

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.

Colourful Bagan on Display at Yangon Photo Exhibition

Home to more than 3,000 ancient pagodas and over 400 renowned temples, the Bagan Ancient Cultural Heritage Zone also preserves ancient mural paintings and many UNESCO-recognized cultural landmarks.



Exhibition photos dazzle at The Colourful Scenery of Bagan exhibition in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTOS: KANU**

The Colourful Scenery Image of Bagan photo exhibition was held in Yangon yesterday. The exhibition showcases the photos of Shwezigon, Thatbyinnyu, Ananda, Alotawpyae, Htilominlo, Dhammayangyi, Katawpalin, Manuha, Culamani, and Apal Yadana pagodas, Kyan-sitha Cave and Myazedi stone inscription, and other famous pagodas. Moreover, visitors can see the picturesque landscape photos of the Ayeyawady River, Tantkyi Hill, Tuyin Hill Ceti and Anya areas.

"Seeing these photographs in Yangon, I deeply admire the foresight and

dedication of our ancient kings in preserving the dignity of Myanmar and culture. Bagan is an invaluable cultural heritage site for our country. Not only in Asia but also in the world, there is no other place where such a large collection of cultural works exists in one area. Therefore, we all need to preserve it. I have been collecting photographs and paintings of Bagan and displaying them in my company and home. Whenever I come across high-quality works or World Heritage images, I buy

and preserve them. When foreigners ask about Bagan and express their desire to visit after hearing my explanations, I feel immense pride and joy," said U Sai Wunna Maung, a collector of Bagan photographs.

More than 3,000 ancient pagodas are concentrated in the Bagan Ancient Cultural Heritage Zone, and Bagan boasts more than 400 famous pagodas and temples, in-

cluding the ancient mural paintings and numerous UNESCO-recognized pagodas and temples.

The commemorative photographs of Bagan's ancient cultural heritage sites, taken by local and foreign photographers, help promote Bagan internationally. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/KTZH

ARTICLE

The Two Sides of Myanmar's Moral Compass in Vessantara's Gift and The Stitched Penny

By AUGUSTIN **PAGE 8-9**

NATIONAL **PAGE 4**



506 PDF members return to legal fold with arms and ammunition

NATIONAL **PAGE 5**



Myanmar rubber exports near US\$400M in 2025-26 FY

NATIONAL

All Citizens Called to Uphold True Sense of Nationalism

- ❖ Looking at today's global events, it can be observed that countries, including those that are modern and developed, are prioritizing and emphasizing nationalism over other political agendas.
- ❖ Every citizen has to embrace a "genuine sense of nationalism" for the comprehensive success and prosperity of the nation.

(An excerpt from the speech delivered by Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission, Life Patron of the Young Men's Buddhist Association Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the awarding of the 38th Mingala Discourse and Buddhism Examination to mark the 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) of YMBA (Central) on 14 November 2025)

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

Objectives of 81st Armed Forces Day

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

MMPO trains future digital content creators in short course

JOINTLY organized by the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization and the Myanmar Computer Enthusiasts Association, a digital content creation course will be opened, according to MMPO.

It is a short-term and comprehensive course from thinking concepts, scripting and storyboarding to video editing, colour grading, effects and modern tech: AI tools for media creation and exporting.

The duration is from 30 March to 7 April, and it will be conducted at the MMPO office from 1 pm to 4 pm. The fee is K300,000, and a 50 per cent discount (K150,000) is being offered for MMPO members and MCEA members.

MMPO will reward certification of completion, and it is a chance for those who are eager to be content creators to acquire tech and art at the same time. For more details, enquiries can be made to the MCEA contact numbers at 09 886335500 and 09 772419299. — MT/ZS



Notification Bans Slash-and-Burn in Designated Hybrid Maize Areas

- To mitigate transboundary haze and PM2.5 air pollution, the Government of Thailand permits the importation of hybrid maize (monsoon) exclusively from cultivation areas where slash-and-burn practices have not been employed. Consequently, in regions where hybrid maize is grown for export to Thailand, verification is systematically conducted through retrospective inspections. These inspections are based on fire hotspot detection data provided by the Singapore-based ASEAN Specialized Meteorological Centre (ASMC). Following these verification procedures, the Government-Private Working Group on Registration for the Issuance of Haze-Free Certification issues the necessary certifications to confirm that the cultivation areas are free from activities that cause haze.
- Accordingly, farmers intending to cultivate hybrid maize are hereby notified that slash-and-burn practices are strictly prohibited within designated cultivation areas before the hybrid maize (monsoon) planting season.

Government-Private Working Group on Registration for the Haze-Free Certification Issuance Programme

This image displays an advert for the digital content creator course.

Answer "1111" to fight against corruption

Answer "1111" to improve services

Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement
Department of Rehabilitation
Information Centre for Trafficked Persons (Yangon, Mandalay)
Yangon ☎ 01 8666619
Mandalay ☎ 02 2830423

Yangon address
64, Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, Mayangon Township

The trafficked persons can contact and ask for help.

Mandalay address
Near Shwegyin Than Lan, Bhonetawtoe Word, Aungmyaythazan Township

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)

52nd Mon State Day celebrated in Mawlamyine

STATE Security and Peace Commission Member General Maung Maung Aye attended the message reading section for the 52nd Anniversary of Mon State Day and the state honorary titles offering ceremony in Mawlamyine yesterday.

During the message reading section for the 52nd Mon State Day held at the Thamainbayan Ground, State Security and Peace Commission Member General Maung Maung Aye, Commission Member Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, Union ministers, the Mon State chief minister and relevant officials saluted the State Flag and fallen heroes.

General Maung Maung Aye read out the message sent by Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Thadue Maha Thray Sithu Thadue Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung



The celebration of the 52nd Anniversary Mon State Day is underway in Mawlamyine yesterday, attended by SSPC Member General Maung Maung Aye and dignitaries.



Hlaing, to the occasion.

The Mon State chief minister remarked and concluded the event.

General Maung Maung Aye and party also attended the State honorary title-giving ceremony to mark the 52nd Mon State Day at the City Hall of Mawlamyine.

The Mon State chief minister began the occasion with a remark.

General Maung Maung Aye and party presented excellent awards in the administration economy, agriculture, livestock, industry, service and social sectors, and posed for documentary

photos together with the awardees.

Afterwards, they proceeded to the opening ceremony of the Ethnic Culture Centre in Minywa Village, Mawlamyine Township, and observed the ethnic traditional houses in the centre after the ceremonial procedures.

They also attended the dinner at Thamainbayan ground in the evening.

The Mon cultural troupes performed at the event. General Maung Maung Aye had dinner together with the participants and gave cash prizes and bouquets to the performers. — MNA/KTZH

MoFA Deputy Minister receives UNHCR Representative to Myanmar



The UNHCR Representative calls on Deputy Minister U Ko Ko Kyaw yesterday.

DEPUTY Minister for Foreign Affairs U Ko Ko Kyaw received Ms Noriko Takagi, UNHCR Representative to Myanmar, who has completed her assignment and will soon depart from Myanmar, yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

They exchanged views on matters related to cooperation between Myanmar and UNHCR during the term of Ms Noriko Takagi in Myanmar, as well as further activities of the UNHCR. — MNA

MoFA Deputy Minister receives Thai delegation

DEPUTY Minister for Foreign Affairs U Ko Ko Kyaw received the delegation led by Mr Kallayana Vipattipumiprates, Adviser to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand, yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

Both sides cordially exchanged views on matters pertaining to the further enhancement of the existing friendly relations and bilateral cooperation between Myanmar and Thailand. They also discussed the promotion of cooperation in the areas of mutual interest, includ-



Deputy Minister U Ko Ko Kyaw and Adviser to the Thai Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Kallayana Vipattipumiprates exchange commemorative gifts.

ing trade and investment, people-to-people connectivity, and peace and stability along the border areas, as well as closer collaboration in regional and international arenas. — MNA

NATIONAL

506 PDF members return to legal fold with arms and ammunition

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

The State Government has been inviting individuals who are within armed groups opposing the State under various names, including PDFs, to return to the legal framework, and it has been providing necessary assistance and support to those who have re-entered the legal fold.

As a result of these measures, members of PDF groups have been returning to the legal fold. In addition, Tatmadaw columns have successfully recaptured and taken control, one after another, of areas temporarily held by PDF allied groups in Mandalay Region. Local people have welcomed and supported these developments with satisfaction and encouragement. Due to the increasing cooperation, trust and support of the public alongside the Tatmadaw, terrorist members have become demoralized and no longer wish to continue resisting. Consequently, members of PDF groups who wish to abandon the armed path and live peacefully have been re-entering the legal framework, group by group, and responsible officials in the respective areas have received them.

The ceremony for transferring those who entered the legal fold back to their parents and guardians was held yesterday at the parade ground of the Central Command Headquarters. The ceremony saw Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Myo



PDF members receive awards and rejoin society in the handover ceremony at the Central Command Headquarters yesterday.

Aung, Commander Brig-Gen Aung Htay of the Central Command, responsible officials, departmental officials, those who had entered the legal fold, their parents and guardians, and invitees.

The regional chief minister first delivered opening remarks, and the commander explained matters related to legal provisions and provided awareness remarks.

Subsequently, those who had returned to the legal fold handed over weapons and ammunition they had brought with them, including 78 assort-

ed firearms, 38 hand grenades, three communication devices, 50 assorted magazines, 3,362 rounds of assorted ammunition, 14 mines, one bullet-proof vest and five bullet-proof helmets. The commander received the items. The chief minister and the commander then awarded rewards and assistance, including K5 million for each automatic rifle, K7.5 million for each RPG, K0.5 million for each handmade firearm, K0.3 million for each grenade, K0.2 million for each communication device, K0.2 million for

each bullet-proof helmet, and K0.1 million for each person who entered the legal fold. In total, approximately K200 million and supporting supplies were provided. The individuals were then required to sign undertakings and were systematically handed back to their parents or guardians.

