

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.

Government departments urged to implement remote working every Wednesday

1. To proactively address potential fuel shortages arising from the conflict in the Middle East, the government has previously introduced the odd-even vehicle rotation and fuel rationing purchase systems. Alongside these measures, the government is making every effort to secure fuel imports through various channels as much as possible. While current reserves remain sufficient, the government is taking preparatory steps for future possible energy challenges. To reduce fuel consumption, it is hereby announced that, effective from 25 March 2026, all government officers and staff are required to perform their duties from their respective homes or hostels every Wednesday, rather than commuting to their offices. As the primary objective of this measure is fuel conservation, officers and staff must refrain from any non-essential travel or vehicle use on these designated days.
2. Private sector organizations and workplaces are also encouraged to follow the example of government departments by implementing "work from home" arrangements to the greatest extent possible.
3. This announcement shall remain in effect until further notice is issued.

*Information team
National Defence and Security Council*

Pyu Creek dam irrigates 18,000 acres of summer paddy fields

The embankment of Pyu Creek dam is 1,020 feet long and 245 feet high with a storage capacity of 632,530 acre-feet of water and a surface area of 14,570 acres.

The Pyu Creek dam, located near milepost 110 west of the expressway in Bago Region, is continuously releasing water to irrigate approximately 18,000 acres of summer paddy fields.

The Pyu Creek dam stores and regulates water flowing from the Bago mountain ranges, supporting the agricultural and livestock sectors in Pyu and Ottwin townships while also generating electricity, thereby benefiting both the State and farmers. Out of the 90,000 acres of irrigated area, irrigation water is being supplied to some 18,000 acres out of already-implemented 19,450 acres of farmlands, and once the Pyu Creek dam project is completed, water will be fully distributed across the entire irrigated area.

Water is supplied to the summer paddy fields in Pyu Township starting from 1 January and is usually provided until the second week of May or the last week

SEE PAGE 2



The Pyu Creek dam supplies irrigation water to summer paddy fields in Pyu Township. **PHOTO: KANU**

NATIONAL

A Nation of Educated Citizens Shines on the World Stage

* As the saying goes, “Knowledge is a treasure, while ignorance is a blindfold,” having abundant knowledge and skills not only benefits each individual’s life but also elevates a nation filled with educated people, giving it prominence on the world stage.

(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

Pyu Creek dam irrigates 18,000 acres of summer paddy fields

FROM PAGE 1

of June. Last year, a total of 17,389 acres of summer paddy fields were irrigated from the Pyu Creek dam, and this year, about 18,000 acres are being supplied with water. The paddy varieties include Sinthukha, 90-day, Hnankauk, Yadana Toe, Vietnam, Yezin Pawsan-1, and Aungnaingtoe. In particular, 90-day rice varieties are the most widely grown, and in this summer rice season, 100 acres of Shwebo Pawsan rice varieties have been experimentally planted at Nyaungpintha plantation at milepost 107, while 11,396 acres of oilseed crops in Pyu Township are also being irrigated.

“The water used by the hydroelectric power plant at the Pyu Creek dam flows through the diversion weir and is sent daily to the summer paddy fields of Pyu Township via the left and right canals. This area re-

ceives ample rainfall, so irrigation is not needed during the rainy season, but it is essential in the summer. In addition to paddy, oilseeds crops are also cultivated during the summer. It is gratifying to see the fields green and the crops flourishing thanks to the water supply. Once the Pyu Creek dam multi-project, including the left canal system, is completed, it will be able to supply water to the designated 90,000 acres of irrigated area, so the fields in Ottwin Township will also become green. Since the department’s main responsibilities include flood prevention and control, in addition to protecting the Sittoung River Basin and Pyu from floods during the rainy season, the ability to provide water to the summer paddy fields relied on by farmers will be highly beneficial to the country and the people,” said U Thlan-

ja, Assistant Director (4) of Construction Division (1) of the Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department.

The Pyu Creek dam is of gravel-filled embankment, 1,020 feet long and 245 feet high, with a storage capacity of 632,530 acre-feet of water. The dam can store a surface area of 14,570 acres, an average annual rainfall of 100 inches, and an average annual inflow of 668,360 acre-feet, resulting in a cashment area of 422 square miles. The Pyu Creek dam project was initiated in 2000-2001 financial year, and the dam was completed in 2012-2013. The diversion weir was finished in 2013-2014, and the irrigation system is scheduled for completion in 2028-2029. Once the project is fully completed, it will be able to supply irrigation water to the entire 90,000-acre designated area. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/TH



The Pyu Creek dam flows out irrigation water to summer paddy fields through canals in Pyu Township. PHOTO: KANU

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)

Announcement: Cooperation requested to prevent domestic fuel shortages due to ongoing armed conflict in the Middle East

DUE to the ongoing armed conflict in the Middle East, the Ministry of Energy is monitoring, supervising, and regulating to ensure that fuel consumption within Myanmar does not face difficulties.

On 12 March, the system for scanning barcodes for vehicles and issuing QR codes for motorcycles was implemented, with coordination among relevant departments to resolve any difficulties and noting the public's understanding and cooperation.

During this process, instructions have been issued to filling stations, and inspections are being conducted to ensure compliance.

Based on detailed public complaints, the relevant shops were inspected, and

their sales licences were suspended.

To make fuel purchases more convenient, a system incorporating barcodes and QR codes will be implemented next week, allowing customers to buy fuel once or twice per week based on their vehicle's engine capacity.

