

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.



Acting President and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Mr Drnityr V Bakanov, General Director of the State-owned Corporation Roscosmos, the Russian Federation, yesterday.

Myanmar and Russia to Boost Space Technology Ties

General Director Mr Dmitry V Bakanov of the State-owned Corporation Roscosmos of the Russian Federation, who led a delegation, called on Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at Zeyathiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

At the meeting, they cordially exchanged views on the promotion of space technological cooperation between Myanmar and the Russian Federation, the enhancement of cooperation between the State-owned Corporation Roscosmos of the Russian Federation and the Myanmar Space Agency, and the efforts of Myanmar to further develop space

Myanmar and Russia are making arrangements to cooperate in the exploration and utilization of outer space for peaceful purposes.

technology.

They also focused on the launch of the satellite, which can enhance benefit of Myanmar and the people, the further development of human resources who can be deployed in initiating the space technology for Myanmar, and the co-operation in satellite communication technology.

Moreover, their discussions highlighted the upgrade of the Space Museum (Yangon) with enthusiastic observa-

tion of youth, the cooperation in outer space exploration and usage arena with the peaceful purpose between the two countries, sharing of space technological knowledge with the new generation youth, and sending scholarship trainees to the space technological training courses.

After the meeting, the Senior General and the General Director of Roscosmos exchanged commemorative gifts and had documentary photos taken to-

gether with the attendees at the meeting.

Also, present at the meeting were Commission Member Prime Minister U Nyo Saw, Commission Secretary General Ye Win Oo and officials. General Director Mr Dmitry V Bakanov of the State-owned Corporation Roscosmos of the Russian Federation was accompanied by Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Myanmar Mr Iskander Azizov, the Deputy General Director of Roscosmos and officials. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

Eligible voters cast ballots in elections, supporting government politically

- ❖ Voters cast their ballots in an orderly manner by queuing systematically, which demonstrated the public's support for the election as well as their endorsement of the political initiatives undertaken by the State Government.
- ❖ The election held in our country can be described as a successful one.

(An excerpt from the speech delivered by Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with the Union Election Commission Chairman, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman and chief ministers of regions and states on 9 February 2026)

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

Objectives of 81st Armed Forces Day

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

NDSC enacts Amendment to Revenue Appellate Tribunal Law

THE National Defence and Security Council enacted the Amendment to the Revenue Appellate Tribunal Law on 26 February 2026, and it was signed by Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Min Aung Hlaing under Section 427 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar:

The law introduces amendments to Section 22(a) and substitutes provisions in Sections 2, 4, 12, 13, 14, 15, 19, 21, 22, 24, 25, 30, and 42, as well as in the heading of Chapter VI. — GNLM

Yangon's Shwephonepwint to host Buddha Pujaniya Festival

THE 64th Buddha Pujaniya Festival and rice offering ceremony will be held at the Shwephonepwint Pagoda in Pazundaung Township, Yangon, on 2 March (the full moon day of Taboung), according to the pagoda trustees.

The festival and rice offering ceremony will be held on the morning of the full moon day of Taboung, featuring a consecration ceremony and early morning alms offering to the Buddha and the Sayadaws.

In addition, a rice-offering ceremony will be held in the evening for the monks. The monks will proceed to Ward No 7 to receive donations, and the necessary arrangements will be made.

“On the morning of the full moon day of Tabaung, there will be a ceremony to offer alms to the monks at the Sasana Jotika Dhamma Hall. In the evening, the alms rice offering ceremony will take place. The event will be led by 150 monks and 30 nuns, making a total of 180 participants. They will set out from U Shwe Gun Street, in front of the eastern archway of the pagoda, and proceed along Leikkan Street, Kwatthit Street, Zeya Street, Yekyaw Street, Zizawa Street, Dawna Street, Wutkyaung Street, Bogyoke Aung San Street, Eingyi Street, and U Shwe Gun Street, before returning to the eastern archway of the pagoda. After the event, a merit-sharing ceremony will be held at the Sasana Jotika Dhamma Hall in appreciation of the donations,” said U Shwe Soe, a member of the pagoda board of trustees. — ASH/MKKS

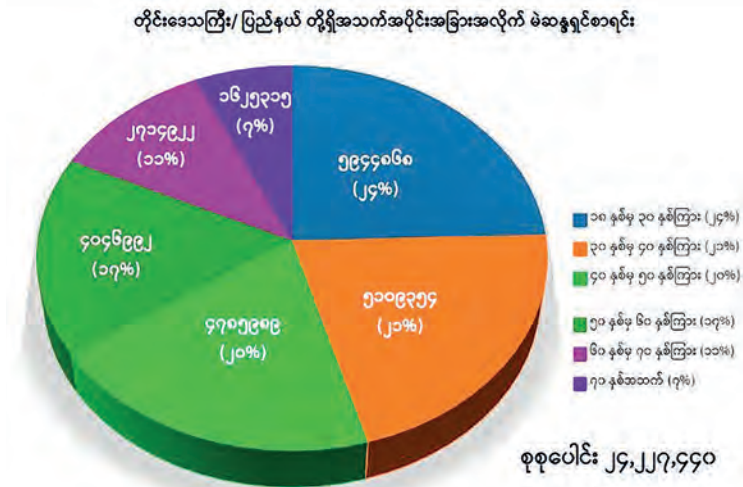
UEC Reports 54.22% Turnout in Multiparty Election with Strong Youth Vote

THE multiparty democratic general election, which began on 28 December 2025, was successfully conducted in three phases as a free and fair process in line with democratic standards.

Despite various challenges, political parties participated enthusiastically, and voters turned out responsibly, demonstrating strong civic engagement.

According to the Union Election Commission, there were 24.22 million eligible voters across all three phases, with more than 13.14 million casting their ballots, representing a voter turnout of 54.22 per cent.

An analysis of the eligible electorate shows significant



youth representation: 24 per cent aged 18-30, 21 per cent aged 30-40, 20 per cent aged 40-50, 17 per cent aged 50-60, 11 per cent aged 60-70, and seven per cent aged over 70.

The data also indicate that young voters played a prominent role in the overall turnout, highlighting growing youth interest and participation in national affairs. — MNA/KZL

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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)

Vice-Senior General Soe Win inspects repairs of damaged religious buildings in Inlay, Nyaungshwe Township, meets commandants of training schools, regiments and units in Bahtoo Station

Vice-Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, and Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, accompanied by Shan State Chief Minister U Aung Aung, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, the commander of Eastern Command and officials, yesterday morning paid homage to the Inlay PhaungdawU Pagoda at the bejewelled chamber and inspected repairs of damaged religious buildings caused by Mandalay earthquake in the Inlay region, Nyaungshwe Township, Shan State.

The Vice-Senior General paid homage to five PhaungdawU Buddha images and donated cash to the fund for overall renovation. Members of the Pagoda Board of Trustees accepted the donation and returned Dhamma gifts.

At the briefing hall, officials reported to the Vice-Senior General and party on facts about the Inlay region, accomplishment of the guidance of the Head of State, damage in the earthquake, progress in repairing the damaged structures, distribution of cash assistance and utensils provided by the National Disaster Management Committee to the earthquake-affected people in the Nyaungshwe region.

The Vice-Senior General gave instructions to officials to actually provide cash assistance, supplies and construction materials for the quake-affected people, complete the supply of remaining aid to them as quickly as possible, and implement systematic management for minimizing loss of cash assistance provided by the State and development of the quake-affected Inlay region better than the past, and coordinated with officials to fulfil the needs.

The Vice-Senior General inspected damaged tiles on the platform of the



State Security and Peace Commission Vice-Chair, Defence Services Deputy Commander-in-Chief, and Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win is pictured paying homage to the Inlay PhaungdawU Pagoda in Shan State yesterday.

pagoda, collapsed archways, stairways, Karaweik decorated float and other religious buildings affected by the earthquake and repair works by state engineers and groups, and experts from Myanmar Engineering Society in original state, and clearing of weeds in the water courses by boat in Inlay Lake to ensure long-term existence of the lake, green the environment and safe travels of the people and coordinated with officials to fulfill the requirements.