Afterwards, the chief minister, the commander and responsible officials inspected the arms and ammunition handed over by those who had entered the legal fold, greeted the attendees cordially and hosted them with refreshments.

On this occasion, those who were transferred after entering the legal fold included individuals from various townships in Mandalay Region and Magway Region, totalling 453 men and 53 women, making 506 persons in total.

Most of the individuals who entered the legal communities from PDF groups were reportedly forcibly recruited through threats and coercion against their family members. They stated that they could no longer accept terrorist acts, and that within those groups there were internal abuses such as hierarchy-based oppression, torture, killings and sexual violence. In addition, as the groups could no longer withstand the offensives of the Tatmadaw and morale declined, they came to accept and trust the peace processes of the State and the Tatmadaw and wished to live peacefully within the legal framework. They also expressed their desire to contribute positively to the State and the public, which had suffered losses due to their previous actions. For these reasons, they abandoned the armed path and returned to the legal fold.

Those who rejoin legal society are being welcomed, provided with necessary assistance and systematically transferred back to their parents or guardians. It is understood that there are still individuals who wish to re-enter civilian lives. Those who intend to do so are encouraged to promptly contact nearby district and township administrative bodies, military camps or police stations, where they will be welcomed and provided with necessary assistance and rewards for arms and ammunition they took along with. — MNA/KZL

Robusta coffee to be grown on 20,000 acres

IN six townships of Yangon Region, Robusta coffee, which already has a strong market, will be cultivated on 20,390 acres, with more than 20,000 plants, starting from the rainy season in accordance with the annual targets, according to the Yangon Region Department of Agriculture.

Robusta coffee seedlings have been prepared in advance for planting during the rainy season. In the 2026-2027 financial year, initial cultivation will be carried out on a total of 1,000 acres- 280 acres in Taikkyi Township, 500 acres in Hlegu Township, 100 acres in Hmawby Township, 40 acres in Twantay Township, 60 acres in Kawhmu Township, and 20 acres in Kungyangon Township, until the 2030-2031 financial year.

“Coffee cannot be cultivated unless the climate is suitable. As it is a lowland variety, we will plant over 20,000 plants as perennial intercropping in over 48,707 acres of rubber, cashew and Acacia mangium plantation in six townships of Yangon in the coming monsoon season. As we have a five-year plan, it is such a crop that makes more income for the farmers, and is also a perennial crop for the farmers who want to expand the plantation,” said Daw Hla Kyi, assistant director of the department.

The Robusta coffee will be

planted in Taikkyi, Hlegu, Hmawby, Twantay, Kawhmu and Kungyangon townships starting from the monsoon with 1,000 acres in the 2026-2027 financial year, 2,500 acres in the 2027-2028 financial year, 4,000 acres in the 2028-2029 financial year, 5,500 acres in the 2029-2030 financial year, 7,390 acres in the 2030-2031 financial year, totalling 20,390 acres.

Robusta coffee, which al-

tributed. Coffee seedlings typically take six to twelve months to grow in nurseries. Harvesting begins about three to four years after planting, and the beans are picked, dried, and sold directly, sent to factories, or processed and marketed by growers themselves for both domestic and international markets. Coffee plantations are already thriving in Toungoo Township in Bago



Photos show a stretch of coffee beans (top) and farmers tending coffee seedlings at the farm (above). **PHOTOS: ZWE MARN**

ready has a strong market demand, is being introduced as an expanded crop in Yangon Region. If farmers show increasing interest in coffee cultivation, more seedlings will continue to be dis-

tributed. Coffee seedlings typically take six to twelve months to grow in nurseries. Harvesting begins about three to four years after planting, and the beans are picked, dried, and sold directly, sent to factories, or processed and marketed by growers themselves for both domestic and international markets. Coffee plantations are already thriving in Toungoo Township in Bago

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Myanmar rubber exports near US\$400M in 2025-26 FY



MYANMAR has generated income of about US\$400 million from 280,000 tonnes of rubber export so far in the current financial year 2025-2026. The Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Association aims to achieve a rubber export target of over 300,000 tonnes this FY.

“Myanmar conveyed around 280,000 tonnes of rubber worth \$400 million. Rubber exports are likely to meet export targets. The rubber harvest season is from October to January. Rubber output is strongly influenced

by weather conditions. The continued rainfall happened in last year’s October-November period, affecting rubber production. Rain disrupted the tapping season, causing a delay,” said an MRPPA official.

Rubber fetches approximately \$2,150 per tonne in the international market. Myanmar’s rubber was offered only \$1,700-1,900 due to substandard quality.

Rubber is mainly grown in Mon and Kayin states and the Taninthayi Region. It is also found in other regions and states. China is the main buyer of Myanmar’s rubber, which is also sent to Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Republic of Korea and Japan. — ASH/KK

This image shows the rubber processing site in Taninthayi Region.

NATIONAL

Union Tax Law 2026

CONTINUED FROM YESTERDAY

No	Service types
Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement sector	
24	Rental services of equipment for the reception
25	Services for the funeral ceremony
26	Child care services
Industrial and electrical sector	
27	CMP services
28	Industrial mechanization services
29	Private-run micro electricity supply services to electrify the regions not connected with national grids
30	Battery charging services for battery-powered electric vehicles
General sector	
31	Licence fees paid for any services to the State organizations
32	Service activities exempted from taxes by the Union Government through notifications, in accordance with the needs of the State and with the approval of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.
33	Service activities obtained using funds donated to or provided in support of the State by domestic or foreign organizations.
34	Service activities provided by organizations to one another such as the President's Office, the Union Government's Office, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Office, the Pyithu Hluttaw's Office, the Amyotha Hluttaw's Office, the Office of the Supreme Court of the Union, the Office of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union, the Union Election Commission's Office, the Union ministries, the Office of the Auditor-General of the Union, the Union Civil Service Board's office, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Office, the Central Bank of Myanmar, the Social Security Board, offices of region or state governments, and departments, (except the service given to the State-owned enterprises and receiving services from the State-owned enterprises)

- (e) Except for the service activities and goods specified in subsections (d), (f), (g), (h), and (i), and goods-related services, other service activities carried out domestically shall be subject to a 5 per cent commercial tax on sales revenue.
- (f) (1) Notwithstanding any provisions in the Commercial Tax Law, the sale of SIM cards and the service of activating SIM cards (SIM Card Activation) shall be subject to a one-time commercial tax of K20,000 per SIM card.
(2) Revenue from internet service activities shall be subject to 15 per cent commercial tax.
- (g) Anyone constructing, repairing, or selling infrastructure – whether on state-owned land leased long-term, on joint projects with the State, on private land, or in cooperation with the landowner – shall be liable to 3 per cent commercial tax on the sales revenue.
- (h) Revenue from hotels and travel service activities shall be subject to 3 per cent commercial tax.
- (i) Revenue from the sale of pure gold, gold nuggets (standard gold bars, gold ingots, gold coins, nuggets), and gold ornaments with gemstones, as well as from imports from abroad, shall be subject to three per cent commercial tax, whether on sales revenue or on the CIF value at the port of arrival. However, any commercial tax already paid on pure gold, gold bars (standard gold ingots, gold bars, gold coins), and gold ornaments with gemstones – whether paid at the time of domestic purchase or import – shall not be allowed as a deduction from the commercial tax payable when selling domestically or exporting abroad.
- (j) If goods imported under the Temporary Admission or Drawback system in accordance with customs procedures are consumed domestically instead of being re-exported within the specified period, the commercial tax that was originally exempted must be repaid.
15. (a) For commercial tax matters related to activities carried out using donations, grants, or loans from domestic or foreign organizations, the Ministry of Finance and Revenue may, with the approval of the Union Government, grant exemption or relief from commercial tax.
(b) Under the Commercial Tax Law, for the cooperative sector and the private sector, commercial tax shall not be applied if the total sales revenue or service income does not exceed the following limits within one year:-
(1) For goods subject to commercial tax that are produced and sold domestically, total annual sales revenue does not exceed K50 million.
(2) For service activities subject to commercial tax, the total annual service revenue does not exceed K50 million.
(3) For commercial activities in general, total annual sales revenue does

not exceed K50 million.

- (4) For goods imported for rapid clearance under customs procedures, the minimum value threshold (De minimis Value Threshold) set by the Customs Department applies for exemption from duties and taxes.
Clarification: (1) The total annual sales revenue or service income of K50 million refers to the total sales revenue or service income expected to be earned continuously over the next 12 months, including the month the business starts.
(2) Regardless of any provisions in the Commercial Tax Law, anyone who is required to register – whether because they will have taxable sales revenue, receive revenue, or wish to enjoy commercial tax exemption – must complete the registration process.

16. Anyone who produces and sells goods subject to commercial tax, provides services subject to commercial tax, or engages in commercial activities and earns foreign currency shall calculate the commercial tax on the sales revenue or service income in that foreign currency according to the applicable tariffs under this law, and pay the commercial tax in kyat in accordance with commercial tax regulations.
17. (a) Commercial tax shall be imposed at eight per cent on electricity and 5 per cent on crude oil exported abroad.
(b) For goods described in Subsection (a), any remaining goods exported abroad shall be subject to 0 per cent commercial tax on the sales revenue. Any commercial tax already paid when purchasing or producing the goods for export may be credited or refunded according to the regulations. However, this shall not apply to goods purchased domestically for personal use and then taken abroad.
(c) The provisions of this section shall not affect the determination or applicability of sales revenue or service income thresholds for exemptions.
18. The definitions of terms used in Chapter VI of this law shall be interpreted under the Commercial Tax Law.

