

# 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.

## 30 Yangon Bus Service buses ferry 10,000 daily on Yangon-Dala Route

The Yangon Region Transport Committee said it may expand fleet numbers, introduce additional routes or adjust existing alignments depending on passenger demand and ridership levels, while urging both drivers and commuters to refrain from spitting betel quid and littering when crossing the Dala Bridge.



YBS buses and passengers commuting between Yangon and Dala.

Approximately 30 YBS buses are now operating across the Myanmar-Korea Friendship (Dala) Bridge, serving nearly 10,000 commuters daily, according to the Yangon Region Public Transport Committee (YRTC).

Currently, 20 buses from YBPC and 10 buses from YUPT are operating from 6

am to 7 pm with the standard fare of K400, YRTC Joint Secretary U Lyan Cin Mang told The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

"Buses from both terminals in Dala and Yangon begin their departures at 6 am. They run until 7 pm. We are seeing between 8,000 and 10,000 passengers daily," he stated.

YBPC route passes through the roads: Sule Pagoda-Anawrahta-Lanmadaw-Bogyoke-Phoneygi-Dala Bridge-Bo Min Yang to the Dala side. The return trip follows the same route. YUPT route passes through the roads: Bohtahtaung Pagoda-Merchant-Strand-Thakin Mya Park-Bogyoke-Dala Bridge-Bo Min Yang. The return route goes through

the same roads.

YRTC noted that they may increase the number of vehicles, add routes, or adjust paths based on public demand and passenger volume. The authorities have issued a request to both drivers and passengers to refrain from spitting betel quid or littering while crossing the Dala Bridge. — MT/ZN

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# NATIONAL

## Teachers must nurture students into well-rounded youth with five core strengths

- ❖ “It is the duty of teachers to guide students’ mindset, discipline, and learning in the correct direction.”
- ❖ “As ethnic teachers like you are very important for the future development of the nation, when you complete your studies and serve in your assigned areas, I deeply urge you to nurture your students to become well-rounded young people with the five strengths — strong in body, intellect, character, livelihood, and friendship.”

*(Excerpt from the speech delivered by Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with male and female students from the BEd five-year course No 7 of the University for Development of National Races of the Union held on 21 October 2025)*

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

## Myanmar’s Responses to Statement by UN SG Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict

THE UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict issued a press release on 2 February 2026, entitled “UN Special Representative Pramila Patten Calls for Accountability as Sexual Violence continues Five Years After Myanmar Military Seized Power”.

The Government of Myanmar, as a member of the United Nations, reaffirms its commitment and ongoing efforts to comply with international standards for the prevention of sexual violence in conflict.

Myanmar society has a long-standing historical tradition and culture that rejects sexual violence in all its forms. Building on this foundation, the government is taking legal action to protect everyone, including women, men and LGBTQI+, from sexual violence. Tatmadaw and security forces have adopted a zero-tolerance policy towards any offence, including sexual violence, and all perpetrators will be prosecuted under the existing law.

In parallel with these legal measures, Myanmar has been continuously implementing national-level initiatives, including the formation of committees, the implementation of prevention and response measures for sexual violence, and awareness-raising activities.

A National Committee, led by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, was established in 2019 to prevent and respond to sexual violence in conflict. Sectoral national-level action plans are implemented annually. Furthermore, the Myanmar National Committee on Women, as well as regional, state, district, and township women’s committees, have been formed to carry out women’s development activities at the local level.

As a national-level reporting mechanism to prevent sexual violence, a 4-digit (1556) helpline service, operating 24/7, was launched on 25 October 2022. From 2017 to January 2026, over 2,300 cases of sexual violence, which are not conflict-related, have been received and investigated, with legal actions being taken.

Additionally, One Stop Women Support Centres (OSWSCs) have been operated across regions and states to provide comprehensive services and support to women who have experienced violence.

Regarding the awareness-raising, talks, shows, and awareness sessions on the laws of war under the four Geneva Conventions and the protection of civilians, and the prevention of sexual violence have been conducted for officials from the Tatmadaw, Myanmar Police Force, and relevant ministries. Awareness initiatives on women’s legal rights under the Penal Code, law relating to violence against women, and the prevention of sexual violence in conflict are carried out in regions and states. They are continuously broadcast nationwide through state-owned media.

The aforementioned actions reflect sustained efforts undertaken by successive governments and constitute clear evidence of Myanmar’s commitment to combatting sexual violence.

Nevertheless, the UN statement contains unverified information and relies on one-sided allegations from mechanisms such as the so-called Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar (IIMM). This appears to be politically motivated pressure intended to damage the State’s prestige and image. Therefore, Myanmar strongly objects and firmly rejects this statement.

Myanmar remains committed to exerting its utmost efforts to safeguard the rights and safety of women and other vulnerable groups. Accordingly, Myanmar strongly urges the United Nations to issue only credible statements and to adopt a constructive approach towards member states.

**National Committee for the Prevention and Response to Sexual Violence in Conflict**

## Weather

### Low-Pressure Area Condition

Issued at 4 pm MST on 21 February 2026

ACCORDING to the observations at 3:30 pm MST today, the low-pressure area over the Equatorial Indian Ocean and adjoining southeast Bay of Bengal persists. It is likely to move west-northwest and may reach the southwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining Equatorial Indian Ocean during the next 24 hours. — DMH

### Myanmar Daily Weather Report

Issued at 7 pm Saturday, 21 February 2026

**BAY INFERENCE:** According to the observations at 5:30 pm MST today, the low-pressure area over the Equatorial Indian Ocean and adjoining Southeast Bay of Bengal persists. It is likely to move west-northwest and may reach the southwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining Equatorial Indian Ocean during the next 24 hours. The weather is a few clouds over the South Andaman Sea and North Bay of Bengal, and partly cloudy to cloudy over the North Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal. **FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 22 February 2026:** widespread in Npy Pyi Taw, southern Shan State, fairly widespread in Kayin State, scattered in Mon State, isolated in the remaining regions and states. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

**THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD:** The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Nay Pyi Taw, Kayin and southern Shan states. The area along the cumulonimbus clouds, the weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied by rain, thunder, lightning and hail may occur, and therefore it is recommended to be aware in advance of these phenomena.

**STATE OF THE SEA:** The 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 Yangon, Bago, upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Kayah, Kayin and Shan states.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22 February 2026:** One or two times of rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22 February 2026:** Partly cloudy and likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 60 per cent.

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22 February 2026:** Partly cloudy. — DMH

# 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)*

## 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> State Central Sangha Working Committee concludes



State Central Working Committee of the Sangha Chairman Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Aggamaha Saddhammajotikadhaja Dr Bhaddanta Candima Bhivamsa presents recognition certificates to Dhammaduta Chekinda University at the Working Committee's second meeting.

THE Ninth State Central Working Committee of the Sangha held its second meeting at

Maha Pasana Cave on Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Hill in Mayangon Township, Yangon

Region, yesterday morning.

The meeting was attended by the State Ovadacariya

Sayadaws, the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee member Sayadaws, Sayadaws from the State Central Working Committee, the Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture, U Tin Oo Lwin, the Director-General of the Department of Religious Affairs, the Director-General of the Department for the Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana, the Pro-Rector (Administration) of the International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University, and the Regional and State Religious Officers.

The meeting was presided over by Committee Chairman Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Aggamaha Saddhammajotikadhaja Dr Bhaddanta Candima Bhivamsa, while Joint Secretary Sayadaw Aggamaha Pandita Bhaddanta Sihanada

acted as master of ceremonies.

The Chairman Sayadaw then presented religious certificates to 24 monks from the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha and recognition certificates to Dhammaduta Chekinda University, and Sitagu Ketumati Buddhist University as Buddhist universities.

Representative Sayadaws then signed the religious historical record book concerning the replacements, decisions, approvals, and records made at the second meeting of the Ninth State Central Working Committee of the Sangha.

The Chairman Sayadaw delivered the Uyojana Katha and concluded the meeting.

Senior General Than Shwe (Rtd) and his wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing, donated alms to the Sayadaws. — MNA/MKKS

## 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Sixth Buddhist Council Magazine invites contributors

THE Department of Historical Research and National Library, under the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, is inviting submissions of poems, articles, stories, and papers for a special magazine commemorating the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Sixth Buddhist Council.

The ministry will hold a ceremony in May at the Maha Pasana Cave, Siri Mingala Kaba Aye Hill, Mayangon Township, Yangon.

Interested writers are invited to submit their works according to the following guidelines: page limits (A4 size)- 1 page (poems), five to seven pages (articles), 10 pages (stories), 15 pages (papers); formatting - Microsoft Word, Pyidaungsu font, size 14, line spacing: 1.5, margins: 1 inch round; the pledge for original creations, no copies, and unpublished work. Authors must include a signed declaration confirming the work is their own,



along with a brief personal biography, and granting permission for use. Authors whose works are not selected will not be informed.