The bejewelled chamber, where the sacred Inlay PhaungdawU Pagoda is enshrined, was affected by the Mandalay earthquake that struck on 28 March 2025. Although the structural condition of the main chamber building remains sound, there was minor damage to the junction between the top of the northern main

staircase and the main chamber. As the stairways on the eastern, western, and southern sides were not originally structurally connected to the main chamber, gaps of approximately three to six inches have occurred between them.

Local engineers and experts from the Myanmar Engineering Society coordinated the situation and strived to repair them in original states. In this regard, they have repaired 100 per cent placement of tiles on the platform of the pagoda, 100 per cent concreting of the base of the main chamber, 100 per cent repairing of the eastern and western stairways of the main chamber, and 100 per cent renovation of the southern stairway, the northern prayer hall and the Karaweik decorated float. Pilgrims can pay homage to the pagoda safely and

conveniently. Regarding the stairway at the northern archway, it is slightly steep when carrying the revered Inlay PhaungdawU Buddha images from the main chamber for the annual procession and veneration ceremony. Therefore, a new stairway is currently being reconstructed, and it is learned that the work will be completed by the end of March.

The Vice-Senior General met commandants from training schools, regiments and units in Bahtoo Station yesterday morning and gave instructions on military building and training missions in addition to the plans.

In the afternoon, he instructed senior officer trainees at the Command and General Staff College in Kalay to emphasize military operations in detail. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

PM inspects fire-engulfed shops at Ahara Thukha Market in Pyinmana



Prime Minister U Nyo Saw is pictured during his inspection tour of the shops ravaged by fire.

PRIME Minister U Nyo Saw yesterday morning inspected the Ahara Thukha Market where a fire broke out in Kinpunta Village of Kinpunta Village-tract in Pyinmana Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area at night on 25 February.

Accompanied by Executive Chief of the National Defence and Security Council U Aung Lin Dwe, Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Phone Myat, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Than Tun Oo and officials, the Prime Minister viewed damage to the complex 8 of the market in the fire and clearing of debris. He comforted the owners of shops and coordinated reports of shop

owners with officials to fulfil the needs.

The outbreak of fire started at the complex 8 of Ahara Thukha market at 8.46 pm on 25 February. As firefighters rushed to the scene and extinguished the fire at 9:31 pm.

No casualties occurred in the outbreak of fire. There are some 240 shops from a complex out of five complexes of the market. Remaining complexes and shops of the market which were not included in the outbreak of fire are open for the sale of goods as usual. Arrangements are being made to open the damaged shops to swiftly open for selling. — MNA/TTA

Russia and Myanmar discuss space technology cooperation

A delegation led by General Director Mr Dmitry V Bakanov of the State-owned Corporation Roscosmos of the Russian Federation, met a Myanmar delegation led by Dr Soe Myint Maung, Chief Executive Officer of the Myanmar Space Agency (MSA), on 25 February at the MSA to hold consultations on Russia-Myanmar space technology cooperation.

Mr Dmitry V Bakanov and his team, accompanied by officials from the MSA, then met

middle and high school students from the Training High School (Kamayut Township) at the Space Museum on Ahlon Road, Dagon Township. Mr Bakanov delivered a lecture on space technology, and cosmonaut Mr Sergei Konstantinovich Krikalev, who was awarded the titles of Hero of the Soviet Union and Hero of the Russian Federation, and who accompanied the delegation, shared his experiences in spaceflight. — MNA/TH



A talk on space technology and experience-sharing by cosmonaut Mr Sergei Konstantinovich Krikalev is underway on 25 February 2026.

Myanmar delegation joins 4th Future Tech Forum in Moscow

A Myanmar delegation led by Dr Myo Thein Kyaw, Union Minister for Science and Technology, attended the Fourth Forum on Future Technologies, held on 25 and 26 February at the World Trade Centre in Moscow, the Russian Federation.

At the forum, exhibitions and panel discussions were organized on research into the production of bio-economy products, the development of new products from waste materials through the application of biotechnology, the nature of bio-ecosystems, the creation of biotechnology-based computational systems, the application of biotechnology in the agriculture and health sectors, the establishment of necessary legal and regulatory frameworks for biotechnology development, and the implementation of green energy systems.



The Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Kyaw is pictured attending the Fourth Forum on Future Technologies on 25-26 February.

The President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, attended as a special guest and, in his address, he emphasized the importance of biotechnology, information technology and artificial intelligence in the field of future technologies.

The Union Minister for Science and Technology was accompanied by Dr Tin Htut, Deputy Minister for Agricul-

ture, Livestock and Irrigation, U Thwin Aung, Deputy Minister for Industry, U Min Min, Deputy Minister for Commerce, and Dr Aye Tun, Deputy Minister for Health. The delegation took part in relevant panel discussions, toured the exhibitions, and held discussions with experts and researchers in the respective technological sectors. — MNA/KNN

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NATIONAL

Central Body for Summoning People’s Military Servants holds 1/2026 meeting

UNION Minister for Defence General Maung Maung Aye, in his capacity as Chairman of the Central Body for Summoning People’s Military Servants, presided over the coordination meeting of the central body in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting, the Union Minister said all levels of summoning bodies need to strictly follow the directive of systematic summoning and arrangements are being made to summon those who meet the legal age requirements to serve within the designated period, as every citizen has a duty to defend the country.

He stated that the People’s Military Service Training reaches batch 19, and those completed the training serve the state in defence and security duties dutifully. Among them, 74 individuals have received gallantry medals, certificates of bravery, honorary certificates, and commendation certificates from senior leaders. At present, three training batches are undergoing training.

Regarding the summoning



Union Minister General Maung Maung Aye presides over the coordination meeting of the Central Body for Summoning People’s Military Servants yesterday.

process, he stressed that ward and village administrative bodies and township-level bodies, which have direct contact with the public, must ensure good community relations, prevent financial misconduct, and strictly follow prescribed procedures. Responsible authorities at various levels must supervise and scrutinize these matters. He also noted that there have been complaints based on false information or hearsay against township, ward, and village administrators who are carrying out duties in accordance with the law, rules, and procedures properly. In cases of unfounded accusations and reports, investigations must be conducted thoroughly, and action must also be taken as necessary. Some complainants have already faced action, and some cases remain under process. Moreover, it also found that underage and over-age individuals were examined before being sent to the training schools, and they were sent back. Therefore, exact verification is required to ensure only those within the eligible service age are summoned.

If there are malpractices of officials and agents in sum-

moning the servants, they will be taken action effectively, and all should supervise such cases, whereas some cases have already been taken action, and others are in process.

He highlighted the National Service Information Management System (NSIMS), review on exemption, reduction and temporary suspension, and the need to summon those who received a temporary suspension permit in full by the Nay Pyi Taw Council and Region/State Committees for Summoning People’s Military Servants when the time comes.

He also talked about the formation of the Employment Management Committee on Former Military Personnel, five working committees under the management committee, and activities of the committees regarding the employments for them.

Members of the central body and Nay Pyi Taw, Region/State committees’ chairmen and officials reported on the matters related to military training. — MNA/KTZH

Rule of law, tech safeguards ensure secure, fair digital space

A discussion on combatting digital service violations (Anti-Piracy) was held yesterday at the Eravati Hotel in Yangon.

It was attended by Deputy Minister for Information U Ye Tint, officials of the Myanmar Press Council, Myanmar Writers’ Association, Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization, Myanmar Music Association (Central), Myanmar Theatrical Association (Central), DPDC, film producers, directors and other relevant officials.



Deputy Information Minister U Ye Tint speaks at the discussion on combatting digital service violations yesterday in Yangon.

Deputy Minister U Ye Tint said that in the present time, illegal digital piracy has become increasingly widespread in various forms, causing harm not only to the interests of creators but also to the country’s economy and investment sectors. Piracy directly steals the efforts and investments of creators and goes beyond copyright, damaging the entire artistic and technological system.

If such actions are not effectively prevented, they would hinder the emergence of new, high-quality creative works. He emphasized that the film industry, broadcasting sector, music industry, software industry, and digital content industries have become essential pillars of the national economy. Their revenues largely depend on broadcasting rights and digital distribution.

He added that digital piracy is no longer a domestic issue within a single country. It has become an international problem through cross-border violations, the use of multiple platforms, and cloud-based systems. Therefore, copyright protection can no longer be addressed by legislation alone, and it requires the simultaneous application of technology-based protection systems. He urged the government,

private sector, technology providers, creators, and the public to jointly apply the rule of law and technological safeguards to build a secure and fair digital environment in Myanmar.