Chapter VII Income Tax

19. (a) If a person earns up to K4.8 million per year from salary, no income tax shall be imposed on them. If such a person requests proof of exemption for salary income, the Internal Revenue Department shall issue the certification in line with the prescribed procedures.
(b) However, if a person earns more than K4.8 million per year from salary, they must pay income tax on the total salary income.
(c) To encourage recovery and growth of businesses and investments affected by COVID-19, if a person earns more than K4.8 million per year from salary, or earns income from livelihood, professional, business, or other sources, the total income shall be taxed according to the applicable income tax rates after deducting allowances under Sections 6 and 6-a of the Income Tax Law, as specified below:

No	Income tax assessment to be levied		Income tax rate
	From	To	
	In kyat	In kyat	
1	1	2,000,000	0 per cent
2	2,000,001	10,000,000	5 per cent
3	10,000,001	30,000,000	10 per cent
4	30,000,001	50,000,000	15 per cent
5	50,000,001	70,000,000	20 per cent
6	Above 70,000,001		25 per cent

- (d) Regardless of any provisions in the Income Tax Law, any individual earning total rental income from land lease, building lease, or room lease shall, after deducting applicable relief under Sections 6 and 6-a of the Income Tax Law, be subject to a separate income tax at a rate of 10 per cent on the remaining income. This income shall not be combined with other sources of income for additional assessment. However, if the activities are carried out by state-owned economic organizations, companies, or partnerships operating under permission issued by the Myanmar Investment Commission, income tax shall be assessed separately according to the tax rates specified for each type of taxpayer.
(e) For joint ventures, after deducting applicable relief under Sections 6 and 6-a of the Income Tax Law, income tax shall be assessed on the remaining income according to the tax rates shown in Schedule (c) of this section.
(f) The tax rates in this section shall not apply to individual taxpayers or income types that are subject to separate tax rates.

TO BE CONTINUED

Myanmar Passport Law

CONTINUED FROM 18 MARCH 2026

Chapter IV

Application, Renewal and Reapplication for Myanmar Passport

7. (a) A person entitled to apply for an ordinary passport may submit an application to the Myanmar Passport Issuance Office together with the following documents: -
 - (1) Citizenship Scrutiny Card (original and copy),
 - (2) Birth registration certificate (original and copy) if under 10 years of age,
 - (3) Parental or guardian consent if under 18 years of age (the parent or guardian must accompany the applicant),
 - (4) Household Registration Form 66/6 (original and copy),
 - (5) Unique Identification Number (UID),
 - (6) Any other supporting documents required according to the type of ordinary passport being applied for,
 - (7) Proof of payment of the officially prescribed fee for the ordinary passport application,
 - (8) Any other information as determined from time to time by the Myanmar Passport Issuance Board.(b) The relevant Myanmar Passport Issuance Office shall examine the original documents submitted under Subsection (a) and return the originals to the applicant.
8. A person wishing to apply for the renewal of an ordinary passport -
 - (a) If seeking renewal, may submit an application at the Myanmar Passport Issuance Office together with the original ordinary passport and the documents specified under Section 7 (a), within six months before the passport's expiration.
 - (b) If applying for renewal more than six months before the expiration date, the applicant may submit the application at the Myanmar Passport Issuance Office upon payment of the prescribed penalty fee, as provided under Subsection (a).
9. If an ordinary passport is lost and a new one is to be applied for, the applicant may submit an application to the Myanmar Passport Issuance Office together with the following documents, after six months have passed from the date the loss was published in the newspaper -
 - (a) The documents specified under Section 7 (a),
 - (b) Proof of the newspaper announcement regarding the loss,
 - (c) Proof of payment of the prescribed penalty fee.
10. If an ordinary passport is damaged and a new one is to be applied for, the applicant may submit the original damaged ordinary passport, proof of payment of the prescribed penalty fee, and the documents specified under Section 7 (a) to the Myanmar Passport Issuance Office to apply for a replacement ordinary passport.
11. When a person entitled to apply for an ordinary passport applies for a new passport, renewal, replacement due to loss, or replacement due to damage, the Myanmar Passport Issuance Office must examine whether the application complies with the prescribed requirements and submit it to the Myanmar Passport Issuance Board.
12. A person entitled to apply for an ordinary passport who is abroad may submit applications for passport renewal, replacement due to loss or damage, or an application for additional births in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Myanmar Passport Issuance Board to Myanmar embassies, consulates-general, or mission offices abroad.
13. Myanmar embassies, consulates-general, or mission offices abroad receiving applications for passport renewal, replacement due to loss or damage, or applications for additional births must examine whether the application complies with the prescribed guidelines and submit it to the Myanmar Passport Issuance Board.
14. Based on the submitted examination reports, the Myanmar Passport Issuance Board may -
 - (a) Approve or reject applications for a new ordinary passport, renewal, replacement due to loss, or replacement due to damage submitted within Myanmar.
 - (b) Approve or reject applications for passport renewal, replacement due to loss or damage, or applications for additional births submitted abroad.
15. A person eligible to apply for an ordinary passport may submit an application to the Myanmar Passport Issuance Office for expedited processing to travel abroad for an important or urgent matter, supported by valid reasons and evidence.
16. The Myanmar Passport Issuance Board may examine the application under Section 15 and either approve or reject the issuance of the ordinary passport.
17. A government official currently in service, or a person sent abroad by the State

for a special assignment, may apply for an ordinary passport with the permission of the relevant government department or organization.

18. A Tatmadaw member, a member of the Myanmar Police Force, a public service personnel, or a person sent abroad by the State for a special assignment must apply to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in accordance with the regulations to obtain a special passport.
19. Diplomats, senior officials of relevant government departments or organizations, and persons sent abroad by the State for special assignments must apply to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in accordance with the regulations to obtain a diplomatic passport.
20. A holder of a Myanmar passport shall -
 - (a) Submit an application for a new electronic passport to the relevant authority in line with the regulations when the electronic passport system is applied.
 - (b) Submit both the original and a copy of the Myanmar passport book together with the application when applying under Subsection (a).
 - (c) Continue to use the original Myanmar passport until its expiration.
21. (a) Upon receiving an application under Section 20, the Myanmar Passport Issuance Board may examine whether it complies with the regulations and notify the relevant authority to issue or reject the electronic passport.
(b) When the holder receives the electronic passport, they must return the original Myanmar passport to the relevant authority.

Chapter V

Issuance, Rejection, Cancellation, and Surrender of Myanmar Passports

22. The Myanmar Passport Issuance Office, with the authorization of the Myanmar Passport Issuance Board, shall carry out the issuance of ordinary passports as follows: -
 - (a) Directly issuing the passport to the applicant.
 - (b) Issuing an ordinary passport with a specified validity period and conditions for applicants who need to travel abroad urgently due to special circumstances, provided there is a valid reason requiring prompt action.
23. With the authorization of the Myanmar Passport Issuance Board, the Myanmar Passport Issuance Office shall directly issue passports to applicants within the country for cases of renewal, replacement due to loss, or reapplication due to damage.
24. With the authorization of the Myanmar Passport Issuance Board, Myanmar embassies, consulates-general, or mission offices abroad shall directly issue passports to applicants overseas for cases of renewal, replacement due to loss or damage, or application for additional births.
25. The validity period of an ordinary Myanmar passport shall be five years from the date of issuance.
26. For Tatmadaw members, members of the Myanmar Police Force, public service personnel, and individuals sent abroad by the State for special purposes, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs shall issue a special passport to the applying department and forward the relevant information to the Myanmar Passport Issuance Board for record-keeping.
27. For diplomats, senior officials of relevant government departments or government organizations serving overseas, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs shall issue a diplomatic passport to the applying department and forward the relevant information to the Myanmar Passport Issuance Board for record-keeping.
28. A holder of a special passport shall -
 - (a) absolutely hand it over to the relevant government departments or government organizations in the following circumstances:
 - (1) Retirement from service,
 - (2) Resignation from service,
 - (3) Transfer of department or reassignment of duties,
 - (4) Dismissal from service,
 - (5) Removal from position,
 - (6) Death,
 - (b) After completing an overseas assignment, the special passport shall be temporarily handed over to the relevant government departments or organizations.
29. The Myanmar Passport Issuance Board may refuse to issue a Myanmar passport if any of the following conditions are found: -
 - (a) The applicant is unable to provide proof that they are eligible to apply for a Myanmar passport.
 - (b) The applicant has been stripped of citizenship.
 - (c) The applicant has applied with fraudulent or deceptive intent.
 - (d) The applicant is currently serving a criminal sentence.
 - (e) The applicant has been subject to legal action for a crime, and a court or relevant authority has submitted a recommendation not to issue a passport.
 - (f) The applicant is considered likely to threaten national security or the interests of the State.

SEE PAGE 10

OPINION

ARTICLE

Initiate the emergence of a peaceful, happy society

There are initiating factors and conditions that give rise to happiness and well-being. Only because of these conditions can forms of happiness that deeply affect people's hearts come into being. As a result, the happiness of each spreads to the entire community, enabling all people to share in joy and to lead peaceful and pleasant lives.

In this world, no one wishes to experience a lack of happiness. People seek to build their lives upon happiness. Those who desire happiness must, in principle, be mindful that while striving to create happiness for themselves, their families, and their communities, they do not destroy or disturb the happiness of others. Even if we ourselves are happy, if there are people around us who are unable to be happy, their unhappiness can spread and, in time, affect and undermine our own well-being.

The United Nations invites each person of any age from various strata to join in celebration of the International Day of Happiness, which falls on 20 March 2026.

Such an international commemorative day marks 20 March, focuses on the theme of "Social Media and Happiness", exploring the relationship between digital technology, mental well-being, and genuine connection. The 2026 campaign highlights using technology for good, promoting mindful usage, reducing, and fostering community so as to lead it to shaping a peaceful and prosperous society.

In society, only when relevant societies are peaceful and stable will everyone enjoy happiness.