Applicants must submit both a hard copy and soft copy

(Word+PDF) including full name, national registration card number, three colour photos (1.5 inches by two inches), address, and phone number, either in person or by post to the Department

of Historical Research and National Library, Office 35, Nay Pyi Taw, through 067 3408384 and 067 3408437, and email: dhrnlm23@gmail.com by 20 March (Friday). — MT/ZN

# NATIONAL

## KIA, PDF terrorist attack on aircraft at Myitkyina airport condemned

THE Myitkyina Airport, located in Myitkyina, Kachin State, operates regular flights connecting Myitkyina with Yangon, Mandalay, and other major cities in Myanmar where airports are situated. Among the airports in Kachin State, it plays a vital and central role in trade and transport services.

The KIA and PDF terrorist combined groups attacked

the Myanmar National Airlines (MNA)'s ATR 72-600 passenger aircraft with FPV suicide drones at Myitkyina Airport at 8:12 pm on 20 February while the plane was preparing to depart for Mandalay after boarding passengers, and as a result, the attack caused minor damage to the front, middle and rear parts of the aircraft.

Such acts of terrorist groups commit war crimes in accord-

ance with the Geneva Conventions and International Law, and the entire people strongly oppose and condemn them.

The Young Men's Buddhist Association-YMBA (Central), Myanmar Interfaith Dialogue Group (Central), Myanmar Evangelical Christian Alliance, Union of Myanmar Methodist Church (Lower Myanmar), Faith Evangelical Church (Bago), De-

liverance Church (Yangon), All Myanmar Hindu Central Council, All Myanmar Tamil Hindu Foundation (HQ), Thananta Dhamma Palaka (Hindu) Association, Islamic Religious Affairs Council Myanmar, Pinnaygone Yakhine Jaame Mosque, Buthidaung-Maungtaw Regional Development Association, Myanmar Artists Organization (Central), Myanmar Theatrical

Association (Central), Myanmar Comedians' Association, Myanmar Shiah Muslim Religious Organization, Myanmar Press Council, Myanmar Sports Media Federation, Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization, Myanmar Writers' Association and Myanmar Music Association (Central) issued statements strongly condemning that terrorist attack. — MNA/KTZH

### YMBA (Central) condemns drone attacks by KIA and PDF terrorists on MNA passenger aircraft

21 February 2026

KIA and PDF combined terrorist groups carried out a terrorist attack using FPV suicide drones at around 8 pm on 20 February 2026, targeting an ATR-72-600 passenger aircraft operated by Myanmar National Airlines (MNA), which was scheduled to depart from Myitkyina Airport to Mandalay. As the aircraft sustained damage in the incident, the Young Men's Buddhist Association (YMBA) hereby strongly condemns and denounces the terrorist attacks.

*Central Executive Committee  
Young Men's Buddhist Association  
- YMBA (Central)*

### Statement of Myanmar Interfaith Dialogue Group (Central)

21 February 2026

AN ATR-72-600 passenger aircraft operated by Myanmar National Airlines (MNA), which was preparing to depart from Myitkyina Airport to Mandalay after boarding passengers, was recklessly attacked by KIA and PDF combined terrorist groups with the use of FPV suicide drones at around 8 pm on 20 February 2026. We, the Myanmar Interfaith Dialogue Group (Central), hereby declare that we absolutely do not accept this act and strongly condemn and denounce it.

*Central Executive Committee  
Myanmar Interfaith Dialogue Group  
(Central)*

### Statement of Myanmar Evangelical Christian Alliance

21 February 2026

WE have learned that an ATR-72-600 passenger aircraft operated by Myanmar National Airlines (MNA), which was preparing to depart from Myitkyina Airport to Mandalay after boarding passengers at around 8 pm on 20 February 2026, was attacked with FPV suicide drones by KIA and PDF combined terrorist groups.

The Myanmar Evangelical Christian Alliance stated that it has absolutely rejected and strongly condemned the attack on the MNA's ATR-72-600 passenger aircraft, which greatly contributes to civilian travel and the flow of goods, and is unrelated to military operations.

*Myanmar Evangelical Christian Alliance*

### Statement of Union of Myanmar Methodist Church (Lower Myanmar)

21 February 2026

WE have learned that at 8:12 pm on 20 February, KIA and PDF combined terrorist groups attacked a passenger aircraft of Myanmar National Airlines (MNA), which facilitates civilian travel and the flow of goods and is unrelated to military operations, with the use of FPV suicide drones.

The act of KIA and PDF combined terrorist groups, who maliciously committed this violent attack, is utterly unacceptable and strongly condemned by the public across the country. We, the Union of Myanmar Methodist Church (Lower Myanmar), also declare that we absolutely do not accept this act and strongly denounce it.

*Union of Myanmar Methodist Church  
(Lower Myanmar)*

### Statement of Faith Evangelical Church (Bago)

21 February 2026

IT has been reported that an ATR-72-600 passenger aircraft operated by Myanmar National Airlines (MNA), scheduled to depart from Myitkyina Airport to Mandalay, was attacked with drones in a terrorist strike at around 8 pm on 20 February 2026, by KIA and PDF terrorist groups.

The terrorist act of attacking a passenger aircraft carrying innocent civilians is completely unacceptable. Thus, the Faith Evangelical Church (Bago) hereby declares that it absolutely does not accept this act and strongly condemns it.

*Faith Evangelical Church (Bago)*

### Statement of Myanmar Sports Media Federation

21 February 2026

IT has come to the attention of the Myanmar Sports Media Federation that on the evening of 20 February, while an ATR-72-600 passenger aircraft of Myanmar National Airlines (MNA) was stationed at Myitkyina Airport, the KIA and PDF terrorists colluded in attacking the aircraft using drones. The airline provides significant support for civilian travel and the transport of goods.

The Myanmar Sports Media Federation completely rejects and strongly condemns the actions of the KIA and so called PDF terrorist collaborating groups for deliberately targeting a civilian airline with no military affiliation.

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

# NATIONAL

## Statement of All Myanmar Hindu Central Council

21 February 2026

THE KIA and PDF terrorist combined groups attacked the Myanmar National Airlines (MNA)'s ATR 72-600 passenger aircraft with FPV suicide drones at Myitkyina Airport at 8:12 pm on 20 February, while the plane was preparing to depart for Mandalay after boarding passengers. The All Myanmar Hindu Central Council issues this statement, expressing that we do not accept and strongly condemn the terrorist attacks carried out on facilities that are not related to military affairs, but instead play a vital role in facilitating public transport and the smooth flow of goods across the country.

*All Myanmar Hindu Central Council*

## Statement of All Myanmar Tamil Hindu Foundation (HQ)

21 February 2026

THE KIA and PDF terrorist combined groups attacked the Myanmar National Airlines (MNA)'s ATR 72-600 passenger aircraft with FPV suicide drones at Myitkyina Airport at 8:12 pm on 20 February, while the plane was preparing to depart for Mandalay after boarding passengers, and as a result, the attack caused minor damage to the aircraft.

Such terrorist attacks are totally opposed, and the All Myanmar Tamil Hindu Foundation (HQ) issues this statement strongly condemning the attacks of KIA and PDF terrorists.

*All Myanmar Tamil Hindu Foundation (HQ)*

## Statement of Thananta Dhamma Palaka (Hindu) Association

21 February 2026

THE KIA and PDF terrorist combined groups attacked the Myanmar National Airlines (MNA)'s ATR 72-600 passenger aircraft with FPV suicide drones at Myitkyina Airport at 8:12 pm on 20 February while the plane was preparing to depart for Mandalay after boarding passengers, and as a result, the attack caused minor damage to the front, middle and rear parts of the aircraft. The Thananta Dhamma Palaka (Hindu) Association strongly condemns such terrorist attacks on non-military targets perpetrated by KIA and PDF terrorists.

*Thananta Dhamma Palaka (Hindu) Association*

## Statement of Islamic Religious Affairs Council of Myanmar

21 February 2026

IT is sorrow to hea that the KIA and PDF terrorist combined groups attacked the Myanmar National Airlines (MNA)'s ATR 72-600 passenger aircraft with FPV suicide drones at Myitkyina Airport while the plane was preparing to depart for Mandalay after boarding passengers. The Islamic Religious Affairs Council of Myanmar issues this statement expressing that we do not accept and strongly condemn the terrorist attacks carried out on facilities that are not related to military affairs, but instead play a vital role in facilitating public transport and the smooth flow of goods across the country.

*Islamic Religious Affairs Council of Myanmar*

## Statement of Buthidaung-Maungtau Region Development Association

21 February 2026

REPORTS indicate that a combined group of the KIA and PDF terrorists attacked a Myanmar National Airlines (MNA)'s passenger aircraft using suicide drones on the night of 20 February. The aircraft was preparing to depart from Myitkyina Airport for Mandalay after boarding passengers.