GTL Group of Companies Chairman Dr Sein Htoo, Mr Milogolov Sergey and Mr Goncharov Stanislav Andreevich of Anti-Piracy Solutions of Russian Positive Technologies coordinated the discussion and explained the Anti-Piracy Solutions of Russia and international countries.

The Deputy Minister inspected the upgrading work of Wazira Cinema in Kyauktada township in the same morning.

In the evening, he met with the departmental and company officials at the Sarso Beikman construction site in Mingala Taungnyunt township, and made proper instructions regarding the occupational safety. — MNA/KTZH

NATIONAL

Lao-Myanmar friendship delegation visits to boost bilateral ties



This photo captures the Lao-Myanmar friendship delegation being welcomed on their arrival in Myanmar yesterday.

A delegation led by Chanthavong, Chairman of the Lao-Myanmar Friendship Association (LMFA), arrived in Myanmar from Laos by air yesterday to hold discussions on matters relating to bilateral friendship.

They were welcomed at the airport by the Lao Ambassador to Myanmar and members of the Myanmar-Lao friendship associations.

The delegation, headed by the chairman of the Lao-Myanmar Friendship Association, comprises representatives from various sectors. It aims to promote closer cooperation in the fields of business, culture and youth affairs. During the visit, the delegation will travel to Nay Pyi Taw to meet and hold discussions with relevant ministries.

Regarding the visit, the

chairman of the Lao-Myanmar Friendship Association expressed his pleasure at visiting Myanmar, which he described as a model among Buddhist countries in the region for the flourishing of the Buddha's teachings. He also stated that he was eager to enhance connectivity and co-operation with Myanmar as a good neighbouring country.

— MNA/KNN

Donation ceremony held for Buddha Hall in Dagon Myothit (North)



The donation ceremony for the Buddha Hall is in progress yesterday.

THE regular meeting and donation ceremony for the construction of Buddha Hall in the Pyigy Chantha (MyoU) Pagoda compound, Dagon Myothit (North) Township, Dagon Myothit District, Yangon Region, was held yesterday afternoon at the Santisukha Dhamma Hall within the pagoda compound.

The ceremony commenced with the recitation of the Namo Tassa three times, after which members of the Buddha Hall construction team received guidance from the Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Chairman, Sayadaw Bhaddanta Suriya.

U Tint Wai, patron of the Sasana Beikman construction committee, and U Myint Zaw, chairman of the committee, then addressed matters relating to the construction of the temple.

Subsequently, donors contributed cash for the Sasana Beikman, which was received by the chairman and members of the Township Management and Administration Body, as well as members of the construction team. Certificates of appreciation were presented to the donors. The ceremony concluded with the recitation of the Buddha Sasanam Siram Tithatu three times.

The Buddha Hall has been constructed to host religious ceremonies, Abhidhamma and Visuddhimagga examinations, and other religious activities in a grand and spacious setting. The building is a two-storey reinforced concrete structure measuring 200 feet in length and 90 feet in width, capable of accommodating approximately 1,000 monks. — Bala/MKKS

Foreigners arrested over telecom fraud in Myawady

THE Myanmar government emphasizes the elimination process of online scams and gambling, which harm the international community as well as the entire world, as a national duty. To ensure that such activities gain no foothold within the country, the government is actively conducting suppression operations in coordination not only with domestic forces but also with the governments of neighbouring countries.

In doing so, the security members and administrative bodies, with regional officials, conducted operations to combat illegal businesses and illegal foreign entrants and demolished the illegal buildings in Shwekokko and KK Park areas. Moreover, the illegal buildings in Myawady-Maethawtalay (KK

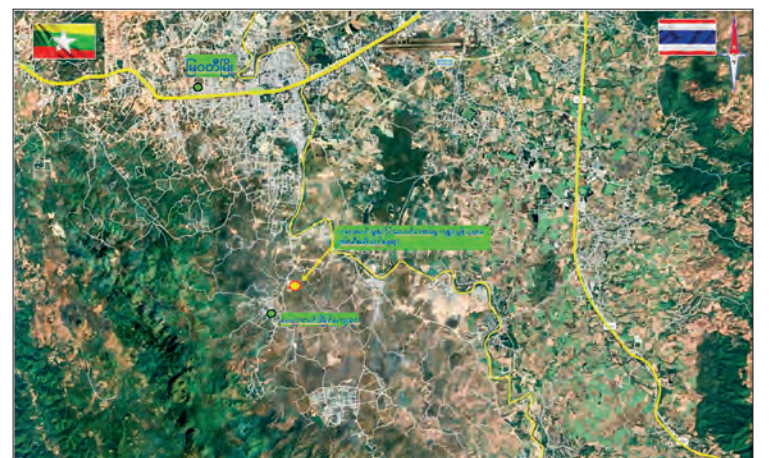


Images show confiscated scam-related materials and the structure used by scammers (top and above) along with a map of the crackdown location.

Park) were demolished systematically, and the illegal foreigners involved in online scams and gambling were also arrested.

Yesterday, the authorities

arrested 148 Chinese nationals, three Thai nationals, three Filipinos, one Cambodian and one Russian, totalling 156 individuals involved in online scams and



gambling near Metta Lin Myaing village of Myawady Township, together with 110 all-in-one computers, 2,200 mobile phones and other materials.

The offenders were detained at Myoma Police Station of Myawady, and the departmental officials took records of their personal data and other information.

The seized equipment related to telecom fraud and online gambling activities will be handled in accordance with established procedures, and the arrestees will be transferred to their respective countries through legal inspection on humanitarian grounds and bilateral relationships. — MNA/KTZH

Agri Dept to Host Fruit & Vegetable Fair for 64th Peasants' Day

AGRICULTURE Department notified of holding the Fruit & Vegetable Fair and Competition for three days (from 28 February to 2 March) in Bayintnaung Park in Hlinethaya Township to celebrate the 64th Peasants' Day that falls on 2 March 2026, according to the Myanmar Fruit, Flower, Vegetable Producers and Exporters Association (MFVP). Those interested individuals can contact Daw Khin Mar

Cho at 09 256303325. This Fair and Competition is aimed at enhancing the agricultural sector and the socioeconomic status of the farmers. Participants need to send sample quantities for the different categories to the evaluation team on 27 February. Those participating in Group 1 must send one guard, one pumpkin, three gourds, five eggplants (same variety), 10 green beans, five cucumbers, one marrow, ten

tomatoes, five ridge gourds, ten okras, seven bitter gourds and other vegetables. Participants in Group 2 must submit seven sweet potatoes, one konjac, ten arrowroots, one wild yam, three cassavas, ten taros, five radishes and other root vegetables. Sample quantity to be sent in Group 3 includes one cabbage, one cauliflower, one broccoli, one Chinese cabbage, one mustard green and others.

Regarding fruit samples, one cluster of coconuts (at least seven fruits), one cluster of areca nut, a bunch of banana for various varieties (Pheegyan, Shweni, Yakhine, Theemhwe), one cluster of palm fruit, and other fruits grown in clusters or branches in Group 1, two pomelo (same variety), three citrus, five limes, five lemons, five common guava, three mango and other fruits including branch in Group 2 and

two papayas, one pineapple, one jackfruit, one watermelon, muskmelon, other melon groups and fruits in Group 3 are listed. The submitted vegetables and fruits will be evaluated in line with scoring rules, with 10 points for hygiene and freshness, 20 for size uniformity, 20 for appearance, 20 for sanity, 10 for rare fruits and 20 points for maintaining original shape. — NN/KK

India Embassy invites pharma firms to India-Myanmar Business Forum

THE Indian Embassy in Yangon invited businesses to participate in the India-Myanmar Pharmaceutical Business Forum & B2B that is scheduled to take place on 2 March 2026 at the Pan Pacific Hotel and on 3 March 2026 at the Conference Room, India Centre.

The Indian pharmaceutical business delegation is visiting Yangon, Myanmar. Additionally, 65 Indian pharmaceutical companies will be participating in the conference & B2B.

Furthermore, one-to-one business meetings, a conference on India-Myanmar pharmaceuticals & business opportunities and signing a memorandum of understanding will be included.

