ့ ထုတ်လွှတ်ခဲ့တဲ့ ညစ်ညမ်းတဲ့ ဓာတ်ငွေ့တွေကြောင့် အခုအချိန်မှာ အပူချိန်တွေတက်၊ မိုးလေဝသတွေ ဖောက်ပြန်ကုန်တာပေါ့။ ဒါပေမဲ့ အခုအချိန်မှာ ကျွန်တော်တို့က Green Energy (သန့်စင်စွမ်းအင်) တို့ ရေရှည် စဉ်ဆက်မပြတ် ကောင်းမွန်တဲ့ ပတ်ဝန်းကျင်မှာ နေထိုင်ခြင်း (Sustainable Living) တို့ဆိုတဲ့ မျိုးစေ့ကောင်းတွေကို ပြောင်းလဲစိုက်ပျိုးမယ်ဆိုရင် နောက်နောင်မှာ ကျန်းမာစိပြည်တဲ့ ကမ္ဘာမြေကြီးကို ပြန်လည်ပိုင်ဆိုင်ခွင့် ရကြမှာပါ။

ငြိမ်းချမ်းရေးကိစ္စမှာလည်း ထို့အတူတူပါပဲ။ အတိတ်က အချင်းချင်း မယုံကြည်မှုတွေ၊ အတ္တတွေကနေ ဒီနေ့ခေတ်မှာ စစ်ပွဲတွေနဲ့ ပဋိပက္ခတွေ ဖြစ်လာစေတာပါ။ တကယ်လို့ အခုအချိန်က စပြီး စည်းလုံးမှု (unity) နဲ့ အပြန်အလှန် လေးစားမှု (mutual respect) တွေကိုသာ အလေးထားမယ်ဆိုရင် အနာဂတ်မှာ ကမ္ဘာကြီး ငြိမ်းချမ်းသွားမှာ အသေအချာပါပဲ။ နည်းပညာနဲ့ AI ကဏ္ဍမှာလည်း အရင်က လူတွေရဲ့ တီထွင်လိုစိတ်တွေကနေ ဒီနေ့ခေတ်မှာ Automation (အလိုအလျောက်စနစ်) တွေ ဖြစ်လာပြီ။ အခုအချိန်မှာ Ethical AI (ကျင့်ဝတ်နဲ့ညီတဲ့ AI) မျိုးစေ့ကိုသာ စနစ်တကျ စိုက်ပျိုးကြမယ်ဆိုရင် နည်းပညာဟာ လူသားတွေကို တကယ်ကို အကျိုးပြုမယ့် လက်နက်ကိရိယာတစ်ခု ဖြစ်လာမှာပါ။



"The New Doer and the Old Receiver," "ပြုသူအသစ် ဖြစ်သူအဟောင်း"

စိတ်နဲ့ရုပ် ဆက်စပ်မှု ဒဿနတွေကိုပါ နက်နက်ရှိုင်းရှိုင်း လေ့လာခဲ့သူလည်း ဖြစ်ပါတယ်။

အနောက်တိုင်းက Aristotle က "ဘာမှ အကြောင်းမဲ့ မဖြစ်ဘူး" (Nothing comes from nothing) ဆိုတဲ့ နိယာမ (Rationalism အကြောင်းယုတ္တိဝါဒ) ကို လက်ခံပါတယ်။ ဒါဟာ ပဋိစ္စသမုပ္ပါဒ်ရဲ့ "ဤအကြောင်းကြောင့် ဤအကျိုးဖြစ်သည်" ဆိုတာနဲ့ သဘောတူပါတယ်။

ဒါပေမဲ့ ဗုဒ္ဓဘာသာကတော့ ဒီအကြောင်းအကျိုး နိယာမ (ပဋိစ္စသမုပ္ပါဒ်) ကို သိအိုရိသက်သက်ထက် ဒုက္ခက လွတ်မြောက်ရေးအတွက် လက်တွေ့ကျကျ ကျင့်ကြံအားထုတ်ရမည့် လမ်းစဉ်တစ်ခုအဖြစ် ဖော်ပြထားပါတယ်။

(အရစ္စတိုတယ် ဆိုသူဟာ ဆရာထက် ထူးချွန်တဲ့သူဖြစ်ပြီး နာမည်ကြီး ဒဿနိကဗေဒပညာရှင် ပလေတို (Plato) ဆိုတာပညာခံခဲ့တာပါ။ ကမ္ဘာကို သိမ်းပိုက်ခဲ့တဲ့ အလက်ဇန္ဒားသည်ဂရိတ် (Alexander the Great) ရဲ့ ငယ်ဆရာလည်း ဖြစ်ပါတယ်။ ဥရောပနဲ့ အနောက်နိုင်ငံတွေရဲ့ ဒီနေ့ခေတ် သင်ကြားနေတဲ့ ဘာသာရပ်တော်တော်များများရဲ့ အခြေခံအုတ်မြစ်ကို သူကပဲ ချဲ့ပေးခဲ့တာပါ။)

The New Doer and the Old Receiver

Have you ever asked yourself, "Why is this happening to me?" The answer is simple.

The good or bad luck you are experiencing right now is the fruit of the seeds you planted in the past.

But do not be discouraged. Your current thoughts, words, and actions are "new seeds".

If you do good now, good things will grow; if you do bad, only thorns will sprout.