The United Nations invites each person of any age from various strata to join in celebration of the International Day of Happiness, which falls on 20 March 2026. Such an international commemorative day marks 20 March, focuses on the theme of "Social Media and Happiness", exploring the relationship between digital technology, mental well-being, and genuine connection. The 2026 campaign highlights using technology for good, promoting mindful usage, reducing, and fostering community so as to lead it to shaping a peaceful and prosperous society.

The United Nations General Assembly recognizes this goal and calls for "a more inclusive, equitable and balanced approach to economic growth that promotes the happiness and well-being of all peoples." As part of initiating a happy life and society, everyone has to uphold human rights and incorporate well-being and environmental dimensions into policy frameworks, such as the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The effectiveness of governments in upholding peace and social order, as well as in the fields of taxation, legal institutions and delivery of public services, strongly correlates with average life satisfaction, according to the press release issued by the United Nations.

Concerning the brief history, the General Assembly of the United Nations, in its resolution 66/281 of 12 July 2012, proclaimed 20 March the International Day of Happiness, recognizing the relevance of happiness and well-being as universal goals and aspirations in the lives of human beings around the world and the importance of their recognition in public policy objectives. In fact, as peace is of great importance

The Two Sides of Myanmar's Moral Compass in Vessantara's Gift and The Stitched Penny

By AUGUSTIN

In this article, I look at two Myanmar sayings — "Giving like Vessantara", which praises boundless generosity epitomized by the legendary prince, and "Prying one cent as if it were two", a witty rebuke of extreme stinginess.

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

"ဝေသန္တရာ လှူသလို လှူနိုင်မှ"

"ဒါနအရာမှာ ဝေသန္တရာ"

မြန်မာတွေ ပြောလေ့ရှိတာကတော့ အလှူအတန်း ရက်ရောလွန်းတဲ့သူကို တွေ့ရင် 'ဝေသန္တရာ' လို့တောင် တင်စားကြတာ ပါ။ ကိုယ့်မှာရှိတာလေးတင် မဟုတ်ဘဲ အားလုံးကို စွန့်လွှတ်ပြီး လှူခဲ့တဲ့သူလို့ ဆိုလိုပါတယ်။

အလှူအတန်းလုပ်တဲ့နေရာမှာတော့ ဝေသန္တရာမင်းကြီးဟာ နံပါတ်တစ် (စံပြ) ပဲ။ နှမြော့တွန့်တိုမှု မရှိဘဲ ရက်ရက်ရောရော ပေးကမ်းတတ်သူတွေကို ချီးမွမ်းတဲ့အခါ "သူကတော့ ဝေသန္တရာ လှူသလိုပဲ" လို့ ပြောလိုက်ရင် အလှူအတန်းမှာ လက်ဖွာလိုက်တာ (စေတနာကောင်းလိုက်တာ) လို့ ဆိုလိုတာပါ။

ဝေသန္တရာမင်းကြီးက သားတော် ဇာလီ၊ သမီးတော် ကဏ္ဍာမိန့်နဲ့ မိဖုရား မဒ္ဒိဒေဝီတို့ကိုတောင် မနှမြော့ဘဲ လှူခဲ့ပါတယ်။ အစွန်းကုန် စွန့်လွှတ်အနစ်နာခံတာမျိုးကို ပြောချင်တဲ့အခါ သုံးပါတယ်။

မဒ္ဒိဒေဝီဟာ ခင်ပွန်းဖြစ်သူ ဒါနပါရမီဖြည့်တာကို ကြည်ကြည်ဖြူဖြူ ခွင့်ပြုပေးခဲ့ပြီး နောက်ဆုံးမှာ ပြန်ဆုံစည်းခဲ့ရပါတယ်။ ဒါကြောင့် "နောင်ဘဝ အဆက်ဆက် ခင်ပွန်းနဲ့ မကွဲရပါစေနဲ့" ဆိုတဲ့ ဆုတောင်းမျိုးကို မဒ္ဒိဆုတောင်းလို့ ခေါ်ကြပါတယ်။ ဝေသန္တရာမင်းလောင်းဟာ ငယ်ငယ်ကတည်းက အလှူပေးရတာကို အရမ်း ဝါသနာပါပြီး နန်းတက်လာတဲ့အခါမှာလည်း အလှူမဏ္ဍပ်ကြီးတွေဆောက်ပြီး နေ့တိုင်း လှူဒါန်းခဲ့ပါတယ်။

တစ်နေ့မှာတော့ မိုးခေါင်နေတဲ့ တိုင်းပြည်တစ်ခုက ပုဏ္ဏားတွေက တိုင်းပြည်ရဲ့ ရတနာဖြစ်တဲ့ ဆင်ဖြူတော်ကို လာအလှူခံပါတယ်။ မင်းကြီးက ရက်ရက်ရောရော လှူလိုက်ပေမဲ့ တိုင်းသူပြည်သားတွေက စိတ်ဆိုးပြီး နန်းတော်ကနေ နှင်ထုတ်ခိုင်းလို့ တောထွက်ခဲ့ရပါတယ်။

တောထဲသွားတဲ့ လမ်းမှာလည်း မြင်းတွေ၊ ရထားတွေကို လှူခဲ့သေးတာပါ။ တောထဲမှာ ရသေ့ဝတ်နဲ့ နေနေတုန်း ဇုဇကာပုဏ္ဏားက သားတော် ဇာလီနဲ့ သမီးတော် ကဏ္ဍာမိန့်ကို အလုပ်အကျွေးပြုဖို့ လာတောင်းပြန်တော့လည်း စိတ်မပြတ်ပေမဲ့ ပါရမီအတွက် လှူလိုက်ပြန်ပါတယ်။ နောက်ဆုံး သိကြားမင်းက ပုဏ္ဏားလောင်ဆောင်ပြီး မိဖုရားကိုပါ လာအလှူခံတဲ့အခါမှာလည်း မတွန့်မတို လှူခဲ့သူပါ။

ဇာတ်သိမ်းမှာတော့ ခမည်းတော်မင်းကြီးက မြေးတော်တွေကို ပြန်ရွေး၊ သားတော်ကိုလည်း နန်းတော်ကို ပြန်ပင့်ဆောင်ခဲ့ပါတယ်။ ဝေသန္တရာမင်းကြီးနန်းတော်ပြန်ရောက်တဲ့အခါမှာတော့ နတ်တွေရွာသွန်းတဲ့ ရတနာမိုးတွေနဲ့အတူ တစ်သက်လုံး အလှူအတန်းတွေလုပ်ပြီး တိုင်းပြည်ကို အေးအေးချမ်းချမ်း အုပ်ချုပ်သွားခဲ့ပါတယ်။

ဗုဒ္ဓလောင်းလျာဟာ ဘုရားဖြစ်ဖို့အတွက် ဖြည့်ကျင့်ရတဲ့ ပါရမီ (၁၀) ပါးထဲမှာ ဒါနပါရမီဟာ အခြေခံအကျဆုံးဖြစ်ပါတယ်။ ဝေသန္တရာမင်းကြီးဟာ မိမိပိုင်ဆိုင်တဲ့ ဗစ္စည်းဥစ္စာတင်မကဘဲ မိမိအသက်ထက်ချစ်တဲ့ သားမယားကိုပါ စွန့်လွှတ်နိုင်ခဲ့တာဟာ "အနုတ္တရ ဒါန" (အတုမရှိသော အလှူ) ကို ပြသခဲ့တာပါ။ ဒါဟာ သာမန်လူတစ်ယောက်ရဲ့ လောဘ၊ မောဟကို ကျော်လွန်ပြီး သဗ္ဗညုတဉာဏ်တော်ရဖို့အတွက် အမြင့်မြတ်ဆုံး ပေးဆပ်မှုဖြစ်ပါတယ်။

"ဒါ ငါ့သား၊ ဒါ ငါ့မယား၊ ဒါ ငါ့ဥစ္စာ" ဆိုတဲ့ ငါ့ကို အကုန်ဖြတ်တောက်နိုင်မှသာ သံသရာက လွတ်မြောက်နိုင်တယ်ဆိုတဲ့ သဘောကို ဖော်ညွှန်းပါတယ်။ ဝေသန္တရာမင်းကြီးရဲ့ စွန့်လွှတ်မှုဟာ ရက်စက်ခြင်းမဟုတ်ဘဲ လောကသားအားလုံးကို ကယ်တင်မယ့် ဘုရားအဖြစ်သို့ ရောက်ရှိဖို့အတွက် အနှောင့်အယှက်အားလုံးကို ရရှိစုံစုံ ဖြတ်တောက်ခဲ့ခြင်း ဖြစ်ပါတယ်။

"Giving like Vessantara" "Vessantara is the gold standard for charity."

This means that when it comes to generosity, King Vessantara is the ultimate role model. People use these phrases to praise someone who is incredibly generous – someone who gives away everything they have, even the things they love most, without any hesitation.

Because King Vessantara gave away his children and his wife, this story is used as a metaphor for making the ultimate sacrifice. It's used when someone gives up their most precious belongings or comforts for a higher goal.



"Giving like Vessantara" "Vessantara is the gold standard for charity."

"The Prayer of Maddi" Queen Maddi willingly supported her husband's journey of generosity, even when it meant losing her children. Because they were eventually reunited, "Maddi's Prayer" refers to the wish for a couple to never be apart and to find each other again in every future life.

The Story Background

Prince Vessantara loved giving since he was a child. When he became King, he set up donation halls and gave to the poor every day. One day, brahmins from a drought-stricken country asked for his White Elephant, a sacred royal treasure. The King gave it away freely. This made his citizens so angry that he was banished from the kingdom.

While travelling to the forest with his family, he gave away his horses and carriage. Living as a hermit, he was approached by an old man named Jujaka, who asked for his children to be his servants. The King, focused on his spiritual perfection, gave them away. Later, the King of Gods (Sakka) disguised himself as a brahmin and asked for the Queen; the King gave her away too, without hesitation.

In the end, his father (the old King) rescued the grandchildren and invited Vessantara back to the throne. When he returned, a rain of jewels fell from the sky, and he spent the rest of his life practising charity and ruling the country in peace.