Product profiles are active pharmaceuticals, bulk drugs & excipients, intermediates, finished formulations, liquid orals, oral dosages, tablets & capsules, medical devices, surgical & wound care products, pellets, nutraceuticals and food supplements, cosmeceuticals and skin care, vitamins & probiotics and injectables.

The India-Myanmar Pharmaceutical Business Forum will be held from 9 to 10 am on 2 March, followed by a tea break. Business matchmaking session will be continued after tea break and one-hour lunch (1-2 pm) until 5:30 pm. Meetings with trade bodies and follow-up business discussions will take place on 3 March. — NN/KK

Myanmar Targets US\$2B from Pulses Exports in FY2025-26

MYANMAR'S pulses export exceeded two million tonnes in the ten months of the current financial year, beginning 1 April. Pulses export income is aimed to reach US\$2 billion, said Chairperson U Ohn Sai of the Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association.

"Myanmar's pulses export target is over 3.2 million tonnes for the 2025-2026 financial year. The export volume has surpassed over 2.4 million tonnes so far. Around 700,000 tonnes remain to meet the target volume. We expect to earn approximately \$450 million to \$500 million in the last two months (February-March) of this FY," he explained.

Myanmar's pulse exports have penetrated over 57 countries. Nonetheless, the pulses



This photo showcases a variety of Myanmar's beans and pulses displayed in the domestic market.

are conveyed to only 48 countries at present. To apply for an export licence of various pulses (maize, sesame seeds, peanuts and beans), member companies of the association

need to fill in the Excel File (MPBMSMA-Export Licence Endorsement) accordingly, and a soft copy must be sent to ed@mpbmsma.org in advance. They first seek a rec-

ommendation letter from the association by providing the necessary documents prior to obtaining a licence, according to the Ministry of Commerce. — ASH/KK

CBM to sell US\$30M to fuel oil importers

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) announced on 25 February that it would inject US\$30 million into the fuel oil sector.

CBM also sold over \$2.44 million to edible oil-importing companies and \$2 million to fuel oil-importing companies on that day, along with an injection of over \$1.83 million, 300,000 yuan, and three million baht in the market.

CBM injected 2.1 million baht and \$180,000 into the market on 24 February, in addition to selling over \$2.5 million to

edible oil-importing companies.

CBM sold \$1.1 million, purchased from CMP companies, to edible oil-importing companies, in addition to selling 260,000 yuan in the market.

CBM announced on 20 November that it would sell \$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, and sold over \$1.84 million to edible oil-importing companies on 19 February.

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.

CBM aims to curb the instability in the foreign ex-

change 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

Welcome prohibition of importing and trading e-cigarette and accessories

The e-cigarette, commonly known as a vape, was originally developed and produced as a substitute product to help people quit smoking. Today, e-cigarettes are produced in a variety of modern designs and are widely used among young people. At the same time, evidence has begun to emerge showing addiction similar to traditional cigarette dependence, as well as negative impacts on health.

According to a recent warning issued by the World Health Organization, there are now more than 100 million e-cigarette users worldwide, including no fewer than 15 million children. This trend is said to be fueling a new wave of nicotine addiction. Global studies state that children are, on average, nine times more likely to use vapes than adults. E-cigarettes, or vapes, deliver nicotine

through electronic means for inhalation. As a result, children who use vapes may develop nicotine addiction from an early age, which can negatively affect their growth and development.

Countries have imposed strict bans on the sale, importation, and use of e-cigarettes and vaping products, and have enforced severe penalties, including heavy fines and imprisonment. The Ministry of Health in Myanmar issued Order 8/2026 dated 18 February 2026, prohibiting importation, exportation, sale, possession, storage, transportation, distribution, use, or consumption of e-cigarettes, products similar to e-cigarettes, related accessories, heated smoking devices, electronic shisha, as well as similar products and their related accessories, as restricted goods.

Under current circumstances, the use of e-cigarettes is no longer merely a substitute for traditional smoking; rather, it has become a means of developing nicotine dependence mixed with other chemical substances. The vapourized liquid (aerosol) used in e-cigarettes is combined with toxic chemicals and formulated in a variety of colours, scents, and flavours to attract users. As a result, they have become appealing even to girls and underage children. In addition, e-cigarette devices are produced and sold in stylish, modern designs and colours, creating the impression that using vapes is fashionable.

vapourized liquid (aerosol) used in e-cigarettes is combined with toxic chemicals and formulated in a variety of colours, scents, and flavours to attract users. As a result, they have become appealing even to girls and underage children. In addition, e-cigarette devices are produced and sold in stylish, modern designs and colours, creating the impression that using vapes is fashionable.

Although the State has not declared vapes to be a narcotic drug or a psychotropic substance, it has designated e-cigarettes as restricted essential goods to prevent any decline in the health of citizens and to proactively avoid potential consequences that may arise from vape use. Under the Essential Goods and Services Law, those who are currently selling, storing, or using vape products will be subject to legal action. Therefore, rather than risking their health and dignity, it is necessary to promptly cease the use, storage, and sale of vape products.

How to Prepare Successfully for the Matriculation Examination

By Min Min Zan

The matriculation examination is one of the most decisive stages in a student's academic life because it determines future educational opportunities and career paths. For many parents, their greatest wish is to see their children become more successful than themselves, and they are willing to sacrifice money, time, and comfort to support this goal. As the examination period approaches, students often face pressure, anxiety, and physical strain. Therefore, careful preparation, good health, and emotional balance become just as important as academic knowledge. Both students and parents play vital roles during this critical time. By following correct study methods, maintaining discipline, and creating a supportive environment, students can face the examination with confidence and a clear mind.

It is a natural and undeniable truth that parents want their sons and daughters to become more successful and more advanced than themselves. Even if they are not financially well-off, they strive as much as possible to ensure that their children can receive higher education. Especially working-class families may not be able to give their children wealth or property, but they try their best to

educate them. Therefore, parents invest a large amount of money in their children's matriculation (university entrance) examination.

For the 2025-2026 academic year, students who will sit for the matriculation examination will take the exam from 11 March to 17 March. The Ministry of Education has announced that students who have not yet applied for the examination can collect their examination admission cards starting from 23 February 2026 (Monday), from the respective examination supervisors and headmasters at their examination centres.

At present, it is believed that all students who will sit for the matriculation examination are now fully prepared. They should also have strong self-confidence. Parents will also provide everything their children need. The examination period comes during the late spring season when gentle winds blow, flowers bloom, and birds sing. However, together with the spring weather, some students experience anxiety, restlessness, and lack of concentration. Even revising what they have already studied may feel difficult.

At such times, guardians should encourage and motivate their children. In particular, they should closely supervise their children's movements and daily

routines during the examination period. In reality, students who have studied well since the beginning of the academic year should already have completed learning all their lessons. This period is meant for revising and practising what has been learned. Important points in each subject should be reread, reflected upon, and practised. The brain should be kept clear and light, not overloaded.

Healthcare is especially important. For students, the most important thing at this time is good health. Even if a student knows the lessons well, if they become ill during the examination period, they will not be able to perform as expected. Therefore, they must eat and live in a healthy and balanced way. They should sleep and eat regularly and bathe carefully.

Students should systematically prepare all necessary stationery in advance. If they use a new pen in the examination without trying it beforehand, it may cause discomfort and distraction. It is best to test pens and pencils beforehand and choose good-quality ones. Ink pens should not be used because they may smudge the answer sheets. Low-quality pencils and erasers can also damage the paper and reduce the quality of answers. If possible, all required materials should be bought new,

tested, and prepared in advance.

Parents should not put excessive pressure on their children. Some parents force their children to study late into the night, give them tea, coffee, sour food, or energy drinks to keep them awake. Such actions only amount to cruelty. Lack of sleep makes students tired and dull-minded during the exam. Therefore, parents must be careful not to pressure their children too much.

If possible, parents should prepare clean and neat white and green uniforms for their children. On examination days, students should avoid spicy, oily, and heavy foods and eat only easily digestible food. They should arrive at school at least thirty minutes early. They must not forget their admission card and should wear neat uniforms. A clean and tidy appearance increases self-confidence.

When entering the examination hall, students should take all necessary items at once. They must listen carefully to the instructions given by the supervisors. When question papers are distributed, students should read them carefully from beginning to end. If any page is missing, damaged, or incorrect, they must immediately inform the invigilator.