The Buthidaung-Maungtau Region Development Association issued a statement expressing that it completely rejects and strongly condemns the deliberate attack on a civilian airline, which is unrelated to military affairs and which greatly supports public transport and the swift flow of goods.

*Buthidaung-Maungtau Region Development Association*

## Statement of Pinnaygone Yakhine Jaame Mosque

21 February 2026

AT 8:12 pm on 20 February 2026, an ATR-72-600 passenger aircraft operated by Myanmar National Airlines (MNA), which had boarded passengers and was preparing for departure from Myitkyina Airport to Mandalay, was attacked using drones by a combined group of KIA and PDF terrorists.

The Pinnaygone Yakhine Jaame Mosque hereby declares that it absolutely does not accept, strongly objects to and condemns the brutal terrorist acts committed by the joint group of the KIA and PDF terrorists.

*Pinnaygone Yakhine Jaame Mosque*

## Statement of Myanmar Artists Organization (Central)

21 February 2026

THE KIA and PDF terrorists colluded in attacking a civilian aircraft, an ATR-72-600 passenger plane of Myanmar National Airlines (MNA)'s, in Myitkyina, Kachin State, using FPV suicide drones, causing minor damage to the nose, mid-fuselage, and tail sections of the aircraft. No passengers were reportedly injured or killed.

The Myanmar Artists Organization (Central) hereby states that it completely rejects and strongly condemns the unprovoked terrorist acts committed by the KIA and PDF terrorist combined groups.

*Myanmar Artists Organization (Central)*

## Statement of Myanmar Theatrical Association (Central)

21 February 2026

THE KIA and PDF terrorist combined groups attacked the civilian passenger aircraft that are not related to military affairs, but instead play a vital role in facilitating public transport and the smooth flow of goods across the country, with drones at Myitkyina Airport at 8:12 pm on 20 February.

We, the Myanmar Theatrical Association (Central), hereby declare that we absolutely do not accept this act of the KIA and PDF terrorist combined groups and strongly condemn and denounce it.

*Myanmar Theatrical Association (Central)*

## Statement of Myanmar Comedians Association

21 February 2026

INFORMATION indicates that an ATR-72-600 passenger aircraft operated by Myanmar National Airlines (MNA) was attacked on the evening of 20 February while preparing for departure from Myitkyina Airport to Mandalay after boarding passengers. The attack was reportedly carried out using FPV suicide drones by a combined group of KIA and PDF terrorists.

The Myanmar Comedians Association hereby declares that it absolutely does not accept, strongly objects to and condemns the terrorist act committed by the combined groups of KIA and PDF terrorists, who intentionally targeted a civilian airline that provides significant support for public transport and the swift flow of goods unrelated to military affairs.

*Myanmar Comedians Association*

## Statement of Myanmar Shiah Muslim Religious Organization (Centre)

21 February 2026

THE report says an ATR-72-600 passenger aircraft of Myanmar National Airlines (MNA), preparing to depart from Myitkyina Airport to Mandalay with passengers on board, was attacked by the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and PDF terrorist combined groups using drones at 8:12 pm on 20 February 2026.

The civilian airline, which provides significant support for public travel and

the transport of goods, was deliberately targeted in this attack.

The terrorist acts of the KIA and PDF terrorists are widely condemned by the public nationwide, and the Myanmar Shiah Muslim Religious Organization (Centre) hereby states that it completely rejects and strongly condemns these actions.

*Myanmar Shiah Muslim Religious Organization (Centre)*

# NATIONAL

## Weekly Roundup

### 15 February

#### Chinese Lunar New Year Festival 2026 celebrated

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

#### Amendment to Myanmar Engineering Council Law enacted

The National Defence and Security Council of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar issued the Amendment to the Myanmar Engineering Council Law as the National Defence and Security Council Law 6/2026, under Section 427 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

### 16 February

#### Head of State meets residents in Homalin

Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing held a meeting with departmental officials and town elders to discuss regional development at the city hall in Homalin of Sagaing Region.

#### Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets Tatmadaw members

State Security and Peace Commission Chairman and Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Senior

General Min Aung Hlaing met Tatmadaw members and families from the Homalin Station under the North-West Command.

#### Chargé d'Affaires of Timor-Leste instructed to leave Myanmar within 7 Days

Despite the good relationship between the Governments of Myanmar and Timor-Leste, the President of Timor-Leste has frequently interfered in the internal affairs of Myanmar. Therefore, the Ministry summoned Mr Elisio do Rosario de Sousa, Chargé d'Affaires ad interim of the Embassy of Timor-Leste, on 13 February 2026 and instructed him to leave the territory of Myanmar not later than 20 February 2026 under Article 9 of the Vienna Convention on the Diplomatic Relations (1961).

#### MRTV marks 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary

Prime Minister U Nyo Saw joined the ceremony to mark the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of MRTV at its head office in Tatkon of Nay Pyi Taw.

### 17 February

#### Chindwin Bridge (Htamanthi) commissioned

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

#### Head of State meets residents in Lahe

### and Leshi

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

### 19 February

#### NDSC issues Orders 6 and 7

The National Defence and Security Council has allowed U Min Aung to retire from the duties of the Judge of the Chin State High Court for his health condition in accord with the Order 6/2026 of NDSC and appointed U Myat San as the Judge of the Chin State High Court in accord with the Order 7/2026 under Subsection (b) of Section 427 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

### 20 February

#### Head of State sends message to Chin National 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 Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing sent a message to the 78<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Chin National Day 2026. — GNLM/TTA

### Statement of Myanmar Press Council

21 February 2026

KIA and PDF terrorists collude in attacking an ATR-72-600 passenger aircraft of Myanmar National Airlines (MNA) at Myitkyina Airport using FPV suicide drones cruelly and maliciously. The civilian airline provides significant support for civilian travel and freight transport.

The Myanmar Press Council strongly condemns the KIA and PDF terrorists' collusive attack on a civilian airline that is not related to military operations and that greatly facilitates civilian travel and goods flow.

*Myanmar Press Council*

### Statement of Deliverance Church (Yangon)

21 February 2026

THE KIA and PDF terrorist combined groups attacked the Myanmar National Airlines (MNA)'s ATR 72-600 passenger aircraft with FPV suicide drones at Myitkyina Airport at 8:12 pm on 20 February while the plane was preparing to depart for Mandalay after boarding passengers. Therefore, the Deliverance Church (Yangon) issues this statement strongly condemning such violence.

*Deliverance Church (Yangon)*

### Statement of Myanmar Music Association (Central)

21 February 2026

THE Myanmar Music Association (Central) strongly condemns the attack carried out at 8:12 pm on 20 February by the KIA and PDF terrorist combined groups against an ATR-72-600 passenger aircraft of Myanmar National Airlines (MNA). The attack, carried out using FPV suicide drones, was intended to cause injury or death to passengers on a civilian airline that provides significant support for public travel and the transport of goods, which is not related to military activities.

*Myanmar Music Association (Central)*

### Statement of Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization

21 February 2026

THE Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization acknowledged that the KIA and PDF terrorist combined groups carried out attacks on Myitkyina Airport in Kachin State using FPV suicide drones on 12 February, intending to undermine the administration of the State Government, disturb regional peace, and destroy local development.

Furthermore, at 8:12 pm on 20 February, an ATR-72-600 passenger aircraft of Myanmar National Airlines (MNA), preparing to depart for Mandalay, was attacked while at Myitkyina Airport, with the malicious intention of causing casualties among passengers.

The Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization strongly condemns and utterly rejects the actions of the KIA and PDF terrorists for deliberately targeting a civilian airline, which greatly facilitates public travel and goods transport unrelated to military activities, in violation of the Geneva Conventions and international law, constituting a war crime.

*Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization*

### Statement of Myanmar Writers' Association

21 February 2026

WITH the intent to undermine the administration of the State Government and disrupt regional peace, terrorist groups have recklessly attacked civilian infrastructure unrelated to military activities, including basic buildings, roads, bridges, schools, and hospitals, using landmines, mortars, and dropped bombs from a distance.

While such terrorist acts were ongoing, on 20 February at 8:12 pm, KIA and PDF-named terrorist collaborating groups attacked an ATR-72-600 passenger aircraft of Myanmar National Airlines (MNA) using FPV suicide drones, intending to cause injury or death to passengers. Some parts of the aircraft were damaged in the attack.

These acts were deliberately carried out to undermine national stability and disrupt the unity of ethnic communities. The Myanmar Writers' Association hereby condemns and strongly rejects the actions of these terrorist groups.

*Myanmar Writers' Association*

# Yangon palm oil reference prices remain unchanged this week

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil for the Yangon market indicated no variation at K6,250 per viss during week ending 26 February, according to the Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution.

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 Com-



Oil mill workers are organizing cooking oil jerry cans for distribution and sale.

merce 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 consumption of palm oil 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 imported annually through Malaysia and Indonesia to meet domestic demands. — NN/KK

## CBM to pump US\$30M into fuel oil sector

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) announced on 20 November that it would sell US\$30 million to fuel oil importers. CBM also injected \$543,000 and 1.3 million baht into the market after selling \$1.35 million to edible oil-importing companies on the same day.