While you cannot fix the past, you can create your own future as a "new doer."

Let's choose to plant only good seeds today, based on the principle that "every effect has a cause".

The seeds we plant today become the fruits of tomorrow. Everything we see in the world now — from climate change to global politics — is the result of seeds planted years ago.

Our past actions are now appearing as consequences. For example, the rising temperatures and erratic



"One is never too old to learn" "ပညာလို အိုသည်မရှိ"

weather we face are due to the pollution we mindlessly released in the past.

However, if we start planting good seeds like green energy and sustainable living today, we can reclaim a healthy, green planet in the future.

The same applies to peace. Past distrust and ego have led to today's wars and conflicts.

If we prioritize unity and mutual respect starting now, the world will surely become peaceful.

Even in technology and AI, past innovation has led to today's automation. If we systematically plant the seeds of ethical AI now, technology will become a powerful tool that truly benefits humanity.

In Buddhism, Kamma is not "fatalism" or a fixed destiny. Instead, it is the "power of new action", something you have the right to create yourself.

While you cannot change "old kamma", your current intentions and actions can transform your future. Modern scientists and philosophers like David Bohm also emphasize this through the logic of interconnectivity, suggesting that nothing happens without a reason.

Western thinkers, starting from Aristotle, have long

accepted the rationalist principle that "nothing comes from nothing."

This aligns with the Buddhist concept of Paticcasamuppada (Dependent Origination), which states that "this effect exists because of this cause."

However, Buddhism treats this law of cause and effect as more than just a theory; it is presented as a practical path to truly liberate oneself from suffering.

One is never too old to learn"

"ပညာလို အိုသည်မရှိ" မြန်မာဆိုရိုးစကားတစ်ခုဖြစ်တဲ့ "ပညာလို အိုသည်မရှိ" ဆိုတဲ့ စကားဟာ ရှေးကတည်းက ရှိခဲ့တာဖြစ်ပေမဲ့ ယနေ့ခေတ် Digital ခေတ်ကြီးမှာ ပိုပြီးတော့တောင် အဓိပ္ပာယ်လေးနက်လာပါတယ်။ ပညာရှာတယ်ဆိုတာ အသက်အရွယ်နဲ့ မဆိုင်ပါဘူး။ ဘယ်အရွယ်ပဲရောက်ရောက် အမြဲတမ်း အသစ်အသစ်တွေကို လေ့လာနေဖို့ အားပေးချင်တာ ဖြစ်ပါတယ်။

လောကမှာ သင်ယူရာ အတတ်ပညာတွေဟာ သမုဒ္ဓရာရေပြင်လိုပဲ အဆုံးမရှိပါဘူး။ လူတစ်ယောက်ဟာ တွဲတစ်ခုရရှိ အလုပ်တစ်ခုရရှိနဲ့ ပညာသင်ယူမှု ရပ်တန့်သွားလို့ မရပါဘူး။ အသက် ၂၀ မှာ သင်ခဲ့တဲ့ပညာဟာ အသက် ၅၀ အရောက်မှာ ခေတ်နောက်ကျသွားနိုင်ပါတယ်။ ဒါကြောင့် ကိုယ့်ကိုယ်ကိုယ် "ငါကြီးပြီ ငါသိပြီးသားပဲ" လို့ သတ်မှတ်မထားဘဲ အသစ်သစ်သော ဗဟုသုတတွေကို ရေငတ်သလို ရှာဖွေနေဖို့ တိုက်တွန်းတာဖြစ်ပါတယ်။

စာဖတ်တာ၊ ဘာသာစကားအသစ် သင်တာ ဒါမှမဟုတ် နည်းပညာအသစ်တွေကို လေ့လာတာဟာ ဦးနှောက်ကို လေ့ကျင့်ခန်းလုပ်ပေးသလို ဖြစ်စေပြီး စိတ်ပိုင်းဆိုင်ရာကိုလည်း နုပျိုလန်းဆန်းစေပါတယ်။

ယနေ့ခေတ်မှာ နည်းပညာတွေက နေ့ချင်းညချင်း ပြောင်းလဲနေပါတယ်။ အသက်ကြီးလို့ဆိုပြီး နည်းပညာကို ကျောခိုင်းထားရင် ကိုယ့်ရဲ့ သားသမီး၊ မြေးမြစ်တွေနဲ့ ဆက်သွယ်ရခက်ခဲလာနိုင်သလို လူမှုပတ်ဝန်းကျင်နဲ့လည်း အလွမ်းဝေးသွားနိုင်ပါတယ်။ ဖုန်းအသုံးပြုနည်းကစ စနစ်တကျ သင်ယူထားမယ်ဆိုရင် ဘယ်အရွယ်ရောက်ရောက် ကိုယ်မြေထောက်ပေါက်လို့မရပါဘူး။ ယုံကြည်ချက်ရှိရှိ ရှင်သန်နိုင်မှာ ဖြစ်ပါတယ်။

ဒီဆိုရိုးစကားဟာ ကျွန်တော်တို့ကို "စူးစမ်းလိုတဲ့စိတ်" မပျောက်ပျက်အောင် သတိပေးနေတာပါ။ ပညာရှာဖို့အတွက် စိတ်အားထက်သန်မှုရှိရင် ဘယ်အချိန်မဆို စတင်လို့ရပါတယ်။