They must clearly write their roll number on the first answer

sheet. When permitted to start, they should read the questions carefully and answer according to the marks given. After each answer, they should leave proper spacing. They should not write too little for a question that carries many marks. Since the new question format emphasizes thinking ability, they must answer thoughtfully and carefully.

If extra answer sheets are given, the roll number must also be written on them. After completing all questions, students should check whether they have written all roll numbers correctly and whether there are spelling or numbering mistakes. Once they leave the hall, they will not be allowed to check their answer sheets again, so they should stay until the full time is over.

After finishing each subject, students should put it out of their minds and focus only on the next subject. Worrying about already completed subjects can affect performance in the remaining ones. Each subject should be treated separately and calmly.

Some students may not be equally good in all subjects. Some

subjects may be stronger than others. Such students must make correct decisions. Some students, thinking they cannot get distinctions in all subjects, tear up their answer sheets at the last moment. This is a serious mistake. The present time is the most important, while the future is uncertain. Therefore, such actions should be strictly avoided. One's destiny can be shaped by one's own efforts. Making correct decisions inside the examination hall is extremely important.

In any case, all students who will take the matriculation examination must sit for it starting from 11 March. This examination determines their future. If they perform well in this examination, they will have the opportunity to continue higher education at the university level they desire. Those who have studied regularly since the beginning of the academic year will benefit greatly.

Therefore, during the period of this decisive university entrance examination, students should live carefully, read and understand the questions thoroughly, and answer them with all their ability and intel-



ligence to obtain high marks and, if possible, distinctions. This article is written with sincere wishes for their success.

In conclusion, success in the matriculation examination does not depend only on intelligence or memorization but on systematic preparation, healthy living, and wise decision-making. Students must revise their lessons carefully, manage their time properly, and enter the examination hall with calmness and confidence. At the same time, parents should encour-

age rather than pressure their children and ensure that their physical and mental well-being is protected. Attention to small details such as stationery, punctuality, and correct answering techniques can greatly influence final results. This examination is a turning point in life, and every effort made during this period contributes to shaping the future. With determination, self-belief, and careful guidance, students can achieve success and move forward towards higher education and brighter opportunities.

Wealth, Superiority, and the Plastic Brain: A Psychological and Buddhist Perspective

By Khin Maung Myint

Introduction: The Psychology of Superiority

The belief "I am the best" or "we are superior" is often associated with individuals who possess wealth, status, or power. While it may appear as confidence, psychology shows that this mindset is not simply a personal trait but a constructed mental pattern. The human brain builds identity by integrating external conditions into internal self-perception. Wealth and authority provide powerful signals of success, and over time, the mind begins to equate possession with personal worth. This belief becomes psychologically convincing

because it is repeatedly reinforced by experience.

Neuroplasticity and the Formation of Identity

Modern neuroscience explains this process through neuroplasticity – the brain's ability to reorganise itself in response to repeated experiences. Neural pathways strengthen when activated frequently. When individuals receive constant affirmation, privilege, and deference, the brain reinforces circuits associated with reward, importance, and control. These pathways gradually stabilise, creating a durable internal

sense of superiority. The brain does not distinguish whether reinforcement arises from intrinsic qualities or external circumstances; it adapts to patterns. As a result, privilege becomes neurologically normalized and feels like an inherent attribute rather than a situational condition.

Social Reinforcement and Cognitive Bias

Social psychology further explains this phenomenon through concepts such as self-serving bias and social dominance orientation. Individuals tend to attribute success to personal merit while overlooking structural advantages or favourable circumstances. Their social environment often



shields them from criticism and reinforces their elevated position. This creates a feedback loop: social privilege strengthens neural pathways, and these neural pathways reinforce beliefs of superiority. Over time, this mindset becomes both psychologically ingrained and socially validated.

The Buddhist Understanding of Conceit (Māna)

Buddhist philosophy recognized the psychological roots of superiority over two millennia ago. The Buddha described conceit (Māna) as the tendency to compare oneself with others – whether as better, equal, or worse. All such comparisons arise from attach-

ment to a fixed sense of self. Buddhism teaches the principles of impermanence (Anicca) and non-self (Anattā), emphasising that identity is not fixed but constantly changing. Wealth and power create the illusion of permanence, but they are temporary conditions. From this perspective, superiority is not an ultimate truth but a transient mental construction.

Neuroplasticity and the Possibility of Transformation

Neuroplasticity also offers hope. Because the brain is adaptable, mental patterns formed through privilege can be reshaped through reflection, humility, and broader experience. Exposure to different perspectives weakens rigid neural pathways and strengthens those associated with empathy and understanding. This demon-

strates that superiority is not biologically fixed but psychologically learned. The same plasticity that creates ego can also dissolve it.

Conclusion: Freedom Beyond Comparison

Both neuroscience and Buddhist philosophy converge on a profound insight: the sense of superiority is a product of conditioning rather than an inherent reality. Wealth and power influence the brain and shape perception, but they do not define intrinsic worth. True psychological maturity arises when individuals recognise the conditioned and impermanent nature of identity. In understanding the plastic nature of the brain and the impermanent nature of self, individuals move beyond comparison towards greater clarity, humility, and freedom.

NATIONAL

Myanmar, US sign pact to expand soybean meal trade, agribusiness ties

A new agreement has been signed between US exporters and Myanmar buyers to increase exports of soybean meal from the United States to South-East Asia, according to U Ye Min Aung, Administrative Director of Myanmar Agribusiness Public Corporation Limited (MAPCO).

“We have held business-to-business (B2B) discussions between companies from both sides to expand soybean oil production at domestic bran oil mills currently under construction, to add value to soybean meal by combining it with rice bran, broken rice and other by-products from rice mills to produce animal feed, and to enable the export of animal feed to neighbouring countries. We also plan to broaden cooperation in bilateral trade and investment, including the importation and distribution of soybeans and soybean meal,” said U Ye Min Aung.

According to a statement issued by



This photo depicts the commemorative photographs after the signing of the new agreement. **PHOTO: THE US EMBASSY, YANGON**

the US Embassy in Yangon, such partnerships not only create new markets for American farmers but also strengthen resilient regional supply chains and promote long-term economic ties.

Myanmar imported nearly US\$43 million worth of soybean meal in 2019 and 2020, as well as almost \$7 million worth of soybeans for the production of soya milk and tofu. — ASH/KNN

IFB hosts open mic for International Women’s Rights Day

IN honour of International Women’s Rights Day on 8 March 2026, Institut Francais de Birmanie will host an open mic session for women only on the evening of 7 March, with free registration.

International Women’s Rights Day is celebrated worldwide for honouring

incredible successes, voices and creativity of women.

The open mic will bring the best opportunity for women music enthusiasts to show off their creative singing skills with either their own original song or a cover song on stage.

The open mic session for International Women’s Rights Day 2026 has been scheduled on 7 March at IFB, and free registrations can be made at <https://forms.gle/6Y8tBJ12bz3kxKo6> on 28 February. IFB will contact registered participants on 3 March. — MT/ZS

Yangon investment project to generate 911 jobs, committee says



This image shows yarn cones used in the production of synthetic materials.

THE Yangon Region Investment Committee has approved one new investment project in Yangon Region in February 2026, which is expected to create employment opportunities for 911 workers.

“It was approved at Meeting 2/2026 of the Yangon Region Investment Committee, held on 26 February 2026. The project is a 100 per cent foreign-owned investment in the industrial sector. The approved business will manufacture various types of polyester, synthetic fabrics and lining materials used in the garment industry, with 100 per cent of its products to be sold domestically,” said

an official from the Yangon Region Investment Committee.

The total capital investment for the project amounts to US\$3.025 million. During February 2026, in addition to new investment projects, there were also increases in capital investment and workforce numbers among existing businesses.

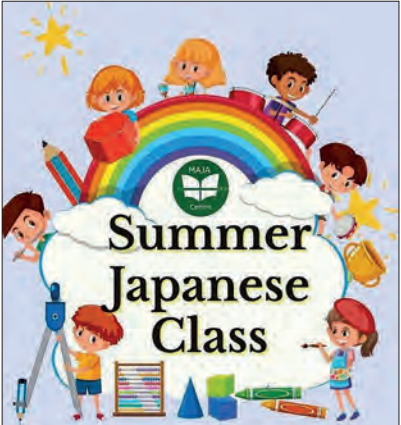
The Yangon Region Investment Committee approves, every month, in accordance with the relevant laws and procedures, both Myanmar and foreign investment projects in order to create new employment opportunities within Yangon Region. — ASH/KZL

MAJA to conduct free summer Japanese class for kids in Mar

THE education centre of the Myanmar Association of Japan Alumni said it will conduct free summer Japanese classes for kids in March.