The State has already stockpiled 50 days' worth of fuel and arranged for imports through alternative channels in addition to the regular routes, and the public is advised to refrain from purchasing fuel out of concern, but to report any irregularities in fuel sales by contacting the relevant phone numbers and submitting accurate complaints.

Ministry of Energy

More foreign nationals engaging in telecom fraud and gambling arrested near Khohai Village of Laikha Township

THE Government of Myanmar is actively combatting telecom fraud and gambling activities, which pose threats globally, with the aim of preventing such activities from taking root within the country and eradicating them entirely. These efforts are being carried out not only with domestic forces but also in coordination with neighbouring governments. In addition, combined teams from relevant departments across various regions and states are conducting thorough inspections and enforcement activities to crack down on telecom fraud and illegal gambling operations, as well as to prevent illegal entry and residence of foreign nationals within the country.

The information has been released that security forces arrested foreign nationals who committed telecom fraud and gambling along with residential buildings and related accessories around Kaungsan



This image shows detained undocumented foreign immigrants near Khohai Village, Laikha Township, Shan State (South).

Village of Laikha Township in Shan State (South) on 20 and 21 March.

Security forces arrested five Chinese nationals who carried out telecom fraud and gambling at the place, some 1,500 metres southeast of Khohai Village of Laikha Township at about 2.30 pm on 22 March. They will be detained under the prescribed procedures. Temporary buildings used in telecom fraud and online gam-

bling seized near Kaungsan Village on 20 March were destroyed in fire systematically.

The State is actively continuing efforts to combat telecom fraud and illegal gambling activities, in cooperation with neighbouring countries, regional nations, and international organizations, with the aim of eradicating such offenses and preventing them from operating within Myanmar. — MNA/TTA

Methamphetamine worth K2.08 bln seized near Thai border in Tachilek



This photo shows a suspect and confiscated ICE.

APPROXIMATELY 260 kilograms of ICE with an estimated value of K2.08 billion were seized near Mae Sai Creek in Ponthun Ward, Tachilek, Shan State (East).

Acting on a tip-off, security forces were informed that a group of suspicious individuals was attempting to transport black bags over a retaining wall under construction near the creek. The group reportedly intended to smuggle the bags across the border into Thailand using ropes at approximately 2.35 am yesterday. During the operation, security personnel conducted a search and arrested a suspect identified as Sai Maung Wam (also known as Wam Wam).

Upon inspection, authorities

discovered 13 bags. Each bag contained roughly 20 packages, with the total weight amounting to approximately 260 kilograms of ICE. The narcotics were found wrapped in multiple layers, including striped sacks and packaging labelled "Golden Leaf" and "999".

The suspect and the seized narcotics have been transferred to the local police station for legal proceedings. Authorities are continuing their investigations to identify and apprehend further accomplices. Officials have also urged the public to report any information related to drug trafficking in confidence, noting that informants and those assisting in arrests will receive appropriate rewards. — MNA/KZL

NATIONAL

MNHRC Inspects Bago Jail Centre, Myoma Police Station Lock-up

ON 20 March 2025, an inspection team headed by Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Member U Tin Aung carried out an inspection of the Bago Jail and the Bago Myoma Police Station Lock-up in Bago Township, Bago region. This inspection was conducted under Sections 43 and 44 of the Commission's Law.

At the Bago Jail, the team visited prisoners in their dormitories and inquired about matters affecting their fundamental rights. These included the adequacy of food supplies, access to healthcare services, the process for referrals to outside hospitals based on medical needs, the availability of sufficient purified drinking water and water for domestic use, arrangements for family visits, the receipt of items provided by the prison or sent by family members, and the provision of physical exercise and sports for health and fitness. The team also looked into the right to freedom of religion and faith, specifically the worship activities of 11 Muslim prisoners during Ramadan and the arrangements



Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Member U Tin Aung observes arrangements for family visits at the Bago Jail on 20 March 2026.

made for their meals. Additionally, they reviewed the provision of basic literacy education covering reading, writing, and arithmetic for illiterate prisoners and detainees, and inspected for any instances of human rights violations or torture by prison staff or fellow inmates. The team

also spoke with 12 family members who had come to visit their incarcerated relatives, asking if they faced any challenges in meeting with them or delivering items. Furthermore, private and confidential interviews were conducted with 10 prisoners and detainees who had requested

separate meetings, and their statements were recorded.

The team subsequently inspected various facilities, including the dormitories, the prison clinic, the library, the kitchen, the food warehouse, water purifiers, the cleanliness of the internal and external sewage systems,

and the family visit area. They also observed prisoners during lunch and reviewed the status of implementation of recommendations made during their previous visit. Following this, the commission donated 50 knowledgeable books for the prisoners to read and study.

During the inspection of the Bago Myoma Police Station Lock-up, the team assessed the conditions of detainees during the remand period. They examined whether any torture had taken place while detainees were held there, whether opportunities for family visits existed, and the provision of food and nutritional supplements. The team also reviewed sewage disposal, overall cleanliness of the facilities, and the status of family visits and access to legal assistance during court appearances.

The findings and recommendations resulting from the inspection visits will be submitted to the relevant department for necessary action in line with the Commission law. — MNHRC

Weather

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7 pm Sunday 22 March 2026)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 23 March 2026: Weather will be partly cloudy in Yangon, Bago and Ayeyawady regions and Kayah, Kayin and Mon states. Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State, fairly wide-

spread in Chin and northern Shan states, scattered in Mandalay and lower Sagaing regions and southern Shan State and isolated in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Kachin State. Degree of certainty is 80 per cent.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in upper Sagaing and Taninthayi regions and Kachin State. The area along the cumulonimbus clouds movement, the weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied with rain, thunder, lightning and hails may occur and therefore it is recommended to be aware in advance of these phenomena.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in the Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about

4-6 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers in upper Sagaing and Taninthayi regions and Kachin State.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 23 March 2026: Partly cloudy and likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 60 per cent.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 23 March 2026: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 23 March 2026: Partly cloudy and likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 60 per cent.— DMH

Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

www.gnlm.com.mm



CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION

(+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 255597511

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 251022355
marketing@gnlm.com.mm
subscription@gnlm.com.mm

Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.
gnlmnews@gmail.com,
newsroom@gnlm.com.mm
www.gnlm.com.mm

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email aungthuya@gnlm.com.mm with your name and title.