ကမ္ဘာပေါ်မှာ အသက်ကြီးမှ ပညာသင်ပြီး လူတွေကို အံ့အားသင့်စေခဲ့တဲ့ စံနမူနာရှင်တွေ အများကြီးရှိပါတယ်။ Ingeborg Rapoport က တကယ်ကို အံ့ဩဖို့ကောင်းပါတယ်။ သူဟာ ၁၉၃၈ ခုနှစ် နာဇီခေတ်တုန်းက ခွဲခြားဆက်ဆံခံခဲ့ရလို့ သူ့ရဲ့ ပါရဂူဘွဲ့ စာတမ်းကို ခုခံကာကွယ်ခွင့် မရခဲ့ပေမဲ့ လက်မလျှော့ခဲ့ပါဘူး။ နောက်ဆုံး ၂၀၁၅ ခုနှစ်၊ အသက် ၁၀၂ နှစ်အရွယ်ကျမှ အောင်မြင်စွာ ပြန်လည်ဖြေဆိုနိုင်ခဲ့ပြီး ကမ္ဘာ့အသက်အကြီးဆုံး PhD ဘွဲ့ရရှိသူအဖြစ် စံချိန်တင်နိုင်ခဲ့ပါတယ်။

ဒါ့အပြင် နယ်သာလန်နိုင်ငံက Hans van Duivendijk ဆိုတဲ့ ဘိုးဘိုးကြီးကလည်း ပညာလိုလားသူတွေအတွက် အားကျစရာပါပဲ။ သူဟာ ၂၀၂၄ ခုနှစ်၊ ဇူလိုင်လ အသက် ၉၀ အရွယ်နဲ့ ပါရဂူဘွဲ့ကို ရယူနိုင်ခဲ့တာကြောင့် သူ့ရဲ့ တက္ကသိုလ်မှာ အသက်အရွယ်မရွေး သင်ယူနိုင်တဲ့ ရှိသူအဖြစ် မှတ်တမ်းတင်သွားခဲ့ပါတယ်။ ဒီပုဂ္ဂိုလ်တွေအားလုံးဟာ ပညာသင်ယူဖို့ ဘယ်တော့မှ နောက်မကျဘူးဆိုတာကို လက်တွေ့ပြသသွားကြတာပဲ ဖြစ်ပါတယ်။

OECD ရဲ့ အစီရင်ခံစာတွေအရ အသက်ကြီးပိုင်းတွေမှာ ပညာပြန်သင်တာက အလုပ်အကိုင်အတွက်တင်မဟုတ်ဘဲ ဦးနှောက်ကို ထက်မြက်နေစေဖို့ပါ လိုအပ်လာတယ်လို့ ဆိုပါတယ်။ UNESCO က "Learning Cities" ဆိုပြီး အသက်အရွယ်မရွေး သင်ယူနိုင်တဲ့ မြို့ကွန်ရက်တွေကို ကမ္ဘာ့အနှံ့ ချဲ့ထွင်နေပါတယ်။ အထူးသဖြင့် AI (Artificial Intelligence) ခေတ်မှာ အသက် ၄၀ ကျော်သူတွေ

အတွက် Upskilling (အသိပညာ အဆင့်မြှင့်တင်ခြင်း) က မဖြစ်မနေ လုပ်ရမယ့်အရာ ဖြစ်လာပါတယ်။

အသက်ကြီးချိန်မှာ အသစ်အဆန်းတွေ သင်ယူတာက ဦးနှောက်ရဲ့ flexibility ကို ကောင်းစေပြီး Alzheimer's (အယ်လ်ဇိုင်းမား) လို မှတ်ဉာဏ်ချို့ယွင်းတဲ့ ရောဂါတွေကို အထိရောက်ဆုံးကာကွယ်ပေးနိုင်ပါတယ်။ ဒါတင်မကဘဲ နည်းပညာတတ်မြောက်ထားရင် သားသမီး၊ မြေးမြစ်တွေနဲ့ အဆက်အသွယ်မပြတ်တော့ဘဲ အထီးကျန်ဝေဒနာကိုလည်း ဖြေဖျောက်နိုင်ပါတယ်။

The Myanmar proverb "One is never too old to learn" has existed for a long time, but it has become even more meaningful in today's digital age.

Seeking knowledge has nothing to do with age; rather, it is about encouraging yourself to keep learning new things, no matter how old you are.

In this world, the skills and knowledge available to learn are as vast as the ocean. A person's education shouldn't stop just because they earned a degree or landed a job.

What you learned at age 20 might become outdated by the time you reach 50. Therefore, instead of thinking, "I'm old" or "I already know everything", we should stay hungry for new knowledge and explore it constantly.

Activities like reading, learning a new language, or exploring technology serve as a workout for the brain and keep the spirit feeling young and fresh.

In our modern era, technology changes overnight. If you turn your back on technology just because of your age, you might find it difficult to communicate with your children and grandchildren, and you could feel disconnected from society.

By learning the basics — even just how to use a smartphone properly — you can live independently and confidently at any age.

This proverb serves as a reminder to never lose our sense of curiosity. As long as you have the passion, you can start learning at any time.

Many inspiring people have surprised the world by pursuing education later in life. Ingeborg Rapoport is a truly amazing example.

After being denied the chance to defend her doctoral thesis in 1938 due to Nazi discrimination, she never gave up. In 2015, at the age of 102, she finally completed her defence and became the oldest person in the world to receive a PhD.