CBM pumped over 971,900 yuan and four million baht into the market, along with selling over \$1.84 million to edible oil-importing companies.

CBM sold \$900,000 to edible oil-importing companies and \$2 million to fuel oil-importing companies on 18 February, along with an injection of \$2 million, 130,000 yuan and over 679,540 baht on that day.

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



Fleet of bowsers rolls out from fuel terminal for nationwide distribution.

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

## YCDC invites bids to outsource Aungmingala Highway Bus Terminal parking management

THE Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) invited a tender to operate a parking fee collection service at Aungmingala Highway Bus Terminal 1 under the supervision of the Engineering Department (Road and Bridge), according to YCDC's Tender Acceptance and Evaluation Committee.

YCDC will lease the right to collect parking fees of small vehicles that park from the entrance of Aungmingala Highway Bus Terminal No 1 along the right side of Aungmingala Street (up

to the Mongywa Road Junction) for the upcoming 2026-2027 Financial Year through bidding.

Interested individuals can submit the tender proposal at 1 pm between 21 February and 4 March. Tender opening will take place at YCDC's City Hall at 10 am on 6 March.

Tender form and regulations can be purchased at the Bus Terminals Management Office of the Engineering Department (Road and Bridge) on the seventh floor of the 12-storey building. — NN/KK



Highway buses at Aungmingala Highway Bus Terminal are ready to start their journeys.

## Gold Market Rate as of 21 February 2026

THE price of one tical (16.329325 grammes) of gold with density of 19.25 grammes per cubic centimetre and above is K6,900,000, as established by the Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee.

# OPINION

## Prepare dialogues that reflect positive mindsets

IN any engagement, all participants have chances to review the occasion from their relevant perspectives. Naturally, some of the perspectives may be the same, but some can differ from each other. It is because their perspectives are based on individual perceptions, mindsets, background history, motivations and any other basic factors.

As such, those who hold the same perspectives can address the problems through a similar approach without any different opinions. But they can join hands with those with different perspectives in order to resolve some problems, even though they do not have the same approaches to analyzing the problems. It is because they uphold the compromise.

In addressing a problem from two sides, those on each side need to emphasize their efforts in resolving the problem. So, they need to consider: To what extent can we make concessions in resolving this issue from our side? How much tolerance and flexibility can we demonstrate, and how far can we compromise? In fact, both sides need to notice the important role of compromise in solving any problems. Moreover, they all should prioritize the sincerity in the dialogue between them.

If both sides uphold these basic factors in the problem-solving movements, their efforts are sure to secure achievement. They have to reflect on ways and means to be able to reach an agreement of a win-win situation. Actually, in securing a win-win situation, both sides have to demonstrate their tolerance and flexibility. As such, they have to suffer losses to a greater or lesser extent in terms of their interests. On the other hand, if both sides rigidly uphold their perceptions in the problem-solving

measures, they don't have any results, and the efforts of both sides will not reach success to some extent. That is why anyone needs to choose the best ways to hold dialogues. One should think in advance and decide the level of success one aims to achieve. In order to attain the desired outcome, the other party should be engaged and persuaded through the best possible approaches. However, just as we seek to achieve our own objectives, the other side also has a desire to succeed. Therefore, in every negotiation, only by demonstrating magnanimity on our part can we gain the other side's respect, trust, and understanding. As a result, once we have earned their respect and confidence, we are already on the path toward achieving the success we seek. If they apply sincerity in their activities, they will achieve the success they desire.

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|                  |   |  |
|------------------|---|--|
| Book Title       | - | Globally Renowned Myanmar Scholars and Myanmar Books |
| Author           | - | Maung Zeyar  |
| Publishing House | - | Pyinzagan  |
| Publication Date | - | December 2024 (2 <sup>nd</sup> Edition)              |
| Price            | - | K10,000  |

### Globally Renowned Myanmar Scholars and Myanmar Books

THIS week's pick is Globally renowned Myanmar scholars and Myanmar books, compiled by the esteemed writer Maung Zayar and published for the second time by the Pyin Sagan Publishing House. This second edition contains a supplement with the newly discovered information. This book will shed light on the twelve Myanmar scholars who have received international recognition and ten Myanmar books that are valued around the world.

The book comprises 216 pages, along with a foreword by a renowned literary expert, U Thaw Kaung. It is divided into two parts with photographs, illustrations, and bibliographies, offering insights into the lives and literary critiques of those great Myanmar scholars.

Part One is a collection of biographical and literary introductions, documenting the scholarly works of globally recognized Myanmar researchers who wrote books and papers in both English and

Myanmar, focusing on Myanmar literature, language, history, culture, and traditions.

Part Two highlights ten globally renowned Myanmar books covering various genres: Myanmar chronicles, Buddhist chronicles, Sasana Vumsa, Dhammasat, travelogues, letters of goodwill (Mita-sa), poems on nature, rhymed verses (Yadu), modern novels, and dramas. Tathagata Udana Dipani, Buddhist prose novel entitled Mala Linkara, Sasanavumsapa Dipika, daily journals of King Mindon's minister and diary of his mission to France, Kyikanshingyi's Mitta-sa, Manukyal's Dhammasat, Glass Palace Chronicle, Shin Uttamag-yaw's Tawla, Letwe Thondara's Foot of Meza Hill Yadu (poetry), and modern plays and drama of the Governor-General.

It has been 50 years since the prominent Rakhine scholar U San Tha Aung passed away, and he is no longer with us. Nonetheless, his literary works remained re-

markable. This book offers an enjoyable reading experience by putting the works of Saya Thein Pe Myint and Zawana together. Saya Thein Pe Myint's play was translated into English and published, and was also staged in India as an anti-fascist production. Myanmar has so much pride in it. Moreover, Saya Zawana's novel famously satirized the Dorman Smith and White Paper project. Regarding this book, the versatile artiste Zagana has commented that "In the field of research, I felt both joy and pride that Myanmar produced such great scholars whom the world cited as references, and a sense of regret that they are no longer with us. I want those who do not yet know about or have not read about the works of those scholars to take the time to study them. He appreciated the achievement of Myanmar's scholars by modifying that missing the scholars is like missing one's aunt without realizing one had a mother."

Writer Soe Bar Dine also gave a remark that even before I knew Saya Maung Zaya as the Chief Librarian of the National Library, I had come to trust the accuracy of his articles and read them with respect as reliable sources of references. I see that among the globally known books, he has covered a wide range of works, including Myanmar chronicles, Buddhist chronicles, Sasana Vumsa, Dhammasat, travelogues, letters of goodwill, poems of solitude, Yadu verses, modern novels, and dramas. We still have expectations from Saya, and want to read more. Sayar compiled works on 'One Era, One Person'. His ability to source and include manuscripts from various fields shows his expertise in library science. I pray that Saya Maung Zeyar stays healthy and continues to write."

Additionally, the book first highlights the achievements of the scholars and then concisely introduces their biographies. Saya Maung Zayar's engaging presentation emphasized the earnest effort of each scholar to reach their goals and how their globally-critiqued arts and efforts hold domestically and internationally.

To summarize, this book will serve as an easily accessible and valuable reference not only for Myanmar readers but also for international readers and researchers who want to study or conduct research on Myanmar literature and Myanmar books.



|                  |   |  |
|------------------|---|--|
| Book Title       | - | Glimpses of Myanmar and Myanmar-related Personages III |
| Author           | - | Dr Myint Zan   |
| Publisher        | - | Myanmar Heritage                                       |
| Publication Date | - | November 2025  |
| Price            | - | K50,000  |

### Glimpses of Myanmar and Myanmar-related Personages III

THIS is the third book by Dr Myint Zan, who profiled or 'glimpsed' Myanmar personages. This book is significant since out of 30 personages glimpsed, five personages were of foreign origin. Three foreign scholars have made significant contributions to the Myanmar language and literature. They were the linguist and literati, namely Anna Allott, John Okell and Onoturu. All three have passed away in recent years.