The Spiritual Lessons The Perfection of Charity (Dana)

In Buddhism, "Dana" or giving, is the foundation of the ten perfections needed to become a Buddha. Vessantara's act of giving away his family isn't seen as cruelty, but as "The Peerless Charity." It represents the highest level of sacrifice to overcome human greed and reach enlightenment.

The Power of Non-attachment

The story teaches us to let go of the idea of "mine" – my kids, my wife, my wealth. This "attachment" is what keeps us stuck in the cycle of suffering. By bravely cutting these emotional ties,



"Prying one cent as if it were two"

Vessantara showed the path to spiritual freedom for the sake of all living beings.

"တစ်ပြားကို နှစ်ပြားမှတ်လို့ ခွာ" "တစ်ပြားကို နှစ်ပြားမှတ်လို့ ခွာ" ဆိုတဲ့ မြန်မာဆိုရိုးစကားဟာ တန်ဖိုးမရှိသလောက် သေးငယ်တဲ့ အရာလေးကိုတောင် အဆမတန် တွယ်တာပြီး နှမြော့တွန့်တိုတတ်သူတွေကို ထိထိမိမိ တင်စားထားတာ ဖြစ်ပါတယ်။ ဒီနေရာမှာ "ခွာ" ဆိုတဲ့ အသုံးအနှုန်းက အစွန်းရောက် ကပ်စေးနဲ့မကွဲ ပေါ်လွင်စေပါတယ်။ ဒီလို လူမျိုးတွေဟာ ကြွယ်ဝချမ်းသာနိုင်ပေမဲ့ စိတ်ဓာတ်ပိုင်းဆိုင်ရာမှာတော့ အမြဲတမ်းပူလောင်ကျဉ်းမြောင်းနေတတ်ပြီး ကိုယ်ကျိုးကိုပဲ ရှေ့တန်းတင်လွန်းတာကြောင့် မိတ်ဆွေကောင်း ရှားပါးတတ်ပါတယ်။

စီးပွားရေးရှုထောင့်ကနေ အပြုသဘောနဲ့ ကြည့်မယ်ဆိုရင်တော့ ဒီစိတ်ဓာတ်ကို "Cost Optimization" လို့ ခေါ်တဲ့ ကုန်ကျစရိတ်ကို အထိရောက်ဆုံး လျှော့ချခြင်းအဖြစ် မြင်နိုင်ပါတယ်။ အသေးအမွှေးလေးတွေကနေ အမြတ်ထုတ်နိုင်ဖို့ ကြိုးစားတာ (Marginal Gains) ဟာ လုပ်ငန်းကြီးတွေ တိုးတက်ဖို့အတွက် မဟာဗျူဟာတစ်ခု ဖြစ်ပါတယ်။ ဒါပေမဲ့ အသေးအမွှေးလေးတွေအပေါ်မှာပဲ အာရုံစိုက်လွန်းရင်တော့ "Penny wise, Pound foolish" ဆိုသလို တစ်ပြားကို နှစ်ပြားမှတ်ပြီး လိုက်ခွာနေရင်းနဲ့ ပိုပြီးအရေးကြီးတဲ့ တစ်ကျပ်တန် အခွင့်အရေးတွေကို လက်လွတ်မိမှာ ဖြစ်ပါတယ်။

စပိန်နိုင်ငံ၊ ဘာစီလိုနာမြို့မှာ ပုလိပ်ရောက်ဖြစ်ပွားစဉ်က ကပ်စေးနဲ့သွေးကြီးတစ်ဦးရဲ့ သင်ခန်းစာယူဖွယ် ဖြစ်ရပ်မှန်တစ်ခု ရှိခဲ့ပါတယ်။ ပရဟိတသမားတွေက သွေးကြီးထဲကနေ ငွေကို တိုက်ရိုက်မတောင်းဘဲ သူ့ရဲ့ ဘဏ်ချက်လက်မှတ်ကို တစ်ရက်ခဏငှားဖို့ နည်းဗျူဟာမြောက် တောင်းခံခဲ့ပါတယ်။ "ဒီလောက် စေးနဲ့တဲ့သွေးတောင် လျှော့နေပြီ" ဆိုတဲ့ သတင်းကြောင့် လူထုကြားမှာ လှုံ့ဆော်မှုဖြစ်ပြီး အလှူငွေတွေ အများကြီး ရရှိခဲ့ပါတယ်။ နောက်ဆုံးမှာတော့ သွေးကြီးဟာ သူ့ရဲ့ ချက်လက်မှတ်ကြောင့် အလှူဒါနတွေ အောင်မြင်တာကို မြင်ပြီး "ပေးကမ်းခြင်းရဲ့ ဝီတီ" ကို ပထမဆုံးအကြိမ် ခံစားလိုက်ရတာ ချက်လက်မှတ်ကို အမှန်တကယ် လှူဒါန်းလိုက်ပါတော့တယ်။

ကပ်စေးနဲ့ခြင်းဟာ လူကို စိတ်ဆင်းရဲစေပြီး ပူလောင်ကျဉ်းမြောင်းစေပေမဲ့ ပေးကမ်းစွန့်ကြဲခြင်း (Giving) ရဲ့ အရသာကို တစ်ကြိမ်တစ်ခါ မြည်းစမ်းကြည့်လိုက်ရရုံနဲ့တင် လူတစ်ယောက်ရဲ့ စိတ်ဓာတ်ကို အကြီးအကျယ် ပြောင်းလဲပစ်နိုင်ပါတယ်။

ဗုဒ္ဓဘာသာတွင် အလှူဒါနပြုခြင်း (ဒါန) ဟာ စိတ်ထဲမှာ ကပ်ငြိနေတဲ့ "လောဘ" နဲ့ "ငါစွဲ" တွေကို တိုက်ဖျက်ပေးပါတယ်။ မိမိပိုင်ဆိုင်မှုကို သူတစ်ပါးအတွက် စွန့်လွှတ်လိုက်တဲ့အခါ စိတ်နှလုံးဟာ ပေါ့ပါးသွားပြီး ပေးကမ်းရခြင်းကြောင့် ဖြစ်ပေါ်လာတဲ့ "ဒါနဝီတီ" ကို ခံစားရပါတယ်။ ဒီဝီတီဟာ စိတ်ကို တည်ငြိမ်အေးချမ်းစေရုံတင်မကဘဲ သူတစ်ပါးအပေါ် ကိုယ်ချင်းစာတဲ့ "မေတ္တာ" နဲ့ "ကရုဏာ" စိတ်တွေကိုပါ ပိုမိုခိုင်မာလာစေပါတယ်။

ဒုတိယအနေနဲ့ ကံတရားဆိုင်ရာ အကျိုးကျေးဇူးဖြစ်ပါတယ်။ "စိုက်သလောက် ရိတ်ရမည်" ဆိုတဲ့ ကမ္မနိယာမအရ ဒါနကောင်းမှုဟာ နောင်သံသရာခရီးမှာ ရုပ်ဝတ္ထုပစ္စည်း ပြည့်စုံကြွယ်ဝခြင်း၊ ဘေးအန္တရာယ် ကင်းဝေးခြင်းနဲ့ အများ၏ ချစ်ခင်လေးစားမှုကို ရရှိခြင်း စတဲ့ အကျိုးရလဒ်တွေကို ရရှိစေပါတယ်။ ဒါ့အပြင် အလှူရှင်ဟာ မိမိပြုခဲ့တဲ့ ကုသိုလ်ကြောင့် စိတ်လုံခြုံမှုရှိပြီး သေခါနီးအချိန်မှာပင် ကြောက်ရွံ့ခြင်းမရှိဘဲ အေးချမ်းစွာ အဆုံးသတ်နိုင်တဲ့ အကျိုးကျေးဇူးကို ရရှိမှာဖြစ်ပါတယ်။

အရာရာကို "ငါ့ဟာ" လို့ မစွဲလမ်းတော့ဘဲ စွန့်လွှတ်နိုင်တဲ့ အလေ့အကျင့်ဟာ သံသရာဝဋ်ဆင်းရဲက လွတ်မြောက်ဖို့အတွက် အဓိကကျတဲ့ ရိက္ခာထုပ်ကြီးဖြစ်ပါတယ်။

အလှူတစ်ခုဟာ အကျိုးထူးဖို့အတွက် (၁) လှူဒါန်းတဲ့ပစ္စည်းဟာ တရားသဖြင့် ရရှိထားခြင်း၊ (၂) လှူဒါန်းစဉ်မှာ သန့်ရှင်းတဲ့ စေတနာရှိခြင်းနဲ့ (၃) အလှူခံပုဂ္ဂိုလ်ဟာ သီလ၊ သမာဓိ၊ ပညာနဲ့ ပြည့်စုံခြင်း စတဲ့ အချက်တွေကလည်း အလွန်အရေးကြီးပါတယ်ခင်ဗျာ။

"Prying one cent as if it were two"

The Myanmar saying "Prying one cent as if it were two" describes someone who is extremely stingy and unwilling to part with even a very small amount. The word "pry" suggests they must struggle hard to give away even a little, showing how tightly they hold on to their possessions. People like this may have plenty of material wealth, but they are often poor in spirit. Their minds are narrow, always tense, and they often lose friends because they care only about their own interests.

The Business View

In business, this kind of carefulness can sometimes be seen positively. It's called "Cost Optimization," or paying close attention to small savings – what experts call "Marginal Gains".

Many successful companies grow by looking after small costs. But there is also a danger: if you focus too much on the tiny details, you might miss bigger opportunities. In other words, you could become "penny-wise and pound-foolish", saving cents but losing dollars because you fail to see the big picture.