Similarly, Hans van Duivendijk from the Netherlands earned his doctorate at age 90 in June 2024, becoming the oldest graduate at his university. These individuals prove that it is never too late to learn.

According to reports from the OECD, continuing education in older age is essential not just for employment, but for keeping the brain sharp.

UNESCO is even expanding a global network of "Learning Cities" to support education for all ages. Especially in the era of Artificial Intelligence (AI), "upskilling" has become a necessity for those over 40.

Learning new things in later life improves brain flexibility and is one of the most effective ways to prevent memory-related illnesses like Alzheimer's.

Furthermore, staying tech-savvy helps seniors stay connected with their families, effectively overcoming the pain of loneliness.

NATIONAL

3 hospitals to kick off Hepatitis B screening in Apr for Triple EMTCT push

STARTING from April 2026, Hepatitis B screening and treatment services will be initiated at three hospitals to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV, Syphilis, and Hepatitis B, according to the Ministry of Health.

The announcement was made by Dr Myat Wunna Soe, director general of the Union Minister's Office and the Department of Public Health, during a coordination meeting on the elimination of mother-to-child transmission (EMTCT) of HIV, Syphilis, and Hepatitis B, organized by the AIDS and STD Control Division of the ministry.

He stated that under the leadership and guidance of the



The Department of Public Health, under the Ministry of Health holds a coordination meeting on Triple EMTCT at the Amara Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

ministry, the department is already working toward the elimination of HIV and Syphilis transmission from mother to child by 2030. To further this goal, the ministry will implement Triple Elimination (Triple EMTCT) by including the prevention of Hepatitis B transmission.

Three selected locations are the central women's hospitals in Yangon, Mandalay, and Nay Pyi Taw. Pregnant women receiving prenatal care at these hospitals will be screened for Hepatitis B. Those who test positive will receive viral load testing and necessary medical treatment starting in April. — MT/ZN

Doh Eain to hold poster competition as part of heritage preservation project



An announcement for the upcoming poster competition.

AS part of the women-led heritage preservation project funded by the German Embassy to Myanmar (with support of the German Federal Foreign Office), Doh Eain is reportedly organizing a poster competition.

Participants can choose one of the two themes: 1) Heritage through my eyes to create posters that express personal experiences

and meanings, and 2) Identifying local cultural heritage values to create posters for locations, traditions, food, architecture, or buildings that one wishes to preserve.

It is open to individuals aged 18 to 40 with only one poster entry per person. The work must be an original creation that reflects the chosen theme and each entry must include a brief description of the poster (maximum 50 words) in either Myanmar or English. Participants are advised to avoid creating sensitive content.

Three winners will be selected for cash prizes and certificates while the top 10 finalists will have their work featured in an exhibition. Detailed information will be sent to the finalists by 5 March. Submissions are open at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSea0hVz-BUOIXRXhdWWA0RbFEBXfgffQF6OW1i-Fyg8-dQAV5Gg/viewform> from 10 to 28 February.

Hand-drawn or hard-copy posters can be delivered to the Doh Eain Office before the deadline and contact number for further inquiries is 09 5044509. Each submission must include personal details, the poster title, the chosen theme, and the 50-word description. — MT/ZN

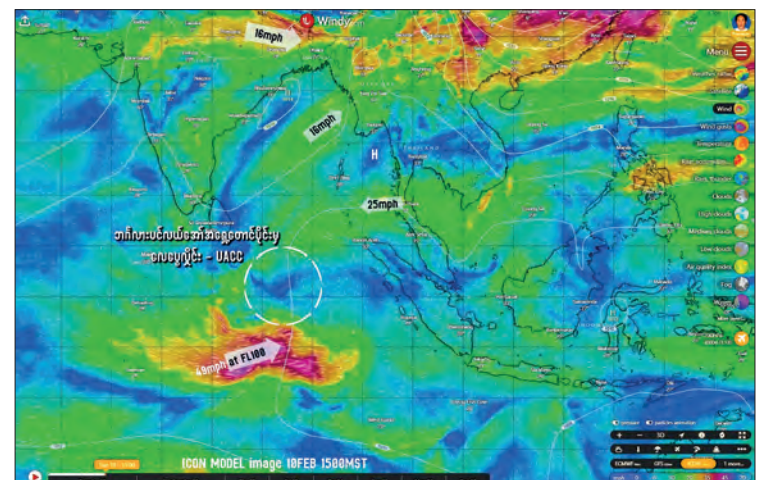
Low-pressure area forecast to bring rain across Myanmar

DUE to a tropical wave near the equator in the South Bay of Bengal, a low-pressure cell can develop and it is expected to bring scattered rain to several cities in southern and central Myanmar.

A midday bulletin issued on 11 February by the Southern Myanmar Meteorological News forecast that a tropical wave entering from the Gulf of Thailand will develop into a low pressure area on 21-22 February, which may move toward Southern India or Sri Lanka.

The Department of Mete-

orology and Hydrology forecast on 11 February: partly to very cloudy skies in the South Andaman Sea and South Bay of Bengal; above average rainfall in Taninthayi, Kayin, Mon, and Shan (South and East) with heavy rain for two to three days; below average rainfall in Magway, Sagaing, Kachin, Chin, Rakhine, and Shan (North); normal rainfall (thundershowers) in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Ayeyawady, and Kayah with heavy rain for one day. — Htun Htun/ZN



Map showing the tropical wave near the equator in the South-East Bay of Bengal.