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

Despite sluggish buying and selling activities, property rent increases in Yangon

ACCORDING to residents and sources from the property industry, buying and selling activities have been slow, however rent market has been active in Yangon.

The active rent market is a result of people who moved to Yangon as they prefer rented property either separate houses or apartments, rather than buying, said an estate agent. Only some people who really need to live are buyers, he said.

“Rather than buying and selling, rents have been active. It is not hard to find another tenant when former one left. Rented apartment rooms, both lower and higher floors, can get tenants easily. Young people can live at higher floors by sharing with friends but some families

who have older people prefer lower floors or separate houses. However, rent prices are also high depending on the location. Most people can't afford buying a house so only those who can afford and really need to live buy houses,” he said.

With increased tenants, rent prices have also risen even a high floor costs nearly K400,000 and most are six-month or a year contract, said tenants. A Yangon resident said they have put their own room up for sale through an agent, but they can't find a buyer so far.

In most of the townships even in suburban wards, real estate rents have increased and rent prices have been high too, said sources. — MT/ZS



Some apartment units in Sangyoung Township

Mandalay Region Government to hold one-year anniversary remembrance ceremony for 7.7 magnitude earthquake

THE Mandalay Region Government has announced that a remembrance ceremony will be held to mark the one-year anniversary of the devastating earthquake that struck on 28 March 2025. This powerful 7.7 magnitude quake resulted in significant loss of life and extensive damage to property across the region.

The anniversary event, scheduled for the morning of 28 March 2026, will focus on spiritual and merit-sharing activities. These include offering alms to members of the Sangha and performing the ceremonies to share merits with those who lost their lives in the disaster. In the afternoon, the government will hold a special recognition ceremony to hon-



Some damaged residential buildings in the powerful Mandalay earthquake.

our various social organizations and groups that worked courageously on the frontlines during the emergency.

Regarding reconstruction efforts, the Union Government continues to provide essential support for the rebuilding of buildings and infrastructure

damaged by the quake. Simultaneously, the Mandalay Region Government is collaborating closely with ward and village administrative bodies to ensure that recovery assistance and relief reach the affected communities effectively. — ASH/KNN

Passport extension appointments may take longer, ME Singapore announces

APPLICATIONS for passport extension have recently mounted at the embassy's WhatsApp, leading to a longer waiting time for appointment dates of at least two weeks, Myanmar Embassy to Singapore announced.

The embassy has provided passport extension for Myanmar nationals in Singapore by receiving the submission of personal data to its WhatsApp numbers +6581748993 and +6582468581, and the list of those eligible has been published at the embassy's Facebook page on every Friday after about two weeks.

Recently, there are many submissions of application so the appointment date will take more than two weeks, it said on 20 March. And the embassy has

also requested to understand the situation.

Walk-in is allowed only for those aged 65 years and above, those who need extend residence permit with IPA letter received in a month and those who have less than six months passport validation and need to travel in two months (paid air ticket for round trip and other documents are required to submit), it said.

More than one submission to WhatsApp will make the applicant moving back to the waiting list automatically, that is why applicants will need to check the eligible list at the embassy Facebook page and website <http://www.myanmarembassy.sg/> on every Friday. — MT/ZS

Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanmar Alinn, the Kyemon and The Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit www.moi.gov.mm/mal, www.moi.gov.mm/km, www.moi.gov.mm/nlm and www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper.

News and Periodicals Enterprise

NATIONAL

Union Tax Law 2026

CONTINUED FROM YESTERDAY

Chapter VIII Gemstone Tax

33. According to Section 38 of the Myanmar Gemstone Law, when the following listed gemstones are sold, gemstone tax shall be levied based on either the actual selling price or the selling price determined by the Myanmar Gems Enterprise based on the actual selling price, whichever is higher. The applicable tariff shall be applied to the higher of these two values for the jewellery tax shown against each. The collected gemstone tax must be transferred and deposited into the relevant bank account of the Internal Revenue Department.

No	Types of gemstones	Tariff
1	Uncut jade stones	11 per cent
2	Uncut ruby, sapphire and other precious gemstones	9 per cent
3	Finished jade, ruby, sapphire and other precious jewellery items, and jewellery ornaments made of jade, ruby, sapphire and other precious gemstones	5 per cent
4	Materials made of gemstones	5 per cent

Chapter IX Other tariffs

34. The relevant ministries shall manage and implement the tariffs, exemptions, and reliefs of the following taxes in accordance with the existing laws: -
- Excise tax
 - Licence fee and permit fee for imports
 - Myanmar Aung Bar Lay lottery
 - Fees for vehicle, driving licence and work licence
 - Court fee and stamp duty
 - Fees for tourism, hotels and lodge licence, tour guide licence
 - Incomes from services provided for investments and company registration
 - Income from trademark registration
 - Income from property right registration
 - Tax
 - Tax levied for land plots
 - Water Tax
 - Embankment Tax
 - Forestry tax for the extraction of forest products
 - Tax for the extraction of minerals (except industrial raw minerals and decorative stones)
 - Fishery tax
 - Tax for the production of oil and natural gas
 - Mineral tax and mining tax
 - Tax for operating a telecommunication service
 - Charges from the generation of hydropower
 - Tax from those who operate and use vacant, virgin and fallow lands