The rest of the 25 personages are Myanmar-born. Dr Myint Zan mentioned them in rough chronological order based on the birth years of the personages. The first essay discussed the debate or discourse between Buddhist monks, Manle Sayadaw and Ledi Sayadaw, on the disadvantages and benefits of drinking tea. The last essay discussed the four books authored by Dr Aung

Myint Oo, retired Professor of Myanmar at the University of Yangon. Among the 30 personages discussed, there are short notes on five Myanmar women, namely four medical doctors, Dr Daw Yin May, Dr Kyu Kyu Swe, Daw Khin Kyi (OG), Dr Thein Thein Myint and historian Daw Kyan. Others discussed in the book are P Moe Nin, Dr Ba Han (jurist and lexicographer), U Tha Hto (Economics), Dr Khin Maung Win (Philosophy), Thakin Soe, Minthuwn (new, two articles), Thein Pe Myint, Dr San Baw (new and appendix of his ivory prostheses paper first prepared in October 1968), Dr Khin Maung Aye (psychiatrist and Vipassana meditation teacher), Maung Swan Yi (poet), Dr Myo Nyunt (Economist), Maung Khin Min (Danubyu, five articles), Mya Myint Moh (poet, U Hla Myint), Maung Tha Cho (Dr

Myint Thuang). A few of the writings of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, with those of Shwe U Daung (U Pe Thein), are discussed. Shwe U Daung adapted (not translated) Sherlock Holmes detective stories into 'Maung San Shar' stories. Sir Arthur devoted the last one-and-a-half decades or so of his life to 'spiritualism', including communicating with the dead. Dr Myint Zan referred to and commented on the late polymath Martin Gardner's essay on 'The Irrelevance of Conan Doyle', first published in 1976 and revised and updated till 1995. The creator of the rational Sherlock Holmes believed the trick and shenanigans played by then 11-year-old and 15-year-old girls who cut board boxes of fairies and took photos of these 'fairies' coming out of flowers. Conan Doyle believed them and stated that fairies exist! Nearly

sixty years after their hoax, the old ladies in a 1983 interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation admitted their hoax, which Conan Doyle took 'hook, line and sinker' so to speak.

Most Burmese would know about independent Burma's first Prime Minister, U Nu. Very few would have heard of former Greek Prime Minister and President Constantin Karamanlis. In almost 14 pages, Dr Myint Zan compared the 'home return' of Constantin Karamanlis to Greece in July 1974 and the very different 'home return' of former Prime Minister U Nu to Burma in July 1980.

Every Chapter of the book contains photos and illustrations. For those interested in varied subjects of poetry, literature, medicine, politics and biographies, the book is a worthwhile read.

## As to Stay Relatives

By Mya Thae (Research)

- Whoever stays with evil men is in worry.
- They treat us like worse enemy.
- They can cause many troubles and make us feel sorry.
- To stay with the wise men is the best way.
- They treat us well and kindly say.
- We can stay safe and enjoy the days.
- They help us when we encounter a difficult case.
- Thus, we get pleasure days and dates.
- Thus, staying with the wisemen is similar to staying with the relatives.
- We can accept benefits and richness.



## The Fire Horse New Year

Red lanterns rise where winter's shadows part,  
Drums wake the streets and set the night alight;  
With sparks of hope, the Fire Horse starts to dart,  
Gallop dreams through every door and heart.

Plates bloom with dumplings, sweet with luck and cheer;

Oranges glow like suns in warming hands;

We bow to time and welcome in the year,

As old regrets drift out like distant sands.

So, leap, brave Horse, across the starry sky,

And pull our wishes forward, strong and bright;

May peace outrun the storms that hurry by,

And joy keep pace with us through every night.

Min Min Zan

(Honouring the Chinese New Year Day, 2026)

## NIGHT AND DAY

By Maung Swan Yi/Translated by Myint Zan

during times of worship  
at night  
i saw the heavenly abode

during the daily struggles  
of day-time  
i (perennially) saw the abode of hell

First published in Kalya magazine, April 1994  
Translated on 16 February 2026.

Translator's note. Poet Maung Swan Yi, born on 17 February 1937, has been based in New York, United States, since 2002. With this translation, I commemorate 'Saya Swan's 89<sup>th</sup> birthday on 17 February 2026.



ည နဲ့ နေ့

ဘုံခန်းကိုလျှင်  
ကျွန်ုပ် မြင်သည်  
ညစဉ် ဝတ်ပြုသော ဝဏာ။

နေ့ခန်းလျှင်  
ကျွန်ုပ် မြင်သည်  
နေ့စဉ် ရှမ်းကန် ရေသာကာလ။  
မောင်စွမ်းရည်  
(ကလျာ၊ ဧပြီ ၁၉၉၄)

# NATIONAL Entertainment



### Nine Nine

ACTOR Nine Nine, who had taken a long break from acting, has completed filming his first comeback movie titled 'Acht Zay' (Love Bazaar). In this film, Nine Nine and Nay Toe act together for the first time. The story is written by Moe Ni Lwin and directed by Pyae Phyo Naing (PPN). The cast includes Nine Nine, Nay Toe, Wutt Hmone Shwe Yi, Chaw Yadana, Linn La Pyae Htet, Thar Nyi, Zin Myo, Myo Myo Khine, Ani Zaw, and many other artistes.

### Tun Tun (Examplez)

THE film 'Yoke Thay Yoke' (The Puppet), in which actor Tun Tun portrays a distinctive character, will be screened nationwide in Myanmar on 27 February. In the film, Tun Tun plays a character who becomes a member of a crime-ridden family and also a forensic doctor named Let Yar. The movie is written and directed by Maung Myo Min (Yin Twin Phyt), with a screenplay by Aung Gyi. The cast includes Kyaw Ye Aung, Min Oo, Nay Myo Aung, Chan Tha Kyi Soe, Thu Htoo San, Tun Tun, Nay Ye, Thuta Aung, Bran, Htin Lu, Myo Sandi Kyaw, Naw Phaw Eh Htar, Eint Chit Chit, Aye Thandar Bo, Htoo Wint Thandar, and Poe Wah Lay.



### Thar Nyi

ACTOR and director Thar Nyi informed audiences about the question, "Are you ready to laugh your hearts out with 'Eain Hmyoung', which will make your worries disappear as if they were taken away?" The film 'Eain Hmyoung', directed by Thar Nyi, will be broadcast at 7 am on 22 February (Sunday) via the Mahar Application. The story and screenplay are by Moh, with on-set screenplay by Nyo Min Lwin and Sue Khat Min. The cast includes Kyaw Kyaw Bo, May Myint Mo, Htun Pale Yadana, Amy Zan, Hngat Pyaw Kyaw, Tekkatho Gun Pone, Kay Nyi, Joker, Moe Nyo, Myo Myo Khine, Si Si, with special artistes Khin Hlaing, Pwint, and Linn Linn.

### Mae Min Bon

FOR the year 2025, the Best Screenplay Academy Award was won by Thilan for the film 'Maunt Miphaya', and director Mae Min Bon was also present at the ceremony. Regarding this, she said, "When they called out the name 'Thilan' on stage, I wondered if I had misheard. When people gathered around me, I realized that we had truly won the Academy Award. Thilan is a combined pen name created by three of us together with two senior members from Aung Thiri Film Production. Since I came from a background of writing screenplays, I am proud to receive an award for a screenplay". Currently, Mae Min Bon is directing the film 'Thanyawzin Myet Saung Htoe' for Shwe Nadi Shwe Yi Film Production, starring Aung Ye Lin, Waso Moe Oo, and Htet Htet Linn Latt.



### Comedian U Paw Lay

RECENTLY, it has become clear that Myanmar's theatrical performance has become popular again due to the dedicated performances of young, new leading dancers. On the other hand, there have also been criticisms regarding what the new generation of dancers and troupe members should and should not do. In this regard, veteran comedian U Paw Lay pointed out, "When we were apprentices, a comedian was not allowed to walk in front of the leading dancer. When I accidentally crossed in front of the lead dancer, I got kicked and ended up rolling into the orchestra area. I personally experienced it. We were not allowed to dance with the lead dancer either. But nowadays, they just do it".

# CELEBRITY BRIEF

### Thazin Nwe Win

THAZIN Nwe Win, who is both a presenter on MRTV-4 and a panellist on the programme 'Khin Pyo Madi', shared a new photo shoot with fans in celebration of the Chinese New Year. As her second acting role,

she appeared in the drama series Maple, the Rain and Me. Currently, she is also working as an MC for various events. She said, "Rather than just feeling excited, I feel nervous about the audience's feedback. When I am offered opportunities that don't exactly align with my main profession, I will do my best for the drama series as one more field of study and learning experience." — Htun Htun/KTZH

## Filming of Mone Ywae Ma Hu begins

THE ceremony for the film adaptation of the well-known novel 'Mone Ywae Ma Hu' (Not Out of Hate) by Journal Kyaw Ma Ma Lay took place on 19 February at the Shwedagon Pagoda, according to Brave Empire Film Production.

The script was written by Aye Thiri Ko, assistant director Thae Su Hlaing and director Pwint Theingi Zaw, who artistically made the 'Tain Pachi' film, will direct that film.

The cast includes Nine Nine portraying U Saw Han, an excessively loving and over-protective husband, and Wutt

Hmone Shwe Yi as the young and beloved girl Wai Wai. Other actors appearing in the film are Kyaw Ye Aung, Aung Yay Chan, Su Htet Hlaing, Soe Moe Kyi, Goon Pone Gyi, Tata, and many other artistes.