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Ancient Vietnamese village opens doors for tourists to explore Lunar New Year customs

At the heart of the village, Nguyet's ancient house, built in 1674, once belonged to a high-ranking education official of the former Son Tay province.

CAREFULLY wrapping fresh ingredients inside thin rice paper, Do Thi Minh Nguyet instructs foreign visitors on how to make spring rolls inside her centuries-old home in Hanoi's Duong Lam ancient village as the festive season approaches.

Amid laughter, sizzling pans and the aroma of fresh herbs, the simple cooking class offers tourists an intimate glimpse into a

traditional Lunar New Year dish of northern Vietnam, turning the ancient house into a living bridge between rural Vietnam's past and present.

Located on the outskirts of Hanoi, Duong Lam is widely regarded as one of Vietnam's best-preserved ancient villages, home to nearly 1,000 traditional houses built from laterite stone and wood. Tucked among wind-



Located about 45-50 kilometres west of Hanoi, Duong Lam Ancient Village is a "living museum" of traditional Northern Vietnamese rural life. It was the first village in Vietnam to be recognized as a National Cultural and Historical Relic in 2005. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ASIA PACIFIC TRAVEL**

ing lanes and communal courtyards, the village has retained much of its original rural landscape despite rapid urbanization surrounding the capital. In 2006, Duong Lam became Vietnam's first ancient village recognized

as a national cultural and historical relic.

While preserving their ancestral homes, Duong Lam's residents have gradually opened their doors to visitors, offering hands-on cultural experiences

and traditional meals.

At the heart of the village, Nguyet's ancient house, built in 1674, once belonged to a high-ranking education official of the former Son Tay province. — Xinhua



The trailer signals the return of Chris Pratt as Mario in a new galaxy spanning sequel, expanding the franchise beyond the Mushroom Kingdom into interstellar settings. **PHOTO: ANI**

Chris Pratt returns in cosmic Mario sequel trailer

THE Mushroom Kingdom is trading its green pipes for the stars. During the 2026 Super Bowl clash between the Seattle Seahawks and the New England Patriots, Universal Pictures and Nintendo officially launched the "Level Up" trailer for 'The Super Mario Galaxy Movie', confirming a theatrical rollout beginning 1 April 2026, as per the Hollywood Reporter.

Directed by Aaron Horvath and Michael Jelenic,

the sequel to the blockbuster follows Mario (Chris Pratt) and Luigi (Charlie Day) as they venture into outer space alongside Princess Peach (Anya Taylor-Joy) and Toad (Keegan-Michael Key).

The footage posted by the makers on their official social media handles, highlights new gravitational mechanics, showing the heroes running upside down in space suits as they navigate the cosmos. — ANI

Britney Spears sells rights to her music catalog: US media

US singer Britney Spears has become the latest musician to sell the rights to her catalog that includes hits like "...Baby One More Time" and "Oops!...I Did It Again," US media reported Tuesday.

The deal is believed to be worth around \$200 million, according to sources cited by celebrity site TMZ, though it said the exact amount is not detailed in legal documents.

That sum would be comparable to the sale of Canadian singer Justin Bieber's catalog in 2023. Spears, 44, joins a growing list of artistes who have sold their music rights in recent years including Bruce Springsteen and Bob Dylan, as well as Shakira and KISS. US media reported that the rights were bought by music publisher Primary Wave, whose portfolio includes the works of Whitney Houston, Bob Marley, Prince and others.

Owners of a song's pub-



Spears shot to fame in the late 1990s but has largely stepped back from the music scene. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

lishing rights receive payment for every broadcast, album sale or use in advertising and films.

The growing music rights

market allows artists to monetize their catalogs, which are attractive long-term assets for investors in the streaming era. — AFP

ECONOMY WORLD



El Palito refinery is a hydrocarbon refining complex located in the municipality of Puerto Cabello, near the town of El Palito in the state of Carabobo, Venezuela. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

US pushes for 'dramatic increase' in Venezuela oil output

After talks with Rodriguez, Wright described US-Venezuela relations as "at a pivot in history" to reporters.

US Energy Secretary Chris Wright vowed Wednesday to power a "dramatic increase" in Venezuelan oil output as part of a plan to "make the Americas great again".

Wright met interim leader Delcy Rodriguez in Caracas, becoming the highest-ranking US official to visit Venezuela since US special forces captured and overthrew socialist leader Nicolas Maduro on 3 January.

After talks with Rodriguez, who took over from Maduro

and has struck a cooperative relationship with US President Donald Trump, Wright told reporters relations between the nations were "at a pivot in history".

"I believe we will see an absolutely dramatic turn in the trajectory of this nation, in the state of the relationship between Venezuela and the United States, and in the business conditions in the hemisphere for commerce and trade," he added.

In a meeting earlier with

Rodriguez and oil industry executives, Wright insisted Trump was "passionately committed" to transforming ties between the two former foes.