Chapter X Miscellaneous

35. The Union Government shall establish and operate tax collection support committees by issuing notifications.
36. The Union Government shall ensure the following measures are implemented without conflicting with international agreements to which the State is a signatory, to enable domestically produced goods and imported goods to compete fairly in the market, promote long-term benefits and development for domestic production industries, particularly in agriculture and livestock, and support domestic and foreign investment activities currently operating within the country: -
- To ensure that, within the framework of the World Trade Organization, the World Customs Organization, and regional trade agreements, ASEAN countries receive the maximum possible rights and exemptions regarding the quantity of goods allowed for import and the applicable tariffs.
 - To implement necessary measures in accordance with the provisions of the Customs Law, as well as the procedural regulations for export, import,

and classification of goods.

37. The Union Government, with the approval of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, may issue notifications by order to grant exemption or relief from income tax, commercial tax, special goods tax, and jewellery tax.
38. (a) The Internal Revenue Department shall inform the public of the tax exemptions and reliefs they are entitled to under the law, allow taxpayers to calculate taxes in accordance with such reliefs, recognize the duties of tax officers and taxpayers, and administer appropriate awards and honours.
- (b) To effectively implement tax system reforms, the Ministry of Finance and Revenue may, with the approval of the Union Government, allocate funds from the Union Budget Law as ordinary expenses of the Internal Revenue Department in accordance with financial procedures when carrying out the activities described in subsection (a).
- (c) The Ministry of Finance and Revenue may use the funds mentioned in subsection (b), in accordance with financial procedures, to award cash prizes to civil servants responsible for tax collection duties.
39. For possessing unpaid special goods, 20 per cent of the collected fines shall be awarded as a prize to the informant and 30 per cent to the person who discovers and seizes the goods. The government shall not disclose the identity of the informant.
- In relation to special goods that require tax stamps, if a person possesses unpaid special goods or if a manufacturer fails to affix the required tax stamps, fines shall be imposed in accordance with Section 22 (c) and (f) of the Special Goods Tax Law.
 - In relation to the remaining special goods, fines shall be imposed on any person who possesses unpaid special goods in accordance with Section 22 (c) of the Special Goods Tax Law.
40. (a) If, under Section 21(f) of the Commercial Tax Law, it is found by the Township Tax Officer that there is a failure to issue a receipt or evidence of payment to the buyer or service recipient, or if a receipt is issued but the required tax stamp according to commercial tax regulations is not affixed, the following shall apply, the person shall pay a penalty equal to 100 per cent of the tax that should have been paid based on the value of the receipt or evidence of payment. In addition, for each occurrence of failure, the following fines shall be imposed:
- 1st occurrence: K1 million
 - 2nd occurrence: K2 million
 - 3rd occurrence: K3 million
 - 4th occurrence or more: K6 million
- (b) Regarding goods that must be sold with tax stamps, if the Township Tax Officer finds that goods are being sold without the required tax stamp, the person possessing the unstamped goods shall pay a penalty equal to 100 per cent of the value of those goods.
41. The Union Government may, by issuing notifications, grant reward payments in connection with the following penalties: -
- For failures under the Commercial Tax Law to issue receipts or evidence of payment to the buyer or service recipient, or for issuing a receipt but failing to affix the tax stamp corresponding to the due tax, the penalty imposed under Section 40 (a) of this law;
 - For selling goods that are required to bear a tax stamp without affixing the prescribed tax stamp, the penalty is imposed under Section 40 (b) of this law.
42. Notwithstanding any provisions in the relevant laws regarding the change of the financial year, the relevant ministry may issue necessary procedures to ensure that tax collection operations can be carried out smoothly during the transition period.
43. Notifications, orders, instructions, procedures, definitions, compliance provisions, and public awareness requirements issued annually in connection with the Union Tax Law may continue to be applied as long as they do not conflict with the provisions of 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

SEE PAGE 7



FROM PAGE 6

Schedule(1)

Initial Estimate for the Union's Tax Collection

(Millions in Kyat)

No	Ministry/Organization	Subject	2026 Initial Estimate
1		Taxes Collected on Domestic Products and Consumption by the Citizens	7,069,572.323
1	Home Affairs Ministry	Excise Tax	2,293.401
2	Finance and Revenue Ministry	Commercial Tax	4,354,062.474
3	Commerce Ministry	Import licence fee and permit fee	4,500.000
4	Finance and Revenue Ministry	Myanmar Aung Bar Lay Lottery	33,990.480
5	Transport and Communications Ministry	Incomes from vehicles, driving licence and work licence	124,792.994
6	Ministry of Finance and Revenue	Court Fee and Stamp Duty	349,086.730
7	Hotels and Tourism Ministry	Fees for tour licence, hotels, lodge licence and tour guide licence	648.405
8	Finance and Revenue Ministry	Special goods tax	2,129,826.928
9	Finance and Revenue Ministry	Gemstone tax	59,951.906
10	Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Ministry	Incomes from services provided for investment and company registration activities	8,700.000
11	Commerce Ministry	Income from trademark registration	1,650.000
12	Commerce Ministry	Income from property right registration	69.000
2		Tax on income and property	6,073,081.477
1	Finance and Revenue Ministry	Income tax	6,073,081.477
3		Revenue	460,000.000
1	Finance and Revenue Ministry	Revenue	460,000.000
4		Tax on extracting and using State-owned natural resources	870,597.169
1	Home Affairs Ministry	Tax on the lands	57.241
2	Nay Pyi Taw Council	Water tax	123.810
3	Home Affairs Ministry	Embankment tax	0.336
4	Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Ministry	Forestry tax for the extraction of forest products	3,551.977
5	Home Affairs Ministry	Tax for the extraction of minerals (except industrial raw minerals and decorative stones)	78.250
6	Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Ministry	Fishery tax	5,965.918
7	Energy Ministry	Tax on the extraction of oil and natural gas	551,478.622
8	Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Ministry	Mineral tax and mining tax	168,739.200
9	Transport and Communications Ministry	Tax on operating telecommunications services	94,193.252
10	Electric Power Ministry	Charges for generating electricity from water sources	44,206.565
11	Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Ministry	Tax from those who own to work and use virgin, vacant and fallow lands	2,201.998
Total			14,473,250.969