A Story from Barcelona

During a plague in Barcelona, Spain, there lived a very stingy millionaire. When charity workers asked for donations, they didn't request money directly. Instead, they cleverly asked to "borrow" his bank check for a single day so they could show others that he was donating. When people saw that "even this famous miser was giving," they started donating as well. The campaign became a huge success. Seeing this, the millionaire felt respected and experienced the happiness of giving for the first time. He then decided to make an actual donation. The story shows that once a person discovers how good generosity feels, it can transform their heart completely.

The Buddhist View of Giving (Dana)

In Buddhism, giving – known as Dana – is a powerful way to heal the mind.

When you learn to give, you reduce greed and ego. Letting go of things makes the mind feel lighter and brings a deep kind of happiness known as Dharmic joy, or Mudita.

According to the law of cause and effect, generosity brings future success, safety, and respect. It also creates peace of mind, helping a person face death without fear.

The habit of letting go of "mine" is an important step toward liberation from suffering.

The Three Keys to Meaningful Giving

To truly matter, an act of giving must involve a righteously earned gift, a sincere heart from the giver, and a virtuous recipient.

NATIONAL

Myanmar Passport Law

FROM PAGE 7

- (g) The applicant has been granted amnesty under Section 401 (1) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, but the specified period has not yet expired.
- (h) The applicant is still serving a court-imposed sentence under existing law.
- (i) The applicant has been deported back to Myanmar for violating the laws of a foreign country.
30. The Myanmar Passport Issuance Board must cancel an issued Myanmar passport if any of the following conditions are found: -
- (a) The passport holder applies for a replacement due to the passport being lost.
- (b) The passport holder has been stripped of citizenship.
- (c) The passport is damaged or defaced to the extent that it is no longer suitable for use.
31. If the Myanmar Passport Issuance Board denies the issuance of a Myanmar passport or cancels an issued Myanmar passport, the person who is denied or whose passport is cancelled must be notified in accordance with the specified provisions.
32. A person who has been denied a Myanmar passport or whose issued passport has been cancelled may, within 60 days from the date of notification, submit a formal appeal to the Union Minister for the Ministry of Home Affairs.
33. (a) The Union Minister for the Ministry of Home Affairs may, after reviewing an appeal under Section 32, issue one of the following orders: -
- (1) Dismiss the appeal, or
- (2) Amend or confirm the decision of the Myanmar Passport Issuance Board.
- (b) The decision of the Union Minister for the Ministry of Home Affairs is final.
34. The Myanmar Passport Issuance Board must continue to act in accordance with the decision of the Union Minister for the Ministry of Home Affairs under Section 33 (a) (2).

Chapter VI Prohibitions

35. No one shall -
- (a) Provide or submit false or inaccurate information or evidence when applying for a Myanmar passport, whether intentionally or with the intent to deceive;
- (b) Sell, lease, or otherwise transfer a legally held Myanmar passport to another person;
- (c) Possess or use a forged or counterfeit Myanmar passport;
- (d) Possess, use, lease, pawn, sell, destroy, or otherwise transfer a Myanmar passport that they are not legally entitled to, whether intentionally or with fraudulent intent;
- (e) Forge, counterfeit, or sell a forged or counterfeit Myanmar passport.
36. No one shall -
- (a) Improperly issue or facilitate the issuance of a Myanmar passport;
- (b) Falsely enter or cause to be entered false information in the record book for Myanmar passport issuance with fraudulent intent.
37. No one shall -
- (a) Possess or use more than one valid ordinary Myanmar passport at the same time;

- (b) Use a Myanmar passport that has been cancelled.
38. No one shall conspire, collude, or assist in the commission of any offence under this law.

Chapter VII Offences and Penalties

39. Anyone who—
- (a) is found guilty of violating any of the prohibitions under Section 35 (a) may be sentenced to imprisonment for a minimum of three months and a maximum of one year, a fine of up to K500,000, or both imprisonment and a fine.
- (b) is found guilty of violating any of the prohibitions under Section 35 (b) shall be sentenced to imprisonment for a minimum of three months and a maximum of one year, and may also be fined a minimum of K300,000 up to a maximum of K500,000.
- (c) is found guilty of violating any of the prohibitions under Section 35 (c) shall be sentenced to imprisonment for a minimum of six months and a maximum of five years, and may also be fined a minimum of K500,000 up to a maximum of K1,000,000.
- (d) is found guilty of violating any of the prohibitions under Section 35 (d) or Section 35 (e) shall be sentenced to imprisonment for a minimum of one year and a maximum of five years, and may also be fined a minimum of K1,000,000 up to a maximum of K1,500,000.
40. Anyone found guilty of violating any of the prohibitions under Section 36 may be sentenced to imprisonment for a minimum of three months and a maximum of one year, a fine of up to K500,000, or both imprisonment and a fine.
41. Anyone found guilty of violating any of the prohibitions under Section 37 shall be sentenced to imprisonment for a minimum of six months and a maximum of three years, and may also be fined a minimum of K500,000 up to a maximum of K1,000,000.
42. Anyone convicted under this law who commits the same offence again shall be punished with the imprisonment prescribed for that offence.
43. Anyone who conspires, assists, or abets in the commission of any offence under this law shall be punished according to the penalty prescribed for that offence.

Chapter VIII Miscellaneous

44. The offences under Sections 39 (a) and (b), and 40 of this law are designated as cognizable offences.
45. Regardless of the provisions in any existing law, if an offence related to this law is committed, action shall be taken solely under this law.
46. In implementing the provisions of this law: -
- (a) The Ministry of Home Affairs may issue, rules, and regulations with the approval of the Union Government.
- (b) The Ministry of Home Affairs and the Myanmar Passport Issuance Board may issue notifications, orders, directives, and procedures.
47. The Myanmar Passport Act (Act XXXIV, 1920) is hereby repealed by this law.
- I hereby sign this law under Section 427 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Sd/ Min Aung Hlaing
Senior General
Acting President

Scheduled power rotations to start in Yangon Townships

RESIDENTS of Yangon Region report that starting 19 March, electricity is being distributed on a rotational basis, divided into two groups between 9 am and 9 pm.

“It’s true, the power cuts started today, on 19 March. Partly because the matriculation exams are over. We heard there will be two shifts. Power outages are normal during the summer, but in this heat, it’s not good for the elderly, children, and patients. With a new government coming in, we are just hoping they can find a better way,” said U Tin

Htut, a resident of Sangyoung Township.

The Ministry of Electric Power has informed the public that planned load shedding schedules must be implemented starting 18 March to maintain water levels at the reservoirs until June.

Townships in Yangon’s four districts are divided into Groups A and Group B for a four-hour rotational supply, but areas supplied via the LNG system will not experience power interruptions.

Due to lower river levels, dam operations must be adjust-



The image shows emergency battery bulbs being readied for charging once power returns.

ed to balance power generation with agricultural needs. High temperatures lead to a surge in electricity consumption due to

the increased use of air-conditioners, fans, and water pumps. The average daily power demand is 4,664 megawatts, and the ministry is working to meet this requirement in full.

The ministry’s total installed capacity of 6,725 megawatts includes 32 hydropower plants, 24 natural gas plants, two coal fired power plants, and 12 solar power plants. It can produce up to 4,000 megawatts when running fully. Currently, power accessibility stands at 70.43 per cent, serving approximately 6.9 million consumers. — Htun Htun/ZN

MCEF to host Build-Smart & Biggest Myanmar Production Expo 2026

THE Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Federation will hold the Build-Smart & Biggest Myanmar Production Expo 2026 on 15-17 May at the Yangon Convention Centre.

MCEF and Builders Mall Expo will jointly organize this event to mark the 30th anniversary of the federation.

Yangon Real Estate, Renewable

Energy Solutions, Construction Company & Construction Materials, Electronic & Electricals, Interior Decoration & Products, Modern Furniture, Heavy Machinery, MCEF members and big companies in the construction industry will showcase their products and services.

This expo will include talk shows

of the MCEF consultants, real estate talks, performances of the artists and dancers and other fun programmes of MCEF. The event is tailored to MCEF members, construction companies and those engaged in marketing and branding.

Early registration is advised to miss expo's key point locations. Indi-

viduals can enquire details of the expo through the MCEF Head office located at 3 at the corner of Thanthumar Street and Waizayanta Street, Thimgangyun Township, at 09 893217109 and 09 660282000, Viber 09 893217109, email mcef1996@gmail.com and the MCEF Nay Pyi Taw at 09 254454656. — NN/KK

MAC adopts IFRS for MSMEs

THE Myanmar Accountancy Council (MAC) issued Notification 19/2026 regarding International Financial Reporting Standards for the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to comply with.

MAC issued this notification in exercise of the power conferred under Section 17 (d) of the Myanmar Accountancy Council Law.

Furthermore, MSMEs or businesses that are profit-oriented and have no public accountability must apply the International Financial Reporting Standards for Small and Medium-sized Entities (IFRS for SMEs Accounting Standard) issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) when preparing financial statements with a general purpose for external users. If they wish to comply with the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), they are permitted to do so.

Regarding the IFRS that MSMEs can apply, businesses must comply with any revocations, amendments, and new issuances made by the IASB promptly.

This notification is effective for financial reporting starting from the 2027-2028 financial year. Businesses can also practice these standards earlier.

The Audit Monitoring Committee was formed under Section 20 (a) (5) of the Myanmar Accountancy Council Law, and the Accounting Monitoring Committee was also established under Section 20 (a) (6) of the Law to monitor the compliance status and provide necessary assistance for implementation as per this notification. They must submit reports to the Myanmar Accountancy Council Executive Committee through the Accounting Standards Committee. Myanmar Accountancy Council's Notification 19/2018 dated 4 July, 2018 was cancelled by this notification, and the Myanmar Financial Reporting Standards for Small and Medium-Sized Entities (SMEs) issued under Notification 2/2009 dated 4 November, 2009 of the Myanmar Accountancy Council are also withdrawn from the effective date of this notification. — NN/KK

Mon salt producers eye S Korea export market



This photo depicts salt workers harvesting salt in a salt field in Mon State.