The novel 'Mone Ywae Ma Hu' of Journal Kyaw Ma Ma Lay is a literary work that artistically features the life of a wife living under oppression caused by excessive love and control. Written around 70 years ago, it is considered a classic novel. It won the Sarpay Beikman Literary Award in 1955 and has been reprinted many times. Moreover, it has been translated into



five languages: Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Uzbek. — Htun Htun/KTZH



# NATIONAL

## Tourist surge expected at Mawtinsun Pagoda Festival; Fast ferries to run daily on Taboung Full Moon

THE Buddha Pujaniya festival of the Santawshin Myat Mawtinsun Pagoda, located in the south-western coastline of Myanmar, is being held and expected to be crowded on public holidays and on the Full Moon Day of Taboung. The fast speed boat service from Pathein is also available daily, according to the Ayeyawady Region Directorate of Hotels and Tourism.

The pagoda festival is being held from 16 February until the full moon day of Taboung on 2 March. Besides the express operating from Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw, and Yangon, visitors from upland areas are travelling directly to Mawtinsun by car. From Pathein Port, high-speed boats are transporting passengers to Khamaukmaw Port. From there, travellers take vehicles to the Mawtinsun Pagoda and nearby beaches for recreation. The Ayeyawady Region government, the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism, and relevant departments are working together to ensure smooth and convenient travel for visitors.

“During the travel season of Ayeyawady Region, both domestic and foreign travellers are arriving. Visitors have been coming to the Mawtinsun Pagoda Festival since the third week of February. The full moon day of Taboung is the busiest day of the festival. During this period, travellers are coming by car and by high-speed boats from Pathein Port. They can also relax at the nearby Ngwehsaung Beach and Kyauk Kalap. We warmly invite visitors to come during the public holidays,” said U Aung Thu Oo, Director of the Ayeyawady Region Directorate of Hotels and Tourism.

The visitors can pay homage to Mawtinsun pagoda, and also visit Ngwetaung beach, Kha Mauk Maw beach, Hainggyikyun, Zee Chaing village and Kyauk Kalap. The area is expected to be crowded with travellers on the public holidays of 21 and 22 February, and especially during the three-day holiday from 28 February to 2 March. These days are expected to see the highest number of visitors during the



The fast speed boat departing from Pathein to the Santawshin Myat Mawtinsun Pagoda is seen at Pathein jetty. PHOTO: AYEYAWADY REGION DIRECTORATE OF HOTELS AND TOURISM

Ayeyawady Region’s travel season, creating significant economic opportunities for the residents.

“The fast ferries are operating from Pathein Port for the people to be able to pay homage to Mawtinsun pagoda. Every evening, seven to eight boats depart from Pathein to Mawtinsun. Travellers can make their pilgrimage peacefully and also relax at the beach. With super-

vision and support from the regional government and relevant organizations, visitors can travel comfortably and safely. We are pleased that all travellers can gain merit through pilgrimage while also enjoying relaxation,” said U Kyaw Htwe, in charge of Pathein Thu (7) boat service.

The fast ferry services are mainly operated by the Pathein Thu Group and the Shwe Sin

Kyal Group, along with other operators. The boats offer double, triple, and four-bed cabins, including standard rooms, fan rooms, and air-conditioned rooms, with fares ranging from K12,000 to K40,000 or K50,000 per person. Boats typically depart at 6 pm and arrive at about 1:30 am. When there is heavy fog, arrival at Kha Mauk Maw Port is at 4 or 5 am. — Thitsa (MNA)/KTZH

## Short-range rocket discovered in field near Siphon (North) village, Hlegu

THE CRPH, NUG and their affiliated PDF terrorist groups, as well as organizations and individuals related to them, have been carrying out various acts of terrorism, including the burning and detonation of non-military public buildings, roads and bridges, and the use of short-range rockets, to undermine the peace and stability of the country and instil fear among the public.

According to reports from residents, suspicious items containing blue PVC pipes were found in a field near Siphon (North) Village in Hlegu Township, Yangon Region, at about 6:30 am. Local security forces went to investigate and discovered six short-range rockets fitted with blue PVC pipes, which had been prepared for launching by PDF terrorists. The rockets were



Photo shows short-range rockets prepared for launching by PDF terrorists in a field near Siphon (North) Village in Hlegu Township, Yangon Region.

systematically defused to ensure public safety.

Local security forces are carrying out necessary security measures and investigations in the surrounding

area. Members of the public are urged to report any suspicious information or terrorist activity so that they can be protected from harm. —MNA/MKKS

## Myanmar cracks down on vaping

MYANMAR has banned import, export, sale, storage, distribution and the use of vape (e-cigarettes) starting from 18 February, according to the Ministry of Health.

The ministry stated that e-cigarettes and related products pose significant health hazards. Consequently, the use of e-cigarettes has increasingly grown among young people, prompting the ministry to ban them.

The use of e-cigarettes can lead to excessive nicotine con-

sumption and trigger lung and heart-related health problems. Therefore, the authorities urge the public to comply with the laws.

Those who violate the ban on the import, export, sale, storage, distribution or use of e-cigarettes will face legal actions under the existing laws.

At present, e-cigarettes are being sold in both online and offline markets, and authorities are stepping up monitoring and inspections. — ASH/KK



A person using an e-cigarette (vape).

# ECONOMY WORLD

## India-Brazil committed to take trade beyond \$20 billion in next 5 years: PM Modi

*Brazil is India's largest trade partner in Latin America.*

INDIAN Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday held a joint news conference with Brazilian President Lula here in the national capital and noted that the discussions between the two leaders aimed at moving forward across all sectors in the spirit of shared purpose and that the nations are committed for bilateral trade to surpass US\$20 billion in the next five years.

He thanked the Brazilian President for his participation in the Global AI Impact Summit, and also praised his visionary leadership in giving a fillip to India-Brazil ties.

"I am delighted to welcome President Lula and his delega-

tion to India. India-Brazil relations have long benefited from President Lula's vision and inspiring leadership. Over the past few years, I have had the privilege of meeting him several times, and in each meeting, I have felt his deep friendship and trust in India. President Lula's visit has graced the historic AI Impact Summit and given new energy to our strategic partnership. I express my gratitude to the President for his friendship and commitment to the relationship between our two countries," PM Modi said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi noted that Brazil is India's largest trade partner in Latin America. He further



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi (L) hands over the gavel to Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva (R) during the third working session of the G20 Leaders' Summit in New Delhi on 10 September 2023.

**PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

highlighted that the visit of the large business delegation from Brazil is a commitment to this

fact and noted that with expansion of India-MERCOSUR trade agreement the econom-

ic cooperation will further increase between the two countries. — ANI

## Trump to remove Vietnam from restricted tech list: Hanoi



National carrier Vietnam Airlines bolstered its fleet with an \$8.1 billion commitment for approximately 50 Boeing 737-8 aircraft. Boeing has built 737 jets in Renton, Wash., since the 1960s. **PHOTO: JENNIFER BUCHANAN/AFP/FILE**

US President Donald Trump told Vietnam's top leader To Lam he would "instruct the relevant agencies" to remove the country from a list restricted from accessing advanced US technologies, Vietnam's government announced Saturday.

The two leaders met in person for the first time at the White House on Friday, after Lam attended the inaugural meeting of Trump's "Board of Peace" in Washington.

"Donald Trump said he would instruct the relevant agencies to soon remove Viet-

nam from the strategic export control list," Hanoi's Government News website said.

The two countries were locked in protracted trade negotiations when the US Supreme Court ruled many of Trump's sweeping tariffs were illegal. — AFP

### NEWS IN BIREF

#### France's 2026 state budget promulgated after months-long standoff

FRANCE'S 2026 state budget was promulgated on Friday after being validated a day earlier by the Constitutional Council, ending more than four months of parliamentary debate and a prolonged political standoff.

The bill was adopted on 2 February by the National Assembly, the lower house of the bicameral French parliament, following rejection of motions of no-confidence, and the government's invocation of Article 49.3 of the French Constitution under Prime Minister Sebastien Lecornu.

According to the French Constitution, Article 49.3 allows the prime minister, with cabinet approval, to force the passage of a bill (typically finance or social security) through the National Assembly without a vote. The bill is deemed adopted unless a motion of no-confidence is passed. — Xinhua

#### Japan wary of disruption after US top court blocks Trump's tariffs

JAPAN is preparing for possible disruption to exports to the United States after the US Supreme Court struck down President Donald Trump's so-called reciprocal tariffs on Friday, prompting him to announce fresh 10 per cent levies.

Tokyo is expected to negotiate with Washington to prevent further tariff increases while committing to investing \$550 billion in the United States under a plan previously drawn up in exchange for a reduction in tariffs on Japanese cars and other goods. — Kyodo

## FamilyMart to expand stores with prize-winning games to 5,000 in Japan

CONVENIENCE store operator FamilyMart Co plans to expand the number of stores with claw machines and other prize-winning games in Japan by threefold to about 5,000 outlets in the near future, with the aim of attracting more customers.

The company also plans to collaborate with popular anime to bring their worlds to life through store design, under the concept of “playable” convenience stores.