Rodriguez said she supported a "long-term productive partnership" that was "beneficial to both countries." Trump approved former vice-president Rodriguez's replacement of Maduro on the condition she complies with his demands on access to Venezuela's vast oil resources, and on easing state repression. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Japan minister seeks "in-depth" talks with US

JAPANESE trade minister Ryosei Akazawa on Wednesday expressed hope to hold "in-depth" discussions with his US counterpart on finalizing the first project under a \$550 billion investment plan agreed as part of a bilateral tariff deal.

At Tokyo's Haneda airport before his departure to the United States, Akazawa told reporters that if he reaches an agreement with US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick, he will announce it "as soon as possible".

Akazawa led Japan-US tariff negotiations as economic revitalization minister under former Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba. His trip marks his first visit to the United States as trade minister under Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, Ishiba's immediate successor. — Kyodo



Photo taken on 6 October 2021 shows the world's largest container vessel "Ever Ace" at the Colombo Port in the Sri Lankan capital. **PHOTO: AJITH PERERA/XINHUA/FILE**

Sri Lanka launches consultations on tariff reforms

SRI Lanka has launched consultations on a new tariff structure aimed at strengthening domestic production and boosting exports as part of its 2026 budget reforms, the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development said on Wednesday.

The stakeholder engagement process seeks to raise awareness of a proposed Four-Band Tariff Policy and gather input from businesses and trade

bodies, the ministry said.

The ministry said the reforms are designed to simplify the tariff system, support local industries, improve fiscal sustainability, and facilitate trade.

The new structure has been drafted in line with the United Nations Broad Economic Classification standards to ensure international consistency and promote export competitiveness, according to the ministry. — Xinhua



The project is a partnership with the Swedish firm EcoDataCentre and is designed to strengthen European technological sovereignty in the artificial intelligence sector. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/PIXABAY**

French AI firm Mistral to build data centres in Sweden

FRENCH AI developer Mistral said Wednesday that it would build data centres in Sweden, its first outside France, as it races to compete with the sector's biggest names.

The 1.2 billion euro (\$1.4 billion) investment is "a major step toward Europe's technological independence", Mistral said, of-

fering "a completely European AI solution".

One of Europe's leading lights in artificial intelligence, Mistral has posted revenues far behind those of American competitors such as OpenAI and Anthropic, though profitability remains elusive for most of the sector.

But Mistral's European DNA may prove to be an advantage, with technological sovereignty increasingly on leaders' minds.

It has focussed in particular on business clients and applications, and not chatbots like ChatGPT or Claude that target everyday users. — AFP

US House lawmakers vote to reject Trump's tariffs on Canadian goods

THE Republican-controlled US House of Representatives voted on Wednesday to reject President Donald Trump's tariffs on Canada.

Lawmakers voted 219 to 211 in favor of a resolution to end slapping punitive tariffs on Canadian goods under the pretext of national emergency, according to local media reports.

Though the vote is largely symbolic as the resolution still needs to be approved by the US Senate and then by Trump himself, it shows

the lawmakers are caught between voting to "lower the cost of living for the American family" or "keep prices high out of loyalty to one person — Donald J Trump," said Democrat Representative Gregory Meeks, who authored the resolution.

During the House voting process, Trump threatened on his social media: "Any Republican, in the House or the Senate, that votes against TARIFFS will seriously suffer the consequences come Election time." — AFP



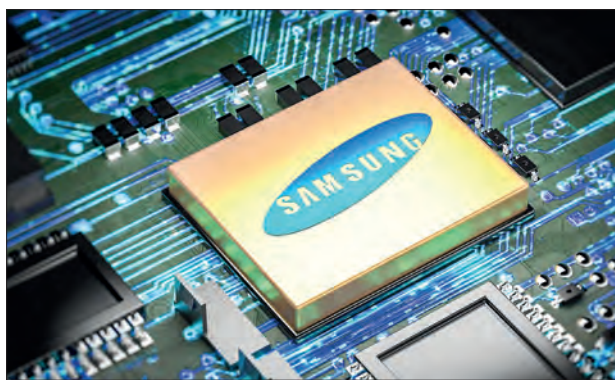
Hundreds of Canadian workers, many in the steel and aluminium sectors, have been laid off as a result of US President Donald Trump's tariffs. PHOTO: CHAMBER.CA

Samsung starts mass production of next-gen AI memory chip

SAMSUNG Electronics announced Thursday it had started mass production of next-generation memory chips to power artificial intelligence, touting an "industry-leading" breakthrough.

The high-bandwidth HBM4 chips are seen as a key component needed to scale-up the vast data centres powering the explosion in artificial intelligence.

US tech giant Nvidia



The high-bandwidth HBM4 chips are seen as a key component needed to scale-up the vast data centres powering the explosion in artificial intelligence. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ AFP/FILE

— the world's most valuable company — is widely expected to be one of Samsung's main buyers. Samsung said it had "begun mass production of its industry-leading HBM4 and has shipped commercial products to customers". "This achievement marks a first in the industry, securing an early leadership position in the HBM4 market," the South Korean company said in a statement. — AFP

Pakistan's auto sales soar to 43-month high in January

PAKISTAN'S auto sales climbed to a 43-month high in January, reflecting broad-based growth across key vehicle segments, according to data released by the Pakistan Automotive Manufacturers Association (PAMA).

A significant increase in overall sales of two-, three- and four-wheelers was witnessed during the first seven months of the ongoing financial year (July 2025-January 2026), the PAMA said on Tuesday.