ACCORDING to salt producers in Mon State, arrangements are being made to export salt produced in the state to South Korea.

At present, a specific

salt field is being set aside and operated on a trial basis in order to meet export requirements for the South Korean market.

“We are currently mak-

ing preparations to export to Korea. We still need to see whether we can meet their requirements. For now, we are testing with one salt field for the Korean market, and

their representatives have been visiting to inspect it. That is the current stage we are at.

“In 2023, we exported one container to Japan as a sample. It was taken on a trial basis, but there have been no further orders. It may have been for testing purposes. Since they have not requested additional shipments, we have to conclude that it was not successful,” said a salt producer from Mon State.

In Mon State, more than 45,000 tonnes of salt are produced from over 4,700 acres of salt fields every year. Salt production in Ayeyawady Region, Rakhine State and Mon State is mainly carried out using the solar evaporation method. — ASH/MKKS

CBM to inject US\$34M into fuel oil industry

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) announced on 18 March that it would sell US\$34 million to those engaged in the fuel oil industry.

CBM sold over \$1.84 million to edible oil-importing companies on that day, along with sales of \$151,000 and over five million baht into the market.

In addition to an injection of large amount of foreign currencies (yuan, dollar, baht) into the foreign exchange market, CBM has been constantly injecting large amount of US dollars to the edible oil sector, with \$1.55 on 17 March, \$2.38 million on 16 March, \$1.98 million



Vehicles line up for refuelling at the Denko petrol station.

on 13 March, \$1.85 million on 12 March, over one million dollars on 11 March, \$2.1 million on 10 March, \$1.97 million on 9 March, \$1.96 million on 6 March, \$2.65 million on 5

March, over \$1.24 million on 4 March and one million dollars on 3 March to the edible oil sector respectively. Additionally, CBM injected one million dollars into the fuel

oil import sector on 3 March.

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

ECONOMY WORLD



The Australian services sector is the dominant force in the nation's economy, contributing approximately 79 per cent of total value added and employing 88 per cent of the workforce as of 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE**

Australian unemployment rate rises to 4.3%

The increase in employment was driven by part-time work, which grew by 79,400, while full-time employment decreased by 30,500.

AUSTRALIA'S unemployment rate rose to 4.3 per cent in February, according to official data, defying economists' expectations that it would remain steady.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) said on Thursday that the official unemployment rate hit 4.3 per cent in February, up from 4.1 per cent in January.

According to the ABS, the

number of employed Australians rose by 48,900 between January and February, which was offset by the number of unemployed Australians increasing by 35,000, or 5.6 per cent, in the same period.

The Australian Broadcasting Corporation and Australian Associated Press reported earlier on Thursday that economists were expecting the unemployment rate

to remain at 4.1 per cent in February.

The increase in employment was driven by part-time employment, which grew by 79,400, while the number of people employed full-time decreased by 30,500.

As a result, the total number of hours worked by Australians was 0.2 per cent lower in February than in January. — Xinhua

Transport strike erupts in Philippines to protest surging fuel costs

TRANSPORT groups on Thursday launched a nationwide transport strike in the Philippines to protest against soaring oil price hikes.

Local media reported that the strike covered 15 to 20 protest centres across Metro Manila, with similar actions staged in several major provinces.

Among the protesters' demands are the immediate rollback of oil prices, the removal of excise and value-added taxes on petroleum products, the expansion of subsidies to affected sectors, and the implementation of a living wage for workers.

The Philippines, which relies heavily on imported crude

oil, has been grappling with sharp price increases linked to the growing tensions in the Middle East.

On the eve of the strike, the Philippine National Police placed Metro Manila on high alert, deploying nearly 10,000 personnel to ensure public safety and manage traffic. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Brussels to unveil 'EU Inc' pan-European company status

ENTREPRENEURS will be able to create pan-European companies under new plans to be unveiled Wednesday, which the EU executive says will make it less of a headache to do business across the bloc.

The proposal known as "EU Inc" is part of ramped-up efforts to tackle the European Union's competitiveness problem as the bloc's economy and industries risk falling further behind the United States and China. Trade unions fear, however, the new EU-wide regime will erode workers' rights.

EU Inc "has a simple objective: to reduce fragmentation and allow businesses to operate across the single market under one clear set of corporate rules", EU justice commissioner Michael McGrath told AFP in a statement. — AFP



File photo taken on 18 April 2025 shows plush toys featuring Myaku-Myaku, the official mascot of the 2025 World Exposition in Osaka, at a store at the event site. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Popular Osaka expo mascot's goods to remain on shelves until Mar 2028

THE organizer of the 2025 World Exposition in Osaka has recently decided to extend the sales of merchandise featuring the official Myaku-Myaku mascot for two more years, given the continuing popularity of the red-blue character.

Sales of the goods were scheduled to end in March this

year, but the expo association decided at a board meeting held on Monday to extend the period to the end of March 2028.

From next month, companies that did not cosponsor or participate in the global event will be allowed to use the character design and the expo's official logo for a fee. — Kyodo



People wait for jeepneys and buses on their way to work as other commuters and public utility drivers and operators hold a transport strike to express their discontent on the continuing oil price hikes at a road in Quezon City, the Philippines, on 19 March 2026.

PHOTO: ROUELLE UMALI/XINHUA

Sri Lanka enforces odd-even fuel sales rule

SRI Lanka has begun distributing fuel under an odd-even number plate system starting Wednesday, a senior Ceylon Petroleum Corporation (Ceypetco) officer said.

The corporation's Managing Director Mayura Neththikumarage said vehicles with number plates ending in an even number or zero can buy fuel on even-numbered days, while vehicles with number plates ending in an odd number can obtain fuel on odd-numbered days. Neththikumarage said the measure aims to regulate fuel distribu-

tion more effectively and manage demand at filling stations.

He also announced a special arrangement for vehicle owners who have so far been unable to download the QR code required to obtain fuel. According to Neththikumarage, those vehicle owners will be given a special opportunity on Thursday to obtain fuel even without the QR code.

The move comes as authorities work to resolve QR code-related issues and streamline fuel distribution nationwide. — Xinhua



Drivers queue to have vehicles refuelled at a gas station in Colombo, Sri Lanka, 15 March 2026. Sri Lanka on Sunday began distributing fuel through a mandatory QR code system for vehicles, as authorities moved to manage reserves amid supply disruptions linked to the ongoing military situation in the Middle East, the Ministry of Energy said in a press release. **PHOTO: GAYAN SAM/XINHUA**

Japan restarts gasoline subsidies to curb rising prices

JAPAN'S government resumed gasoline subsidies on Thursday to curb pump prices, setting support at 30.20 yen (\$0.19) per litre of regular gasoline through Wednesday and aiming to bring the national average retail price down to around 170 yen.

The programme also covers diesel and heavy oil to ease costs for businesses as well as farmers, foresters and the fishing industry. The government will adjust the subsidy weekly, based on forecasts of the following week's retail prices that reflect changes in crude oil prices. The regular gasoline price hit an all-time high of 190.80 yen per liter as of Monday, as crude oil prices surged after the US-Israeli attack on Iran. The government set the latest subsidy rate based on projections that the price would rise to 200.20 yen next week. — Kyodo

New Zealand PM warns of global oil supply disruption by prolonged Mideast conflict

NEW Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon warned Thursday of a prolonged Middle East conflict that could disrupt global oil supplies, as the government considers raising its fuel escalation level next week.

Kiwi drivers have queued at petrol stations amid the escalation of the Middle East conflict, but Luxon praised New Zealanders' restraint in avoiding panic-buying at a press conference, saying national fuel supplies remain adequate for now.

Finance Minister Nicola Willis told reporters that the government would be providing twice-weekly fuel updates starting next Monday, adding New Zealand currently had 41.3



New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon warned Thursday of a prolonged Middle East conflict that could disrupt global oil supplies. **PHOTO: PIXABAY**

days of petrol, 47 days of diesel and 49 days of jet fuel.

In a separate announcement, Associate

Energy Minister Shane Jones said New Zealand will release oil tickets — contracts for 1.577 million barrels of crude oil or the

equivalent — to fulfill its commitment to the International Energy Agency's (IEA) collective action. — Xinhua

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We, **Qingdao Hisigma Chemical Co.,Ltd.** would like to change the Distributor of the following products, from **Myanmar Thet Nay Min Co.,Ltd** to **Good Plant and Good Life Myanmar Co.,Ltd.** If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, Yangon, from here to next (2) weeks.

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MCL 9 VOY.NO. (22N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MCL 9 VOY. NO. (22N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **20-3-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **YIGTL** 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 MAWLAMYINE CENTURY LOGISTICS COMPANY LIMITED

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V UNI ACCORD VOY.NO. (843N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V UNI ACCORD VOY.NO. (843N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **20-3-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S EVERGREEN MARINE (ASIA) PTE., LTD.

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

War in the Middle East: latest developments

Here are the latest developments in the Middle East war:



The SAMREF oil refinery on Saudi Arabia's Red Sea coast—a joint venture between Aramco and ExxonMobi—was attacked by an Iranian drone on 19 March 2026. **PHOTO: SAMREF**

- # Oil prices surged 10 per cent after Qatar reported “extensive” damage to the world’s largest liquefied natural gas (LNG) facility following Iranian strikes, sparking fears for global energy supplies.
- # Iranian lawmakers proposed a plan to impose tolls and taxes on ships passing through the strategic Strait of Hormuz.
- # Drones struck a Saudi oil refinery on the Red Sea and caused fires at two others in Kuwait as Iran stepped up attacks on Gulf energy infrastructure. Yanbu is the destination of Petroline, the overland oil pipeline that gives Saudi exports an alternative to the Strait of Hormuz—currently choked off by Iran. In Kuwait, drone attacks sparked blazes at the Mina Abdullah and Mina Al-Ahmadi refineries, which have a combined capacity of 800,000 barrels per day.
- # The former paramilitary coalition Hashed al-Shaabi in northern Iraq said two of its fighters were killed in the Nineveh region, where Mosul is located, and an airport in Salah al-Din province targeted in two strikes.
- # Iran executed three people convicted of killing police officers and carrying out operations in favour of the United States and Israel during unrest earlier this year, the judiciary said.
- # Saudi Arabia has not ruled out military action in response to repeated missile and drone attacks from Iran, Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan said. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kim Jong Un sweeps North Korea polls with “99.93 per cent” mandate

IN North Korea’s 2026 parliamentary elections, Kim Jong Un achieved a landslide win as the Workers’ Party of Korea and its coalition partners reportedly captured 99.93 per cent of the ballot and every available seat, according to Yonhap News Agency, which cited state media reports.