11th Indian Education Fair 2026 to feature scholarships from over 20 leading universities

THE 11th Indian Education Fair 2026 is set to take place at the India Centre in Yangon on 27 and 28 March. The event will showcase scholarship opportunities from more than 20 of India's premier universities and colleges.

Specifically designed for Myanmar students who have completed their matriculation or Grade 12 exams, the fair will introduce attendees to a vast academic network comprising over 1,000 universities and

4,200 colleges. It aims to provide a gateway for students to connect with these institutions and explore various higher education pathways.

Furthermore, the exhibition will highlight the advantages of India's world-class education system, which offers high-quality academic standards at affordable tuition rates, complemented by a very reasonable cost of living.

In addition to general information, students will have

the chance to apply for special scholarship schemes exclusive to this event. Following the sessions in Yangon, the 11th Indian Education Fair 2026 will move to Mandalay, where it will be hosted at the Mingalar Mandalay Hotel on 30 March. — ASH/KZL

The announcement poster for the 11th India Education Fair 2026.

INDIA CENTRE YANGON
27th & 28th MARCH, 2026
FRI & SAT, 10AM - 5PM

MINGALAR MANDALAY HOTEL
MANDALAY
30th MARCH, 2026
MON, 10AM - 5PM

For More Information:
09 9753 250 53
09 778 444 440
09 7656 55 640

Special Scholarship for Myanmar Students
• အလွန်သက်သာသော မြေပိုင်စားသောက်ခရီးစဉ်
• USD 100-150/ Month
• ကျားအဆင့်မှ ကောလိပ်နှင့် တက္ကသိုလ်များ
• Scholarship ရရှိနိုင်မည့် အခွင့်အလမ်းများ

ကြိုတင်အသိပေးအချက်
• တက္ကသိုလ်ပေါင်း ၁၀၀၀ ကျော်
• ကောလိပ်ပေါင်း ၄၂၀၀ ကျော်

OPINION

Emphasize gender equality in water management elsewhere

Only three per cent of the world's water is freshwater. However, 2.5 per cent of all the world's water is locked in glaciers, ice-capped polar areas, the atmosphere, and soil, making it directly unusable. In addition, some of this water is either too polluted to use or too costly to extract. Therefore, only 0.5 per cent of the world's total water resources are usable freshwater for human consumption.

While climate change is threatening both the quantity and quality of freshwater, people in many countries around the world are facing difficulties in accessing reliable support for freshwater availability in numerous areas. In reality, there are very few effective

approaches to address issues related to population growth and migration. Only through the implementation of broad-based assistance and practical solutions to water demand can the challenges facing humanity be overcome and alleviated.

Since the early 21st century, climate change has caused drought and water scarcity to intensify in many parts of the world. The famine affecting the Horn of Africa shows signs that its consequences may directly or indirectly spread to other smaller countries as well. Experts assess that many poor developing countries, including those in Africa, are likely to experience more severe droughts due not only to current water shortages, rapid population growth, poor governance, and poverty, but also to the continued deterioration of environmental conservation.

Due to climate change, glaciers and snow in major mountain ranges around the world – including the Himalayas, the Hindu Kush, and the

Andes – are melting. These glaciers are freshwater sources that provide drinking water for one in every six people on Earth. New evidence shows that these glaciers are disappearing faster than expected, leading to water shortages in Peru and other regions.

The theme for World Water Day 2026 is 'Water and Gender'. This theme addresses a stark reality: water scarcity and lack of sanitation disproportionately affect women and girls. In many parts of the world, gender inequality and water poverty are deeply connected. When water is scarce, women are often the ones who bear the burden.

Everybody needs to manage water as a common good and build resilience for the future. This includes engaging men and boys as allies in promoting safe water, sanitation and hygiene for all, and in challenging the norms and behaviours that hold women and girls back. Only then can safe water services meet everyone's needs – empowering women and girls to lead healthier, more fulfilled lives – and making water a force for sustainable development and gender equality that benefits all.

The Text Reacted on “Shared River, Shared Vision”

THE article “Shared River, Shared Vision,” published in The Global New Light of Myanmar on 16 March 2026, presents an inspiring view of co-operation, friendship, and shared responsibility among countries connected by the Mekong River. After reading this article, I felt encouraged by the strong message that countries can achieve peace, development, and prosperity when they work together with mutual respect and understanding. The article highlights the importance of collaboration and shows how regional partnerships can bring positive changes to people's lives.

One of the most meaningful ideas in the article is the concept of sharing resources and opportunities. Rivers have always been important for human civilization. They provide water, food, transportation, and energy. When a river flows through several countries, it becomes a shared natural resource. Therefore, it is important that these countries cooperate to use the river wisely and

responsibly. The article clearly explains that cooperation over a shared river can help countries build trust and strengthen their relationships.