Sales of trucks and buses surged by 91 per cent year-on-year to 4,633 units during the same period, while motorcycles and rickshaws rose by 32 per cent to 1,103,356 units.

On a monthly basis, two- and three-wheeler sales jumped 31 per cent year-on-year and 13 per cent month-on-month to 181,790 units in January, marking an all-time high. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V TRADER VOY.NO. (XA606A)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V TRADER VOY. NO. (XA606A)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **13-2-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY S.A

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V WANEN VOY.NO. (0UVHSS1NC)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V WANEN VOY.NO. (0UVHSS1NC)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **13-2-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S CMA-CGM SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY.NO. (223N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY.NO. (223N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **13-2-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD



A nuclear submarine equipped with M51 sea-to-land ballistic missiles is seen in Cherbourg-Octeville, France on 20 March 2008. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ JEAN-PAUL BARBIER / AFP / FILE**

US pivoting from Europe to Indo-Pacific: NATO Chief

The US over time will pivot more towards the Indo-Pacific.

THE United States has been pivoting away from Europe towards the Indo-Pacific, but it is expected to keep a strong military presence in Europe in terms of both conventional and nuclear forces, NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte said on Wednesday.

“The US over time will pivot more towards the Indo-Pacific. It is totally clear, it is totally acceptable, and it is not new,” Rutte told report-

ers ahead of the NATO defence ministers’ meeting in Brussels.

He said European NATO allies expected the US to maintain the nuclear umbrella in Europe in the longer term and maintain a strong presence on the continent in terms of conventional forces.

US President Donald Trump has repeatedly accused Europe of not doing enough to defend itself. He

has criticized European allies for spending too little on defence and demanded they increase spending to five per cent of GDP. At the June NATO summit in The Hague, all the allies except Spain agreed to raise their spending target to 3.5 per cent, with another 1.5 per cent to be allocated to related areas, such as cyber security and crucial road infrastructure. — SPUTNIK

Indonesia tests using toll roads as airforce runways

THE Indonesian air force is trialling the use of toll roads as back-up runways for its aircraft to help bolster the vast archipelago’s defences, a deputy minister said.

A demonstration of two military

planes taking off and landing on a toll road was held on the western island of Sumatra on Wednesday.

The roads would provide an alternative in the event military bases are attacked, deputy defence minis-

ter Donny Ermawan Taufanto said.

He described the test as a “good milestone”, adding that a plan for building roads that double-up as runways was already in place. — AFP

Bulgaria president picks central bank official to head interim govt

BULGARIA’S president on Thursday nominated a senior central bank official to form an interim government ahead of snap elections expected in April.

The election will be the eighth in five years, after anti-corruption protests swept a conservative-led government from office in mid-December. President Iliyana Iotova

handed the mandate to form an interim government to National Bank deputy governor Andrey Gyurov, giving him one week to propose the cabinet’s composition.

“We want fair, transparent, well-prepared and well-run elections. We expect you to defend every single vote,” Iotova said, adding that the EU country faced “pressing problems”

that needed “urgent solutions”.

Gyurov said he would “make every effort to find the right people” who would “inspire calm” to “ensure fair elections”. — AFP

Official portrait of Bulgarian President Iliyana Iotova.
PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA



NEWS IN BRIEF

German court rejects claim over weapons exports

GERMANY’S highest court on Thursday threw out a case brought by a Palestinian civilian from Gaza seeking to sue the German government over its weapons exports to Israel. The complainant, supported by the European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights (ECCHR), had been seeking to challenge export licences for German parts used in Israeli tanks deployed in Gaza.

After his case was rejected by lower courts in 2024 and 2025, he had appealed to the Federal Constitutional Court. But the court in Karlsruhe dismissed the case, stating that “the complainant has not sufficiently substantiated that the specialised courts misjudged or arbitrarily denied a possible duty to protect him”. — AFP

Counting begins in landmark Bangladesh polls

COUNTING began on Thursday in Bangladesh’s first election since a deadly 2024 uprising, with powerful political heir Tarique Rahman bullish about defeating an Islamist-led coalition.

Leading prime ministerial hopeful Tarique Rahman, 60, said he was “confident” his Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) – which was crushed during the 15 years of ousted premier Sheikh Hasina’s autocratic rule – can regain power in the South Asian nation of 170 million people.

However, he faces a stiff challenge from a coalition led by the Muslim-majority country’s largest Islamist party, Jamaat-e-Islami. — AFP

Thai police arrest gunman following school shooting

THAI police confirmed on Wednesday that a gunman has been taken into custody following a school shooting earlier Wednesday in the southern province of Songkhla.

The Royal Thai Police announced on social media that the situation is now under control and all hostages previously held by the suspect have been safely rescued.

According to local media reports, the incident left at least two people injured, including the school’s principal. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Asian Cup 2026 draw unveiled for Myanmar U17

The group stage draws results have been released for the AFC U17 Men's Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2026 and the AFC U17 Women's Asian Cup China 2026, featuring both the Myanmar men's and women's U17 national teams.

The draw for the final stage of the women's cup to be hosted in China took place on 12 February in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Myanmar U17 women's team is placed in a group alongside Vietnam, Thailand, and the host China.

The competition will begin on 30 April. The top two teams from each of the three groups, along with the two best third-placed teams, will advance to the quarter-finals. The four semi-finalists will earn a spot in the 2026 FIFA U17 Women's World Cup to be held in Morocco.