With a reported turnout of 99.99 per cent, the polls were conducted on 15 March to select deputies for the 15th Supreme People’s Assembly. Following the results, Pyongyang is scheduled to hold the inaugural session of the new assembly to decide on the election of state leadership and deliberate on a major revision to the constitution.

This upcoming legislative gathering follows the Ninth Congress of the ruling Workers’ Party of Korea conducted last month. — ANI

Pentagon seeks \$200B+ for Iran war as costs surge: Reports

THE Pentagon has asked the White House to approve a funding request exceeding \$200 billion to support the war in Iran, according to The Washington Post, a figure that could face strong resistance in Congress.

The request would go far beyond current spending levels and aims to replenish weapons stocks rapidly depleted as US and Israeli forces have carried out thousands of strikes over the past three weeks, The Washington Post reported. The report notes the war’s cost has already exceeded \$11 billion in its first week alone, with officials warning that further funding could trigger a major political battle amid limited public support. — SPUTNIK

Iran admonishes UNSC over silence after killing of key officials

IRANIAN Ambassador to United Nations Amir-Saeid Iravani has criticised the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for its prolonged silence over the killing of the country’s key officials-

Minister of Intelligence Esmaeil Khatib and National Security Chief Ali Larjani in a letter, reported Al-Jazeera citing Mehr news agency. In the letter, Iravani also wrote that UNSC’s

inaction has caused Israel to become stronger and bolder in targeting officials. Iravani also warned that the killings could spread to other countries if left unchecked. — ANI

Rise in oil prices threatens to dampen Japan’s economy: BOJ chief

BANK of Japan chief Kazuo Ueda said Thursday that the rise in oil prices stemming from the Iran war could dampen the Japanese economy.

At a news conference following the BOJ’s two-day policy meeting, Ueda said oil prices could also boost inflation by driving up energy prices, stressing that developments in the Middle East conflict will be an “important point” in deciding the timing of future rate hikes.

The central bank on Thursday left its policy interest rate

unchanged at around 0.75 per cent, noting that the Middle East situation and crude oil

prices have emerged as fresh risks to the economic and price outlooks. — Kyodo



The steel industry serves as a vital pillar of the Japan economy, providing essential raw materials for its world-leading automobile, shipbuilding, and high-tech manufacturing sectors. **PHOTO: KYODO/FILE**

SPORTS

Man Utd boss Carrick expects hard test against resolute Bournemouth



Michael Carrick's Manchester United are third in the Premier League table. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

MICHAEL Carrick has told his Manchester United side to ready themselves for an awkward encounter away to Bournemouth on Friday as they look to maintain their challenge for a Champions League place.

The Red Devils have enjoyed a resurgence since former United and England midfielder Carrick was appointed caretaker boss in January until the end of the season.

United are now third in the Premier League ahead of their trip to south coast side Bournemouth after recovering from their first loss under Carrick, away to Newcastle, by beating top-four rivals Aston Villa 3-1 on Sunday.

Bournemouth, however, are 10th in the table and have made life difficult for United in recent seasons, with December's remarkable 4-4 draw at Old Trafford extending their recent unbeaten run in this fixture.

Cherries boss Andoni Iraola, tipped as a possible permanent manager of the Red Devils has not lost in five previous matches against United. — AFP

Myanmar names 28-man squad for Asian Cup Qualifiers

MYANMAR has formed a 28-player preliminary squad for the remaining group matches of the 2027 AFC Asian Cup Third Qualifiers.

The Myanmar national football team will face the Afghanistan national football team on 26 March and the Pakistan national football team on 31 March in the remaining group fixtures. The team began training camp on the evening of 19 March.

Several new players have been included in the preliminary list, while some players who had been away from the national team for some time have also been recalled. In addition, the top scorers from recent league competitions have been selected, including Sa Aung Pyae Ko of Shan United FC, the top scorer of the Myanmar National League, and Hla Phone Oo of Chinland FC, the top scorer of the MNL-2 competition. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



Shan United striker Sa Aung Pyae Ko, a Myanmar National League top scorer, who has been included in the Myanmar preliminary squad. **PHOTO: SOE NYUNT THAW**



Win Theingi Tun moves to Nepal club Sankata FC

MYANMAR women's national team striker Win Theingi Tun has signed a one-season contract with Sankata FC to compete in the 2026 ANFA Women's League in Nepal.

Win Theingi Tun will wear the No 27 jersey for Sankata FC.

She previously played as a striker for Indian clubs

Gokulam Kerala FC, Kickstart FC and Odisha FC. During the previous football season, she played for Malaysian club Sabah FA before moving to Sankata FC in Nepal.

Win Theingi Tun has been playing professionally for overseas clubs since 2021. — ASH/KZL

Win Theingi Tun (right) is pictured during the signing ceremony with Sankata FC for the Nepal Women's League.

Messi headlines Argentina squad for Guatemala friendly

LIONEL Messi will lead Argentina in its World Cup warm-up friendly at home against Guatemala later this month, the Argentine Football Association said on Wednesday.

Manager Lionel Scaloni also included two newcomers in his 28-man squad: Estudiantes center-back Tomas Palacios and Racing Club left-back Gabriel Rojas.

Messi in action during an Argentina training session at Martinez Valero Stadium in Elche, Spain, on 13 November

2025.

But there was no place for the injured trio Lautaro Martinez, Lisandro Martinez and Giovanni Lo Celso. Inter Milan striker Martinez and Manchester United defender Martinez are recovering from calf injuries while Real Betis midfielder Lo Celso has a quadriceps strain.

Argentina will face Guatemala on 31 March at La Bombonera in Buenos Aires. The match was confirmed on Tuesday following the cancellation of

the "Finalissima" against Spain due to the conflict in the Middle East.

It is Argentina's only scheduled fixture ahead of the World Cup in the United States, Mexico and Canada. — Xinhua

Lionel Messi celebrates a goal for Argentina during their 2026 FIFA World Cup qualifier against Venezuela in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 4 September 2025. **PHOTO: MARTIN ZABALA/XINHUA**





Anutin Charnvirakul re-elected Thailand's PM

Anutin assured MPs and senators he'd collaborate with all representatives to drive national prosperity and public welfare.



Anutin Charnvirakul, a candidate from the Bhumjaithai Party, speaks at a meeting of the House of Representatives at the parliament building in Bangkok, Thailand, 19 March 2026. PHOTO: RACHEN SAGEAMSAK/XINHUA

Anutin Charnvirakul, a candidate from the Bhumjaithai Party, was re-elected Thailand's prime minister after securing a simple majority in a vote cast by the House of Representatives on Thursday.

Anutin, whose party holds the most seats in the freshly elected House of Representatives, was nominated for the prime minister's post against Natthaphong Ruengpanyawut, leader of the People's Party, which finished second in the February polls.

In a roll call vote, Anutin secured 293 votes in favor, surpassing the simple majority of 499 members in the lower house required for approval, House Speaker Sophon Zaram announced. Natthaphong received 119 votes, Sophon added.

In his address, Anutin assured members of parliament and senators that he would collaborate with all representatives to ensure the country's prosperity and the public interest of its citizens.

Anutin is pending endorsement by Thai King Maha Vajiralongkorn to officially assume his new term as the 32nd prime minister of the Southeast Asian country.

His Bhumjaithai Party has announced its alliance with the third-placed election finisher, the Pheu Thai Party, and other small groups to form a coalition government. — Xinhua

Iran again threatens to destroy region's energy facilities if own attacked

IRAN'S military renewed threats on Thursday to destroy the region's energy infrastructure were its facilities to

be attacked again during the US-Israel war with the Islamic republic.

"We warn the enemy that you made a major mistake in attacking the energy infrastructure of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the response is underway and not yet finished," the military's operational command Khatam Al-Anbiya said in a statement carried by Fars news agency.

"If it is repeated, subsequent attacks against your energy infrastructure and that of your allies will not stop until their complete destruction, and our response will be far more severe than" last night's attacks. — AFP



The Arab League strongly condemned Iranian missile attacks on gas facilities in Qatar's Ras Laffan Industrial City, calling it a dangerous escalation. The Ras Laffan Industrial City, Qatar's principal site for production of LNG and gas-to-liquid, some 80 kilometres north of the capital Doha. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Scientists use mosquitoes to track endangered wildlife

SCIENTISTS in Australia have found that mosquitoes can act like tiny "flying wildlife surveyors", helping track elusive and endangered animals, offering a powerful non-invasive tool for conservation.

Researchers used DNA found in mosquito blood meals to identify around 70 species of birds and mammals living in Kakadu National Park in Australia's Northern Territory, including several animals that are rarely seen or difficult to monitor, said a statement from Australia's Macquarie University on Thursday.

The technique involves analyzing the DNA of animals from female mosquitoes that have recently fed on. When mosquitoes are trapped, scientists can extract traces of that DNA to determine which species are present in the area, said researchers from the university and the Australian Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.

The study, published in the journal *Environmental DNA*, found that the mosquito method detected around twice as many mammal species as traditional camera traps, despite only two nights of sampling compared with six weeks of camera monitoring. — Xinhua