Another positive point presented in the article is the role of regional cooperation in promoting development. Through joint pro-

jects and partnerships, countries can support one another in areas such as agriculture, trade, environmental protection, education, and technology. When countries work together, they can exchange knowledge, share resources, and learn from each other's experiences. This kind of cooperation

can help improve the quality of life for millions of people living in the region.

The article also emphasizes the importance of environmental



“Shared River, Shared Vision” delivers a positive and hopeful message about cooperation, mutual respect, and sustainable development.

By Min Min Zan

protection. Rivers and ecosystems must be protected for future generations. Rapid economic development sometimes causes environmental problems, but cooperation among countries can help reduce these negative effects. By working together, countries can develop better policies to protect water resources, forests, wildlife, and natural habitats. I believe this is a very important message because environmental protection is a global responsibility.

Another idea that impressed me is the focus on mutual benefit. Instead of competing with each other, the countries in the region are encouraged to pursue development that benefits everyone. This approach promotes harmony and stability. When people see that cooperation brings real benefits such as jobs, better infrastructure, and improved living conditions, they are more likely to support

peaceful relationships among nations.

The article also highlights the importance of friendship between neighbouring countries. Good relationships between neighbours are essential for regional stability. When countries maintain open communication and mutual understanding, they can solve problems more easily and avoid conflicts. The idea of building a community based on trust and co-operation is very meaningful. It reminds us that strong partnerships are built on respect, dialogue, and shared goals.

Moreover, the article gives hope for the future. It shows that regional cooperation can create many opportunities for economic growth and cultural exchange. As countries work together, they can build roads, improve transportation, promote tourism, and increase trade. These developments can help people become more connected and understand each other better. Cultural exchange is also very valuable because it

helps people appreciate different traditions and perspectives.

From my perspective, the article also carries an important lesson about unity. In today's world, many global challenges, such as climate change, economic instability, and environmental degradation, cannot be solved by a single country alone. Cooperation is necessary. When countries unite and share their strengths, they can overcome difficulties more effectively. The message of unity in the article is both timely and meaningful.

Furthermore, the article reminds readers that development should be inclusive and sustainable. Economic progress should not only benefit a small group of people. Instead, it should improve the lives of ordinary citizens. Development projects should create opportunities for education, employment, and social improvement. When development is inclusive, it builds a stronger and more stable society.

Personally, reading this arti-

cle made me feel optimistic about the future of regional cooperation. It shows that when countries focus on partnership rather than competition, they can achieve remarkable results. The idea of sharing a river while sharing a common vision for development is both powerful and inspiring. It encourages countries to move forward together towards peace, stability, and prosperity.

In conclusion, “Shared River, Shared Vision” delivers a positive and hopeful message about cooperation, mutual respect, and sustainable development. The article demonstrates that shared natural resources can become a bridge that connects nations rather than a source of conflict. By working together, countries can protect the environment, promote economic growth, and build stronger relationships. I strongly believe that the ideas presented in this article can inspire countries to continue strengthening their partnerships and creating a better future for everyone.

THE development and progress of a nation do not depend solely on the strength or efforts of its government. While leadership, policies, and national planning play important roles, the true foundation of a country's success lies in its people. A nation becomes strong, stable, and prosperous when its citizens clearly understand their responsibilities and carry them out with sincerity, discipline, and a sense of unity. Therefore, for a country to move forward steadily and achieve sustainable development, every individual must strive to live as a responsible and committed citizen.

To begin with, living as a responsible citizen means respecting and following the laws and regulations established by the state. Laws are not merely rules imposed on people; they are guiding principles designed to maintain harmony, fairness, and order within society. When citizens willingly follow these rules, they contribute to a peaceful and well-organized community where everyone can live comfortably and securely. In

Responsible Citizenship

By Ms Monn

addition, basic social values such as honesty, respect, cooperation, and kindness play an essential role in shaping a strong society. When these values are practised in daily life, they create an environment of mutual understanding and trust among citizens.

Another important responsibility of citizens is maintaining a clean and pleasant environment. The surroundings in which people live have a direct impact on their health, well-being, and quality of life. By keeping streets, neighbourhoods, and public places clean, citizens not only improve their own living conditions but also contribute to the beauty and attractiveness of their country. Furthermore, the careful and systematic use of natural resources is essential for long-term sustainability. Resources such as water, forests, and energy are valuable assets that must be preserved and

used wisely. Responsible usage ensures that future generations will also be able to benefit from them.

In today's modern world, environmental awareness has become increasingly important. Across the globe, people are working together to create a cleaner and greener future. Citizens can actively participate in this effort by adopting simple but effective habits, such as reducing waste, conserving energy, and supporting environmentally friendly practices. These actions, when carried out collectively, can bring about meaningful and lasting positive changes. By being mindful of the environment, citizens not only protect nature but also contribute to the overall progress of their nation.

In line with global efforts, many countries are encouraging the use of modern technology to

promote efficiency and sustainability. One such example is the transition toward more advanced and energy-efficient transportation systems. By gradually adopting innovative solutions, societies can enhance mobility while also using resources more effectively. These advancements reflect the growing awareness of the importance of balanced development, where progress goes hand in hand with responsibility.