The draw for the AFC U17 Men's Asian Cup (Saudi Arabia 2026) resulted in Myanmar being placed in Group A together with Saudi Arabia (host), Tajikistan, and Thailand.

The tournament will be held in Saudi Arabia from 7 to 24 May, featuring a total of 16 nations.

The eight teams that reach the quarter-finals will qualify for the 2026 FIFA U17 World Cup to be hosted by Qatar. — Htun Htun/ZN



This image captures the official draw ceremony and the final group results for the 2026 AFC U17 Asian Cup.



Switzerland's Marco Odermatt in training ahead of Saturday's Olympic downhill. PHOTO: AFP

Odermatt sets sights on Olympic giant slalom — and gold

MARCO Odermatt is the self-proclaimed leader of the Swiss men's team, but Olympic gold in Bormio has so far eluded the all-rounder, who has set his sights on rectifying that in Saturday's giant slalom.

The Swiss team has dominated the men's alpine skiing events in Bormio, Franjo von Allmen winning three golds in the downhill, super-G and team combined (along with Tanguy

Nef).

Von Allmen's performances put him in the pantheon of Olympic men's alpine skiing greats who have won three events at one Games. Only Austrian Toni Sailer, at the 1956 Winter Games, and France's Jean-Claude Killy in 1968, have achieved the feat.

Odermatt had to be content with bronze in the super-G and silver alongside Loic Meil-

lard in the team combined after coming fourth in the opening downhill.

"There are not so many things to be frustrated about," insisted Odermatt, with the Swiss men's team having won five of the nine medals on offer thus far.

Odermatt admitted, however, that there was a degree of frustration after his super-G bronze. — AFP

Japan aim to make 'new history' at Women's Asian Cup

JAPAN coach Nils Nielsen said his team "want to make new history" by winning next month's Asian Women's Cup as he named 16 England-based players in his squad on Thursday.

Japan are the only Asian country to have won the Women's World Cup but they have only lifted the Asian Cup twice in 20 editions of the competition. The last time was in 2018.

Greenlander Nielsen, the first foreign-born coach of the Japan women's team, says it is time they set the record straight when the tournament kicks off

in Australia on 1 March.

"It is not a tournament that has been easy to win for Japan historically," said the 54-year-old, who took over in December 2024.

"We want to make new history. This is why we cannot be happy until we have the final prize because we have a team that can win it". Manchester United's Hinata Miyazawa, the top scorer at the 2023 World Cup, was included in the 26-player squad, along with Manchester City pair Yui Hasegawa and Aoba Fujino. — AFP



Japan coach Nils Nielsen named his squad for the Women's Asian Cup on Thursday. PHOTO: AFP



China opposes US fabrication of pretexts for its resumption of nuclear tests

CHINA'S foreign ministry on Wednesday said that the US accusation of Chinese nuclear explosive tests is completely groundless, and that China opposes the United States' fabrication of pretexts for its own resumption of nuclear tests.

Responding to a relevant query at the ministry's press briefing, spokesperson Lin Jian said that the US's persistent distortion and slander of China's nuclear policy essentially constitute political manipulation, through which the United States aims to pursue nuclear hegemony and evade its own nuclear disarmament responsibilities.

"China firmly opposes this," Lin said, stressing that the United States is the biggest source of disruption to both the international nuclear order and global strategic stability. Lin noted that by allowing the New START Treaty to expire without renewal, the United States has severely undermined mutual trust among major countries and shaken global strategic stability. The US clings to the policy of first use of nuclear weapons, has spent trillions of dollars to upgrade its nuclear triad, and has been working to build a global anti-missile system and establish the forward deployment of its strategic assets, Lin said.

The country applies double standards when it comes to nuclear non-proliferation, seriously disrupting global strategic balance and stability, and undermining international and regional peace and security, he said. — Xinhua

Russia remains India's primary oil supplier despite decline in volumes

This sustains economic benefits and positions Russia to maintain its leading role in energy supplies to India.



A train transporting oil to the Guwahati refinery (India), 30 March 2023. PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/BIJU BORO / AFP / FILE

Russia remains India's largest oil supplier, Russian Ambassador Denis Alipov said in an interview with Sputnik.

"Despite Western opposition and a temporary decline in volumes to 1.2 mil-

lion barrels per day in December-January, we remain India's largest oil supplier," Alipov said. He said that with account for the significant discounts on Russian grades, the benefits for the local oil refining industry are obvious.

"We assume that Russia will retain its status as a major energy supplier, and that entrepreneurs will be able to adjust the existing format of cooperation with account for the current situation," Alipov said. — SPUTNIK



Oman is acting as a mediator in the talks between the two foes. PHOTO: HANDOUT / OMANI FOREIGN MINISTRY/AFP/FILE

Iran Security Council head says believes US abandoned military scenario idea against Iran

SECRETARY of Supreme National Security Council of Iran Ali Larijani said that he believes that Washington has abandoned the idea of a military scenario against Iran.

"Washington has understood to the need to pursue a different course with Iran, rather than a military solution," Lar-

ijani said in an interview with Al Jazeera.

Tehran did not receive any concrete proposals from Washington during talks in Oman, the official said, adding that Israel is deliberately trying to torpedo Iran's negotiations with the United States and seeking pretexts for war. — SPUTNIK