In the saturated domestic market, “It is necessary to hammer out a strategy to add value such as entertainment,” said FamilyMart President Kensuke Hosomi at a New Year event hosted by a Japanese business lobby on 6

January.

According to the Japan Amusement Industry Association, the crane game market doubled to 364.3 billion yen (\$2.3 billion) in fiscal 2023, while the number of amusement arcades halved to 8,548 over the same period.

“There has been a business opportunity in convenience stores” since many small amusement arcades near train stations were closed, an association official said. — Kyodo

This photo shows crane game machines in a convenience store. **PHOTO: FAMILYMART CO/ KYODO**

## Court orders Glovo’s Italy unit to regularize riders

A Milan court has ordered the Italian subsidiary of home delivery company Glovo to improve conditions for thousands of riders after it was placed under court administration for work abuses.

Foodinho, a leading food and grocery delivery platform owned by Glovo, is accused of underpaying riders and drivers, many of whom are foreign nationals.

The company paid

almost 82 per cent below agreed minimum wage levels and up to 77 per cent below the poverty line, according to a court decision published late Thursday.

According to the ruling, many riders worked nine- to ten-hour days, six days a week, without adequate social protection and for an average pay of about 2.50 euros (\$2.95) per delivery. — AFP



Foodinho, a leading food and grocery delivery platform owned by Glovo, is accused of underpaying riders and drivers, many of whom are foreign nationals. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

### PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTER CHANGING

The manufacture of **Tonghua Pesticide Chemical Industry Stock Co.,Ltd** have registered the following product in Pesticide Registration Board of Myanmar to distribute in Myanmar. Now, we have to change from old distributor name “**Myanmar Max Agro Service Co.,Ltd**”, to new distributor name “**First Start Company Limited**”. If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon, from here to next 14 days. First Start Company Limited. Ph-09401573814

| Sr. | Trade Name         | Active Ingredient                         | Registration No. |
|-----|--------------------|---|------------------|
| 1.  | TH-Aung Myin 30 EC | Difenoconazole 15% + Propiconazole 15% EC | P2020-4779       |

### PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTER CHANGING

The manufacture of **Tonghua Pesticide Chemical Industry Stock Co.,Ltd** have registered the following products in Pesticide Registration Board of Myanmar to distribute in Myanmar. Now, we have to change from old distributor name “**Friends’ Helper Co.,Ltd**”, to new distributor name “**First Start Company Limited**”. If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon, from here to next 14 days. First Start Company Limited. Ph-09401573814

| Sr. | Trade Name         | Active Ingredient                          | Registration No. |
|-----|--------------------|--|------------------|
| 1.  | TH- Min Thar 75 WG | Tebuconazole 50% + Trifloxystrobin 25% WG  | P2020-4683       |
| 2.  | TH-Super 32.5 SC   | Azoxystrobin 20% + Difenoconazole 12.5% SC | P2020-4877       |

## Xbox boss Phil Spencer retires as Microsoft shakes up gaming unit

MICROSOFT on Friday put out word that Xbox stalwart Phil Spencer is retiring, in a shakeup of leadership at the tech titan’s video game unit.

Former Instacart chief operating officer Asha Sharma will take over as head of Microsoft Gaming, with Matt Booty becoming executive vice-president and chief content officer.

“As we celebrate Xbox’s 25<sup>th</sup> year, the op-

portunity and innovation agenda in front of us is expansive,” Microsoft chief executive Satya Nadella said in a message to employees.

“I am long on gaming and its role at the centre of our consumer ambition.”

Changes to the gaming team include Sarah Bond leaving her job as Xbox president “to begin a new chapter” away from Microsoft, according to the company. — AFP

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY.NO. (0B85351NC)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY.NO. (0B85351NC)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **22-2-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

**M/S CMA-CGM SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD**

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V AS SOPHIA VOY.NO. (605W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V AS SOPHIA VOY.NO. (605W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **22-2-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** 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 MAERSK A/S**

# WEEKLY WORLD NEWS DIGEST



Guests visit the show room of the Deep Space Exploration Laboratory in Hefei, east China's Anhui Province, 7 July 2025. **PHOTO: ZHOU MU/XINHUA/FILE**

**FEBRUARY 21**

## Chinese scientists develop AI model to push deep-space exploration

CHINESE researchers have developed an artificial intelligence (AI) model for astronomical imaging that significantly enhances scientists' ability to peer into the deepest reaches of the cosmos.

A cross-disciplinary research team from Tsinghua University developed the model, named ASTERIS (Astronomical Spatiotemporal Enhancement and Reconstruction for Image Synthesis), using computational optics and AI algorithms.

According to the findings published on Friday in the journal *Science*, the model can help extract extremely faint astronomical signals, identify galaxies more than 13 billion light years away and generate the deepest deep-space images ever produced. Exploring distant, faint celestial objects is crucial to understanding the origin and evolution of the universe. Yet astronomers face a major challenge. — Xinhua

**FEBRUARY 20**

## Europe's powers launch 'low-cost' air defence

FIVE of Europe's top military powers announced a joint programme Friday to quickly develop low cost drones.

Defence ministers and deputy ministers from Britain, France, Germany, Italy and Poland said in a statement that the Low-Cost Effectors and Autonomous Platforms (LEAP) initiative would help "improve our collective security" within NATO while strengthening European cooperation. At a press conference, German Defence Minister Boris Pistorius said the aim of the project was to "rapidly and cheaply develop innovative systems, in particular for defence against drones, and then just as rapidly produce them in large numbers". UK minister of state, Luke Pollard said each member of the group has made a "multi-million" dollar commitment to advance the technology needed to start producing components of the new system "within 12 months". — AFP

**FEBRUARY 19**

## Japan PM aims to cut consumption tax early

PRIME Minister Sanae Takaichi said she aims to realize a two-year consumption tax suspension on food and beverage items as early as possible after cross-party discussions, following her Liberal Democratic Party's decisive victory in a general election.

Speaking at a press conference after her reelection as prime minister in parliament earlier in the day, Takaichi did not say exactly when the envisioned tax reduction will be implemented, as ruling and opposition members are expected to discuss details towards this summer.

The ruling coalition led by Takaichi and opposition parties are moving to reduce the tax rate, currently set at eight per cent, as part of efforts to help households hit by persisting inflation. Takaichi reiterated her resolve to ramp up fiscal spending in a proactive yet responsible manner. — Kyodo

**FEBRUARY 18**

## China to tighten safety oversight of fireworks

CHINA'S Ministry of Emergency Management will dispatch inspection teams to tighten full-chain safety oversight of fireworks, thereby preventing and controlling various safety risks, the ministry said on Wednesday.

The ministry and the Office of the State Council Work Safety Committee held a meeting on the same day, calling for strengthened safety oversight over the production, transport, sales and setting off of fireworks, along with efforts to raise public safety awareness.

The meeting noted that the Spring Festival and the Lantern Festival mark a peak period for fireworks use, with safety risks looming large. It urged local authorities to attach great importance to fireworks safety and immediately organize inspections to identify and address safety hazards at retail stores and outlets.

Efforts must be made to curb risky practices such as excessive stockpiling and placing products outside stores. Smoking or using open flames inside stores is strictly prohibited, according to the meeting. — Xinhua

**FEBRUARY 17**

## Geneva nuclear talks enter critical phase

INDIRECT negotiations between the United States and Iran resumed in Geneva, Switzerland, entering what diplomats described as a critical phase.

Mediated by Oman and supported by EU envoys, the discussions focused on defining "guiding principles" for a possible framework agreement.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi acknowledged progress but cautioned that no immediate deal was imminent. Washington, meanwhile, reinforced its "dual-track" approach, keeping a second aircraft carrier deployed in the region to underline military readiness alongside diplomacy.

Oil markets reacted sharply, with Brent crude falling over one per cent after Araghchi's remarks, reflecting investor uncertainty. Analysts noted that while both sides expressed cautious optimism, significant gaps remain over sanctions relief and Iran's ballistic missile programme. — AFP

**FEBRUARY 16**

## Family demands compensation, education, government job

THE family of Ramdhani Yadav, 49, who died after a cement parapet wall from Metro Line 4 in Mulund collapsed onto the autorickshaw he was travelling in, has refused to claim his body, demanding compensation and a government job for one of his daughters.

His elder brother, Ramsamujh Yadav, said the family will not take the body from Rajawadi Hospital until authorities provide financial support.

Ramdhani, a native of Jaunpur in Uttar Pradesh, was the village pradhan and sole breadwinner. He leaves behind his wife and three daughters, aged 15 to 20.

Ramsamujh urged officials to ensure free education for the children and secure a job for one daughter to safeguard the family's future. — ANI

**FEBRUARY 15**

## Xi sends congratulatory message to AU Summit

CHINESE President Xi Jinping sent a congratulatory message to Joao Lourenco, rotating African Union (AU) chairperson and Angolan president, and Mahmoud Ali Youssouf, chairperson of the AU Commission, extending warm congratulations to African countries and people over the 39<sup>th</sup> AU Summit.