As Myanmar continues to develop socially and economically, the daily lives of its people are becoming more dynamic and interconnected. With this growth, the number of vehicles and the energy demand have naturally increased. This situation provides an opportunity for citizens to demonstrate their sense of responsibility by supporting measures designed

to manage resources efficiently. For instance, systems that organize vehicle usage in a balanced and systematic way help ensure that resources are shared fairly and used wisely. By cooperating with such initiatives, citizens show their willingness to contribute to national well-being.

Although adapting to new systems may require some adjustment, these changes are part of a broader vision for long-term development. When citizens approach these initiatives with understanding and cooperation, they help create a more organized and efficient society. In addition, the use of digital technology, such as QR code systems and mobile applications, has made processes more convenient and transparent. These modern tools not only improve efficiency but also reflect the

country's progress in embracing innovation and technology.

Furthermore, the spirit of cooperation and unity among citizens plays a vital role in national development. When people work together with a shared purpose, they can overcome challenges and achieve remarkable progress. A strong sense of national identity encourages individuals to act not only for personal benefit but also for the greater good of the community. This collective mindset strengthens the nation and fosters a culture of responsibility and pride.

Education also plays a key role in shaping responsible citizens. By learning about their duties, rights, and the importance of ethical behaviour, individuals become better equipped to contribute positively to society. Schools, families, and communities all have a role in guiding and inspiring people to become thoughtful and responsible members of the nation. When knowledge is combined with good values, it creates a powerful force for development and progress.



Moreover, living as a responsible citizen involves looking toward the future with a sense of purpose and commitment. Every action, no matter how small, can contribute to the larger goal of national advancement. Simple acts such as following rules, keeping the environment clean, using resources wisely, and supporting community initiatives all add up to create meaningful change. These everyday efforts demonstrate that development is not achieved overnight but through consistent and collective contributions.

In brief, national development

is a shared responsibility that requires the active participation of every citizen. By respecting laws, maintaining social values, protecting the environment, and supporting progressive initiatives, individuals can play a vital role in shaping the future of their country. When citizens act with responsibility, unity, and dedication, they become the driving force behind a nation's success. Therefore, let us all strive to live as responsible citizens, working together with a positive spirit to build a peaceful, prosperous, and developed nation for present and future generations.

DELICACY/NATIONAL

PYAY PALATA

The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM) has been featuring popular and well-known regional foods from across Myanmar on a weekly basis. This week, we present the recipe for the famous **Pyay-style chicken Palata**.

Cooking methods for chicken curry vary slightly from region to region. Some use chickpeas, while others use gram flour. This recipe highlights the version commonly prepared by residents of Pyay, using chickpeas.

Ingredients

(For the chicken curry)

Chicken – 1 kilogramme
Onions – 3
Ginger and garlic paste – 1 tablespoon
Salt – 1 tablespoon
Seasoning powder – 1 tablespoon
Curry leaves – 10
Bay leaves – 5
Cinnamon stick – 1
Fenugreek seeds – about 1 tablespoon
Cumin (or masala) – 2 tablespoons
Chilli powder (for colour) – 2 tablespoons
Oil – 300 millilitres (18-19 ticals)

(For the soup/gravy)

Chickpeas – 160 grammes (or gram flour – 100 grammes)
Turmeric – a pinch
Water – 3 litres
Salt – 2 tablespoons
Seasoning powder – 2 tablespoons
Potatoes – 3 large

(To serve with)

Palata (layered flatbread) – 15 pieces
Thinly sliced onions
Shredded cabbage
Mint leaves
Green chillies
Lime

Preparation

1. Soak the chickpeas for about three hours, then boil until soft. Let them cool and grind them in a blender until slightly coarse (not too smooth). If a blender is unavailable, mash them with a spoon. Transfer to a large pot.
If using gram flour instead: Mix the flour with three litres of water and a pinch of turmeric in a pot, strain, and bring to a boil until the raw flour smell disappears.
2. Cut the chicken into medium pieces, wash, and marinate with seasoning powder, turmeric, salt, and masala. Refrigerate for about two hours.
3. Grind chilli powder (or soaked dried chillies with seeds removed), onions, and ginger into a smooth paste.
4. Peel and cut the potatoes into quarters, wash, and season with salt and seasoning powder. Fry in hot oil for about three minutes, turning occasionally, then set aside.
5. In the same oil, add curry leaves, bay leaves, fenugreek seeds, and cinnamon.

When fragrant, add the ground paste and sauté.

6. Once the paste becomes aromatic and slightly crispy, add the chicken and stir well. When the meat firms up, add the potatoes and cook, gradually adding warm water as needed.
7. When the chicken and potatoes are tender, add them to the pot with the chickpea mixture and stir over low heat.
8. Adjust the consistency with warm water (not too thick or too thin), taste, and season as desired. Then turn off the heat.
9. To serve, place the Palata pieces on a plate and pour the chicken, potato, and chickpea gravy over them. Garnish with cabbage, onions, green chillies, mint leaves, and a squeeze of lime.

Enjoy your delicious Pyay-style Palata. — Moon



Pwintbyu township harvests 14,500 acres of winter-season chickpeas

THE Agriculture Department of Pwintbyu Township, Magway Region, has reported that 14,500 acres of winter-season chickpea crops have been harvested.

In Pwintbyu, a total of 62,120 acres of chickpeas were planted during the winter crop season. Harvesting began in February this year, and as of today, 14,500 acres have been harvested, with a yield

of 20.53 baskets per acre.

“During the winter crop season, 62,120 acres of chickpeas were planted in Pwintbyu. The chickpea fields are currently being harvested, with 14,500 acres harvested to date. Farmers have been advised on expanding cultivation, increasing yields, and using high-quality varieties,” said the Staff Officer of the

Pwintbyu Township Agriculture Department. The yield stands at 20.53 baskets per acre.