Children aged 10-15 years old are eligible to attend, and those who have never learned the Japanese language will be prioritized. The summer Japanese class will be held at the MAJA Education Centre located in Ward 10, South Okkalapa Township, near Thitsa Road. Starting on 12 March, the summer Japanese class will run from 10 am to 11:30 am on Thursdays and Fridays for 1 month. With a K20,000 materials fee, enrolments are welcome at <https://forms.gle/M2364y-1fHRH1jvJe7>. The summer class will help children acquire a new skill during their summer holidays. They will also have the opportunity to get familiar with the Japanese language. Those who pass MAJA’s Japanese basic level test after the summer class will receive a discount for the N5 level class.

In addition to basic Japanese language, the summer class will also cover basic knowledge of Japanese culture and personal skills for kids, with interesting activities and games in a fun and dynamic learning environment, said MAJA. — MT/ZS



Summer Japanese Class

Age 10 to 15 years

12 MARCH - 3 APRIL

10:00 am - 11:30 am

Materials Fees - 20,000 Ks



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ENROLL NOW

This image depicts an advert poster for the summer Japanese class for kids.

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

BBC orders probe into ‘serious mistake’ over BAFTA racial slur

The investigation focuses on why a racial slur was broadcast despite a two-hour delay between filming and airing, and why the content remained on BBC iPlayer until the following morning.

THE head of the BBC on Wednesday ordered a “fast-tracked” internal investigation into the “serious mistake” that saw a racist slur aired during the BAFTA awards.

Tourette’s sufferer John Davidson, who inspired one of the winning films, has said he is “deeply mortified” after shouting the N-word at the London film and television awards ceremony, which he said was caused by an

“involuntary tic”.

He was heard shouting as “Sinners” actors Delroy Lindo and Michael B Jordan, who are both black, presented an award for special visual effects in the movies at the ceremony.

The investigation will probe why the slur was aired despite there being a two-hour delay between filming and the broadcast and why it remained on the BBC’s streaming service iPlayer

until the following morning.

“The BBC has been reviewing what happened at BAFTA on Sunday evening,” the broadcaster said in a statement.

“This was a serious mistake and the Director-General (Tim Davie) has instructed the Executive Complaints Unit (ECU) to complete a fast-tracked investigation and provide a full response to complainants,” it added. — AFP



The BBC has been reviewing what happened at BAFTA on Sunday evening. **PHOTO: PIXABAY**

Pakistani sculptor turns scrap into colossal metal artworks



This photograph taken on 12 February 2026 shows sculptor Ehtisham Jadoon working on a model of Optimus Prime, a film character from Transformers, made from scrap metal at his studio on the outskirts of Islamabad. **PHOTO: FAROOQ NAEEM / AFP**

IN an Islamabad workshop, 35-year-old Pakistani artist Ehtisham Jadoon transforms scrap car parts into massive sculptures inspired by Transformers and dinosaurs—like a 14-foot Optimus Prime, a steel-maned lion, and a towering T-rex. Sourcing cogs, chains, hubcaps, and engines from

junkyards, he welds motorbike springs into arms, car rims into shoulders, fuel tanks into spines, and bearings into eyes. “I visualize forms in scrap metal and solve the puzzle,” says Jadoon, a self-taught former martial artist and steel fabricator who designs spontaneously despite weekly doctor visits for

eye sparks and burns.

His aggressive, giant beasts channel his fighter’s energy, turning waste into value. Scrapyard owner Bostan Khan marvels: “What is waste to us becomes something valuable in his hands.” Jadoon’s intricate work highlights creativity from discard. — AFP

S Korea’s births grow for 18th month in December

SOUTH Korea’s births grew for the 18th successive month amid higher marriages, statistical ministry data showed Wednesday.

The number of newborn babies rose 9.6 per cent from a year earlier to 20,003 in December 2025, continuing to go up since July 2024, according to the Ministry of Data and Statistics.

The total fertility rate, or the number of children a woman is expected to bear during life,

added 0.06 to 0.74 in the cited month, but it stayed far below the replacement rate of 2.1 births per woman to maintain a stable population.

The number of marriages soared 13.4 per cent to 25,527 in December on a yearly basis, while the number of divorces gained 3.8 per cent to 7,840.

The number of deaths fell 0.3 per cent to 32,536 in December 2025 compared to the same month of 2024. — Xinhua



South Korea’s births grew for the 18th successive month amid higher marriages. **PHOTO: PIXABAY**

Netflix, Prime and Disney+ face UK broadcasting regulation

THE UK government on Tuesday announced that US streaming sites Netflix, Disney+ and Amazon Prime Video will have to comply with broadcasting regulations aimed at protecting children and

the vulnerable.

Along with British streaming sites, they will be required to follow content and accessibility rules applied to traditional broadcasters, a statement said.

Any “video-on-demand” platform with more than 500,000 users will need to comply with rules overseen by UK broadcasting regulator Ofcom regarding “protections from harmful ma-

terial” and increased availability of subtitled, signed and audio-described programming.

Britain’s government headed by Prime Minister Keir Starmer said the move was a consequence

of changing viewing habits.

“We know that the way audiences watch TV has fundamentally changed,” Culture Secretary Lisa Nandy said in Tuesday’s statement. — AFP

ECONOMY
WORLD

IMF urges US to work with partners to ease trade restrictions

The IMF's findings assess Donald Trump's first year in his second presidency, marked by sweeping tariffs on both allies and rivals.

THE IMF on Wednesday called on the United States to work with trading partners and find ways to mutually ease trade curbs, as it issued a review of the world's biggest economy.

The International Monetary Fund's findings covered the first year of Donald Trump's second presidency, in which he unleashed wide-ranging tariffs on allies and competitors alike as he sought to shrink the US trade deficit and boost domestic manufacturing.

But his on-again, off-again tariffs have roiled supply chains and financial markets.

During the year, the Trump admin-



istration also sought to lower reliance on unauthorized immigrant workers and reduce the federal government's role in the economy, the IMF noted.

But the fund said Wednesday that Washington should work constructively with partners "to address concerns over unfair trade practices and agree on a coordinated reduction in trade restrictions and industrial policy distortions that have negative cross-border effects". — AFP

These measures aimed to reduce the US trade deficit and revitalize domestic manufacturing. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

EU aid for French winemakers amid crisis

THE EU will unlock €40 million (\$47 million) to aid French winemakers hit by US tariffs, overproduction, and falling demand, EU Agriculture Commissioner Christophe Hansen announced ahead of Paris's agricultural fair.

Overproduction burdens France's wine sector as youth drink less for health reasons. Aid funds distillation of surplus into industrial ethanol, cutting volume and stabilizing prices. France's wine/spirit exports fell eight per cent last year.

This supplements Paris's €130 million vine-uprooting

subsidies and EU measures like simplified labeling ("reduced-alcohol," "alcohol-free" for <0.5 per cent ABV).

Hansen acknowledged farmer pressures—diseases, trade tensions, low prices—but urged adaptation over anger. EU-India deal lowers duties, boosting exports versus Australia/UK. Mercosur pact includes safeguards; fertilizer import tariffs suspended (ex-Russia/Belarus). Carbon border tax strategy eyed, using revenues to aid farmers/producers — no quick fix. — AFP



Overproduction burdens France's wine sector as youth drink less for health reasons. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ WINE MONTH CLUB**

Mexico Congress votes to reduce working week to 40 hours by 2030

MEXICAN lawmakers on Wednesday approved a constitutional reform lowering the working week from 48 hours to 40 by 2030, although the opposition criticized it for giving workers only one day of rest for every six worked.

The working day will first be reduced in 2027, when it will be brought down to 46 hours, and will be reduced by two hours each year until coming to 40 in 2030.