Xi noted that the world is undergoing accelerated changes unseen in a century, and the strength of the Global South has been growing remarkably.

Over the past year, the AU has kept unity and led African countries in actively promoting the integration process, resolutely safeguarding Africa's legitimate rights and interests, while its international status and influence have continued to rise, Xi said. — Xinhua

# SPORTS

## Professional boxing competition held in Yangon

THE Professional Boxing Matches-8 (PBM 8), organized by the Myanmar Boxing Commission, was held yesterday at around 2 pm at the Theinbyu Gymnasium in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Yangon Region.

In the 50-kilogramme category, Nyan Lin Htet (MBC Boxing Club) and Rine (Mandalay Club) fought a full contest, with both boxers going the distance. On points, Yan Lin Htet emerged victorious.

In the 55.37-kilogramme division, Aung Thiha Moe (Mandalay Club) defeated Maung Maung Oo (Thanlyin Club). Aung Thiha Moe's effective punching from the first to the third round prevented Maung Maung Oo from mounting a comeback, resulting in a loss for the Thanlyin boxer.

In another bout, Nyan Lin Aung (MBC Boxing Club) and Zan Zan Min Htet (Danuphyu Club) competed through



The Professional Boxing Matches-8 (PBM 8) event is in action.

all scheduled rounds. After the judges' scorecards were tallied, Nyan Lin Aung secured the win on points.

In the 61.2-kilogramme category, Aung Zay Myat (Mandalay Club) overcame Htoo Htoo (MBC Boxing Club).

Due to Aung Zay Myat's stronger punching, Htoo Htoo ceded the first round, and Aung Zay Myat took the victory. Later in the same weight class, Myo Jet Khaung (MBC Boxing Club) and Aung Min Khant (North Okkalapa Club) faced off. Myo Jet Khaung landed heavy punches early, causing Aung Min Khant to stagger and the fight to be stopped, awarding Myo Jet Khaung the win.

In the 66.7-kilogramme division, Saw Ar Ar El (Patheingyi Club) and Thiha Aung (Mandalay Club) fought competitively. Following the first round's exchanges, Thiha Aung's punches proved decisive, leaving Saw Ar Ar El unable to respond and conceding defeat.

The matches were contested over three rounds of three minutes each. The Myanmar Boxing Commission continues to foster the development of the next generation of boxers through staged competitions. — ASH/KZL

## Australia blow as goalkeeper Micah ruled out of Women's Asian Cup

AUSTRALIA suffered a setback Saturday in their quest to win the Women's Asian Cup with goalkeeper Teagan Micah ruled out of the tournament with concussion.

The Lyon star was shaping as the frontrunner to be Joe Montemurro's first-choice keeper for the tournament hosted by Australia from 1-21 March.

She was named in his squad on Thursday, but said on Instagram she was "simply not ready".

"I am truly devastated to have to withdraw from the Asian Cup," she wrote.

"I recently sustained another concussion and although I have pushed my hardest to be



Australia goalkeeper Teagan Micah has been ruled out of the Women's Asian Cup with concussion. PHOTO: AFP

back in time, I am simply just not ready.

"The timing feels absolutely cruel ... and sometimes foot-

ball and elite sports can break your heart and truly test you not just as a player but as a person". — AFP

## Gu shoots for elusive gold as Klaebo makes Olympic history

CHINA'S freestyle skiing superstar Eileen Gu aims for her elusive first title of the Winter Olympics as Norwegian Johannes Klaebo kicked off Saturday's action with his ground-breaking sixth gold of the Milan-Cortina Games.

Klaebo's victory in the men's 50km mass start event saw him clinch his 11<sup>th</sup> Winter Olympics gold medal, extending the record

he set earlier in these Games.

It was 29-year-old Klaebo's sixth gold medal of these Games alone, meaning he became the first athlete in history to win all six cross-country skiing races in one Games.

The only athlete in Winter or Summer Games history with more Olympic titles is American swimmer Michael Phelps, who won 23 golds. — AFP



China's freeski star Eileen Gu is through to the final of the Olympic women's halfpipe competition. PHOTO: AFP



## France win Olympic ski mountaineering mixed relay

EMILY Harrop and Thibault Anselmet combined to win gold for France in the mixed relay event of Olympic ski mountaineering in Bormio on Saturday.

Harrop and Anselmet clocked a winning time of 26 minutes 57.44 seconds in the relay, finishing 11.86 seconds ahead of the Swiss duo of Marianne Fatton and Jon Kistler. Spain's Ana Alonso Rodriguez and Oriol

France's Emily Harrop competes in the Olympic mixed relay ski mountaineering in Bormio. PHOTO: AFP

Cardona Coll rounded out the podium (+26.5).

Harrop, a four-time World Cup overall champion who was born in the French Alps to English parents, was in dominant form in her opening leg.

A silver medallist in the individual sprint, Harrop built up a healthy lead over Switzerland's Fatton and Spain's Alonso Rodriguez, the sprint gold and bronze medallists respectively.

Anselmet maintained that lead over Kistler and men's sprint champion Cardona Coll. — AFP

# At 94, Shatner proves age is no barrier to Rock dreams

*Shatner is boldly reinventing himself through heavy metal, proving that exploration can take many forms.*



PHOTO: WILLIAM SHATNER BANK CAMP

“STAR TREK” legend William Shatner is boldly going where few 94-year-olds have gone before, as the Canadian actor announced plans to release a heavy metal album.

“I have explored space. I have explored time. Now... I explore distortion,” Shatner wrote on social media late Thursday

alongside a picture of himself cradling an electric guitar in front of a red, smoky backdrop. “Thirty-five metal virtuosos. Thunderous guitars. Chaos with purpose,” he said.

The cult star promised covers of metal staples like Black Sabbath, Iron Maiden and Judas Priest, as well as “a few originals

forged in the same cosmic fire”.

Shatner played the daring Captain James T Kirk in 1960s sci-fi adventure franchise “Star Trek”, which follows the crew of a spaceship as it spreads liberal humanitarian ideals through the galaxy. He also portrayed the

titular character in cop show “TJ Hooker”, and won both a Golden Globe and a Primetime Emmy for his role on “Boston Legal”. In 2021, he

became the then oldest person ever to go to space when he traveled aboard a Blue Origin craft at age 90. — AFP

IN the Netherlands, culinary tradition takes centre stage at the World Snert and Stamppot Championships in Groningen. Inside a bustling industrial kitchen, chefs chop, stir, and simmer as they compete

*The competition centres on two traditional Dutch winter staples.*



## Pea soup, veggie mash contest warms up Dutch winter

for the coveted silver ladle.

The contest celebrates two beloved Dutch winter dishes: snert, a thick split-pea soup enriched with pork and smoked sausage, and stamppot, a hearty mash of potatoes and vegetables.

Competitors range from hobby cooks to seasoned professionals, each bringing their own twist. Veteran participant Henk de Haan added jalapeños

The event is held annually in Groningen, the Netherlands, inside an industrial kitchen setting. PHOTO: SIMONE'S KITCHEN

to his snert, while Gina Olthoff relied on a family recipe packed with meat and vegetables.

Judges, armed with clipboards, assess ingredients, texture, and taste — insisting the soup must be thick enough for a spoon to stand upright.

Founded in 1995, the event has grown into a cul-

tural highlight, even inspiring special postage stamps.

This year, Arthur Vos, a restaurant owner from Garderen, proudly claimed first prize in the snert category after years of practice. For many, the championships embody Dutch cuisine at its best: simple, hearty, and full of tradition. — Kyodo

## Ishi Go legacy revived, Shiba Inu heritage inspires tourism

*Shiba Inu heritage revived in Shimane, boosting tourism.*

SHIBA Inu dogs, beloved worldwide for their foxlike faces and playful nature, trace their roots to Masuda, Shimane Prefecture, where tourists are greeted by them at Iwami Airport.

Research by Mayumi Kawabe uncovered the forgotten history of Ishi Go, a hunting dog discovered in 1936 and considered the father of modern Shiba Inu.

Kawabe, grieving her own pet's death, traced pedigrees and found nearly all Shibas descend from Ishi or his renowned descendant Naka. Her work, supported by the San'in Shiba Inu Breeders Association, sparked local pride and tourism.

She shared findings through lectures, websites, and a picture book, while residents established the Ishi Go Memorial Hall and erected a statue.

Festivals and air-

port welcome events now celebrate the breed's heritage, drawing visitors from across Japan and abroad. Kawabe's efforts not only preserved Shiba Inu history but also revitalized Shimane Prefecture, cementing its status as the sacred birthplace of the breed. — Kyodo



The memorial includes a stone statue on the grounds where the dog was kept, highlighting the region as a “sacred place for Shiba Inu”. PHOTO: KYODO