Latin America's second-biggest economy joins a handful of countries in the region that have introduced 40-hour working weeks, including Chile, Ecuador and Venezuela. Despite the reform passing



Automotive Industry: Mexico is a top global player, ranking as the 4th largest vehicle exporter and 7th largest producer worldwide. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

by 469 votes in favour to zero against, opposition lawmakers still assailed the reform for not guaranteeing two days of rest for every five days worked. — AFP

Somaliland pins hopes on critical mineral gold rush

ARMED with nothing but a crowbar and shovel in the hills of Somaliland, Ahmed Ibrahim hacks away at rocks where he and fellow miners have already found tonnes of lithium.

Officials in the breakaway territory of northern Somalia say there is an abundance of critical minerals in its ground,

and potentially billions of barrels of oil, and they hope that Israel's move to recognize Somaliland's independence in December could unlock an influx of investment.

For now, mining is largely done in ways reminiscent of the United States' gold rush in the 19th century, when so many ended up exhausted in

a futile hunt for treasure.

Ibrahim, 52, is a former surveyor in Somaliland's capital Hargeisa, who quit his job in 2015 to try his luck.

His very first day was an incredible success — he says he found thousands of dollars' worth of diamonds and "completely forgot about the city". — AFP

Saudi Aramco announces progress in gas expansion operations

SAUDI Aramco, the national petroleum and natural gas company of Saudi Arabia, announced on Thursday major progress in its gas expansion strategy.

Aramco revealed in a statement the start of production at Jafurah, the Middle East’s largest unconventional gas field, and the commencement of operations at Tanajib gas plant, one of the world’s largest gas plants on the Arabian Gulf.

It stated that the plants would support Ar-

amco’s goal to boost sales gas production capacity by approximately 80 per cent by 2030 compared to 2021 levels, reaching around 6 million barrels of oil equivalent per day of total gas and associated liquids’ production.

Amin H Nasser, Aramco president and CEO, said the two projects “significantly strengthen Aramco’s gas portfolio” and underpin its long-term growth strategy, helping to meet rising domestic demand and supply high-value liquids. — Xinhua



Saudi Aramco’s Haradh Gas Plant in the Ghawar oil field is located northeast of the Jafurah field. PHOTO: SAUDI ARAMCO

Japan cross-party council holds 1st talks to discuss 2-year food tax cut

A cross-party “national council” to discuss Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi’s pledge to eliminate the tax on food for two years held its first meeting Thursday, although major opposition forces declined to attend.

Takaichi told the meeting she wants the council to come to an interim conclusion before the summer on an envisioned two-year suspension of the eight per cent consumption tax on food and beverages, expressing hope to submit relevant legislation to parliament as soon as possible.

“We aim in particular to reduce the burden on



This image shows a storefront of a 7-Eleven convenience store in Japan, featuring a sign promoting new rice ball products. PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/KYODO

middle- and lower-income earners from taxation, social insurance costs and rising prices,” Takaichi told the meeting, adding that integrated reform towards tax deductions “must be advanced as the central issue”.

The consumption tax suspension is intended as a provisional step until the planned introduction of income tax deductions with cash handouts to help households feeling the pain of the rising cost of living. — Kyodo

Overseas Cambodian workers, money sent home drop in 2025

OVERSEAS Cambodian workers sent home about US\$1.86 billion in 2025, significantly down from 2.95 billion dollars in the year before, said a Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training report on Thurs-

day.

A total of 433,594 Cambodians had worked abroad by the end of last year, remarkably down from roughly 1.38 million a year earlier, according to the report.

The significant drop in the number of Cambodian migrant workers overseas was due to the large-scale return of approximately 940,000 Cambodian workers from Thailand following the border

conflict between the two nations.

Cambodian Minister of Labor and Vocational Training Heng Sour said the conflict has adversely affected Cambodian workers in Thailand. — Xinhua

Expo held in Laos to promote MSMEs development

THE Lao MSME Expo 2026 opened in Lao capital Vientiane on Wednesday, bringing together micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) from across the country to showcase their products and services, enhance business visibility, expand market access, and strengthen business opportunities.

Running until 1 March the exhibition features over 250 booths showcasing a diverse range of products and services from MSMEs across the country, as well as participants from abroad, Lao Economic Daily reported on Thursday. — Xinhua

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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.

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Public Announcement for the Information of Concerned Parties and the General Public

Myanmar Airways International Co., Ltd. (MAI) issues a public announcement regarding certain former employees who breached their employment contracts, abandoned their duties without notice, and violated applicable labor laws, company policies, and training agreements.

Compliance with aviation security, safety, and the law is the foremost requirement of the airline industry. The company has taken action against individuals who failed to return employee identification and airport security access cards, as such misconduct poses risks to airline operations and airport security, and has notified those who remain non-compliant with applicable laws. The employees who remain non-compliant with applicable laws are hereby notified to contact the company and comply within thirty (30) days from the date of this announcement to ensure that the concerned persons are informed.

The announcement is made in the interest of aviation safety, security, and the public, and is without prejudice to MAI’s legal rights and remedies.

Under the instruction of the company

Thet Naing Htoon
Higher Grade Pleader
LL. B, DBL, DIPL BDS
Ph: 95 9 5005967

San Thida
Advocate
LL. B
Ph: 95 9 448051356

Ei Ei Nwe
Advocate
LL. B
Ph: 95 9 250520312

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

UN approves first carbon credits under Paris Agreement

UN climate agency announces first credits under new carbon market for Myanmar project distributing efficient wood-burning cookstoves, cutting household air pollution and forest strain.

THE United Nations announced Thursday the approval of the first carbon credits under a global market aimed at reducing emissions, a mechanism that has faced scrutiny over greenwashing concerns.

The UN-run market, established under the Paris climate accord, allows companies and countries to offset their excess emissions by financing projects that cut greenhouse gases in other nations.

Critics fear that if set up poorly, such schemes can undermine the world's efforts to curb global warming by allowing countries or companies to greenwash — or overstate — their emissions reductions.

The first credits issued under the new carbon market involve a project in Myanmar that distributes efficient wood-burning cookstoves that reduce harmful household air pollution and ease pressure on local forests, the UN's climate agency said.

Implemented in partnership with a



Illustration photo of factory chimneys surrounding a village in Berre-L'étang in Southern France in 1997. PHOTO: BORIS HORVAT / AFP / FILE

South Korean company, the project will generate credits that will count towards the climate targets of South Korea and Myanmar.

The UN climate agency said the

credited emissions reductions are 40 per cent lower than under a previous scheme as more conservative calculations are applied under the new Paris Agreement Crediting Mechanism (PACM). — AFP

3rd round of indirect Iran-US nuclear talks begins in Geneva



Media reporters wait outside the Omani ambassador's residence in Geneva, Switzerland, 26 February 2026. The third round of indirect Iran-US nuclear talks under the mediation of Oman began in Geneva, Switzerland, according to local media reports on Thursday. PHOTO: LIAN YI/XINHUA

THE third round of indirect Iran-US nuclear talks under the mediation of Oman began in Geneva, Switzerland, Iran's semi-official Fars news agency

reported on Thursday.

The most recent round of the negotiations comes amid heightened tensions between Iran and the Unit-

ed States in the wake of a US military buildup in West Asia.

At around 9 am local time (0800 GMT), the delegations of both sides arrived at the Omani ambassador's residence in the Swiss city for the talks. Security was tight around the site, with officers stationed along the perimeter.

Prior to the talks, Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi, head of the Iranian delegation, met with Omani Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr Albusaidi on Wednesday evening, according to Iran's foreign ministry.

During the meeting, Iran's "views on nuclear-related issues and the lifting of sanctions were outlined, and the country's key points and considerations were conveyed to the Omani side", the foreign ministry said.

Araghchi stressed that "the success of the negotiations depends on the seriousness of the other side and its avoidance of contradictory behaviour and positions". — Xinhua

NEWS
IN BRIEF

Le Kim Jong Un spurns olive branch from 'hostile' South Korea

NORTH Korean leader Kim Jong Un has spurned Seoul's efforts to mend diplomatic relations, saying Pyongyang has "absolutely no business dealing with" his nation's "most hostile" enemy, state media said Thursday.

South Korea has mounted a concerted push to build bridges with Pyongyang under President Lee Jae Myung, who has sought the "peaceful coexistence" of two nations still technically at war.

Kim had largely ignored these overtures and dashed hopes of rapprochement in a fiery statement delivered at the end of a landmark party congress.

North Korea has "absolutely no business dealing with South Korea, its most hostile entity, and will permanently exclude South Korea from the category of compatriots", Kim said, according to the Korean Central News Agency.

"As long as South Korea cannot escape the geopolitical conditions of having a border with us, the only way to live safely is to give up everything related to us and leave us alone." — AFP

Lebanese DM affirms sovereignty over Hamat air base

LEBANON'S Defence Minister Michel Menassa affirmed Wednesday that Hamat Air Base remains entirely under Lebanese army control, dismissing reports that cast doubt on foreign activity at the site.

In a statement released by the official National News Agency (NNA), Menassa said the base is an integral part of the Lebanese Army Air Force structure and operates exclusively within the framework of Lebanese laws and military regulations.

Like other military sites, Menassa said, the base hosts foreign training teams working in accordance with the army's internal regulations and in support of various Lebanese military units.

Menassa clarified that Hamat, along with the air bases at Rafic Hariri International Airport and the Rayak Air Base, serves as a designated entry point for military aid delivered to Lebanon under formal foreign cooperation agreements.

Such assistance, including equipment and supplies, arrives through coordinated flights carried out with the authorization of competent Lebanese authorities, he said. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Mandalay leg of 2026
Myanmar Golf Association
President's Cup continues

THE third day of the Mandalay leg of the 2026 Myanmar Golf Association President's Cup was held on 26 February at the Yaytagon Taung Golf Course in Mandalay. The event is organized by the Myanmar Golf Association with major support from Mandalay Business Capital City Development Limited and Bago Yoma Eco Resort.

In the professional category, Thiha Htay (HAN Golf Masters) shot 210 strokes, six under par, to take first place, followed by Lwin Moe with 212 strokes (four under par) in second, and Yan Myo Aye with 216 strokes in third.

In the senior professional category, Min Naing led with 143 strokes (one under par),

Kyaw Moe came second with 152 strokes, and Myo Win Htun was third with 155 strokes.

In the amateur men's category, Hlaing Min Htet shot 224 strokes to lead, Pyae Phyo Aung finished second with 225 strokes, and Aye Chan Thu placed third with 226 strokes. In the amateur women's category, Cho Thar Aung led with 76 strokes, followed by Khin Zar Ni Aung with 78 strokes and Khaing Zin Aung with 80 strokes.

The final day of the Mandalay leg will be held on 27 February. The event also receives additional support from Alpine drinking water and Burmese Golf (BG). — Shine Htet Zaw/KZL



Thiha Htay (HAN Golf Masters) is leading in the professional category. PHOTO:MGF

Shan, Yangon claim wins;
Yamanya relegated in MNL



Ayeyawady United and Thitsa Arman compete in the MNL.

CURRENT champion Shan United and Yangon United each secured victories, while Yamanya United was relegated during the Myanmar National League matches played on 25 and 26 February.

On 25 February, Shan United defeated Ayeyawady United 6-1, and Yangon United beat Maha United 2-0. With these wins, Shan United strengthened their hold on the championship despite having one less match than Yangon United. If

Yangon United defeats Rakhine United in match 15 on 2 March, they can reclaim the top spot.

On 26 February, Dagon Port defeated Yamanya United 5-2, while Thitsa Arman and Ayeyawady United drew 0-0. The loss confirmed Rakhine United's relegation as they fell to 11th place, 10 points behind Dagon Port, with three matches remaining. The final spot will be contested by Rakhine United, Thitsar Arman, and Dagon Port.

After match 19, Yangon United leads with 48 points, Shan United has 46, Dagon Star United has 35, Hanthawady United has 27, Maha United and ISPE have 25 each, Yadanabon United and Ayeyawady United have 23 each, Rakhine United has 18, Thitsar Arman has 17, Dagon Port has 16, and Rakhine United has six points. Shan United and Rakhine United have played one fewer match than most other teams. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

English giants
dominate line-up for
Champions League
last-16 draw

THE draw for the latter stages of this season's Champions League takes place on Friday with Newcastle United's midweek victory against Qarabag meaning an unprecedented six English sides will feature in the last 16.

The Premier League's financial might has not always translated into dominance in continental competition, with no English club featuring in the last two Champions League finals.

There has been an English winner of Europe's elite club competition just twice in the last six seasons, and just three times in the last 13 years.

One argument put forward for such a relative lack of success in the Champions League given the financial strength of England's top flight is the intense competitive nature of their domestic league. — AFP

FIFA president Infantino backs Chinese football
reforms

GIANNI Infantino has expressed confidence in the direction of Chinese football's reform drive, reaffirming FIFA's commitment to supporting the country's long-term development at a moment of renewed structural reset.

In an exclusive written statement to Xinhua News Agency on Thursday, the FIFA president said cooperation with the Chinese Football Association had been a consistent theme throughout his decade in office, while acknowledging a renewed focus on grassroots rebuilding.

"Today, I am encouraged by the direction of the CFA under the leadership of President Song Kai," Infantino said, adding that the emphasis on youth-oriented grassroots development is a long-term approach that FIFA supports.



FIFA president Gianni Infantino. PHOTO:AFP/FILE

Infantino, who was elected FIFA president on 26 February 2016, is marking his 10th year in office this year. During his tenure, he has visited China three times, while FIFA's

Forward Programme has provided more than US\$10 million in funding to the CFA, supporting youth competitions, infrastructure and development initiatives. — Xinhua



WORLD



Putin addresses Future Technologies Forum

Kremlin spokesman Peskov: Putin will visit Future Technologies Forum exhibition and hold closed-door scientists' meeting for effectiveness.

The Future Technologies Forum is a major, authoritative platform for showcasing and promoting advanced Russian technologies and projects.

Russian President Vladimir

Putin takes the stage at the plenary session of the Future Technologies Forum.

“[The Russian President will also] visit the exhibition. There will also be a separate meeting with scientists. Typi-

cally, the president’s comments are made public, but to ensure the effectiveness of the meetings, they will be held behind closed doors,” Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told journalists.

— SPUTNIK

The Future Technologies Forum highlights advanced Russian technologies: Russian President Vladimir Putin takes the stage at the plenary session of the Future Technologies Forum. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

Snake-like robot unveiled for Fukushima debris removal

A 22-metre robot arm will help remove a third sample of radioactive debris from inside Japan’s stricken Fukushima nuclear plant, its operator said Thursday, as it unveiled the snake-like device.

Dangerously high radiation levels make removing melted fuel and other debris from the plant hit by a huge tsunami in 2011 the most daunting challenge in the decades-long decommissioning project.

Around 880 tonnes of hazardous material remain inside the power station, the site of one of the world’s worst nuclear accidents after a tsunami was triggered by a 9.0-magnitude earthquake.

A four-minute video released on Wednesday by plant operator TEPCO showed a snake-like robot arm — measuring 22 metres and weighing about 4.6 tonnes — moving through small tunnel-like passages and inspecting complex structures within a confined space.

The robot is equipped with a camera and “is better at retrieving information” than previous devices used, company spokesman Isao Ito told AFP. — AFP

China’s quantum computer operating system Origin Pilot opens for public download



A graphic depiction of computer operating system Origin Pilot. **PHOTO: ORIGIN QUANTUM CLOUD**

CHINA’S self-developed quantum computer operating system Origin Pilot is officially available to be downloaded, according to the Science and Technology Daily on Thursday.

This marks a move expected to significantly lower the development barrier and accelerate the autonomous development of China’s quantum computing ecosystem.

Independently developed by He-fei-based Origin Quantum Computing Technology Co Ltd Origin Pilot was first unveiled in 2021. After multiple iterations

and upgrades, the operating system has evolved into an advanced platform that supports major technological pathways, including superconducting, ion trap, and neutral atom quantum processors. The system is currently deployed and operational on Origin Wukong series of quantum computers, the newspaper reported.

Quantum computer operating system is responsible for core functions such as resource scheduling and software-hardware collaborative management. It also possesses cru-

cial capabilities like parallel quantum task processing and automatic qubit calibration, significantly enhancing the overall operational efficiency of quantum computers.

By opening up its unified programming interfaces and standardized driving system, Origin Pilot breaks down technical barriers in core quantum computing software, allowing research institutions, colleges and developers worldwide to conveniently access China’s independently developed quantum computer operating system. — Xinhua