In Pwintbyu, the Township Agriculture Department has educated chickpea farmers on selecting regionally suitable varieties, proper planting methods, systematic irrigation, pest control, efficient fertilizer use, yield improvement, and

post-harvest technology.

The department staff officer said that growing chickpeas with good yields would not only meet domestic demand but also enable exports, contributing to socio-economic development, and therefore efforts should be made to expand chickpea cultivation in every region. — Hlaing Win Lay (Pwintbyu Myay)/TH

Türkiye in cultural diplomacy push to bring history home

TÜRKIYE is intensifying its “cultural diplomacy” campaign to repatriate thousands of antiquities illegally taken abroad, leveraging new technology and assertive legal strategies to bring its history home.

According to reports from AFP on 20 March 2026, the Turkish Culture Ministry has stepped up its efforts to combat illicit trafficking, securing the return of 180 cultural artifacts in 2025 alone. Central to this push is TraceART, a newly developed AI-powered tool that scans auction platforms and social media to identify trafficked Turkish

assets.

A major focus remains on dozens of 16th-century Iznik tiles held by the Louvre Museum in France. Türkiye alleges these tiles, originally from a panel at Sultan Selim II’s tomb in the Hagia Sophia garden, were taken in the late 1800s by a Frenchman who replaced them with fakes under the guise of restoration. While the Louvre asserts they were legally purchased in 1895, Turkish officials insist the “illegal tile swap” was only discovered in 2003 when a replica fell, revealing a French manufacturer’s mark. — AFP



A visitor looks at Ottoman-era Iznik tiles at the Louvre. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Budapest joins world to celebrate first International Taijiquan Day

The event was organized by the Hungarian Traditional Kung Fu and Wushu Federation to celebrate the inaugural International Taijiquan Day.



Taijiquan enthusiasts perform during the celebration event in Budapest, Hungary, on 21 March 2026. PHOTO: MARTON KONCZ/XINHUA

DOZENS of practitioners gathered at Heroes’ Square on Saturday morning to celebrate the first International Taijiquan Day, joining a worldwide promotion of the traditional Chinese martial art and healthy lifestyles.

Under sunny, breezy spring skies, participants of all ages performed Taijiquan together in the open air. With no music, the slow, flowing

movements created their own rhythm, highlighting both the physical and meditative qualities of the practice.

The event was organized by the Hungarian Traditional Kung Fu and Wushu Federation to celebrate the inaugural International Taijiquan Day.

“This event is significant because this is the first International Taijiquan Day,” Ferenc Szollosi, vice president of

the federation, told Xinhua. A Taijiquan coach with 25 years of experience, he said the aim was to bring people together through shared practice while showcasing the city of Budapest.

“Participants ranged widely in age, from 13 to nearly 80, reflecting the accessibility of Taijiquan across generations,” Szollosi added. — Xinhua

BTS announces ‘BTS 2.0’ era at comeback concert

GLOBAL K-pop phenomenon BTS has officially marked its return after a prolonged hiatus, unveiling a new era dubbed ‘BTS 2.0’ during Netflix’s concert special BTS The Comeback Live Arirang.

The live-streamed event, held Friday at Seoul’s historic Gwanghwamun Square, was the group’s first performance together since 2022, when members paused activities to complete mandatory military service.

Addressing fans during the show, member J-Hope expressed gratitude in Korean before switching to English to declare, “BTS 2.0 is just getting started!” His statement set the tone for what the group described as a renewed chapter, supported



The live-streamed event, held Friday at Seoul’s historic Gwanghwamun Square, was the group’s first performance together since 2022. PHOTO: AFP

by their tenth studio album, Arirang, released the same day,

as reported by Deadline.

Fellow member Jin added,

“Thank you for waiting, Army,” acknowledging the global fan-

base that has supported the group through its hiatus.

Leader RM reinforced the group’s unity, saying, “No matter what happens, we promise to keep swimming together,” quoted by Deadline.

The concert featured the live debut of eight tracks from Arirang, alongside some of BTS’s biggest hits, including Butter, Dynamite, and MIC Drop.

The performance marked a significant milestone, reintroducing the group’s collective stage presence and signalling a full-scale return to global promotions.

Adding to the comeback momentum, Netflix has announced a documentary titled BTS: The Return, set to premiere on 27 March. — ANI

ECONOMY WORLD

Re-elected Thai PM faces immediate economic, legal tests amid energy shock

THAILAND'S Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul has secured a second term in office, but his nascent administration inherits a fractured political landscape and a volatile economy threatened by escalating Middle East conflicts.

While his commanding parliamentary victory signals a return to conservative-led stability, a looming energy crisis, structural economic stagnation, and existential legal threats cast a long shadow over the incoming government's viability.

In a parliamentary session on Thursday, Anutin was re-elected with 293 votes in the 500-member House of Representatives, surpassing a required simple majority.

The 59-year-old Bhumjaithai

A looming energy crisis, structural economic stagnation, and existential legal threats cast a long shadow over the incoming government's viability.



Party leader comfortably defeated his sole competitor, the progressive People's Party candidate, Natthaphong Ruengpanyawut, who received 119 votes.

Anutin's majority support relied on a 16-party alliance, anchored by 187 votes from his party and 73 votes from its core partner, the Pheu Thai Party, supplemented by other small and micro parties. — Xinhua

Due to the conflict in the Middle East, the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz is underway. Since 50 per cent of Thailand's crude oil and 30 per cent of its liquefied natural gas (LNG) come through this route, rising energy prices are threatening the economy.

PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/PIXABAY

Switzerland suspends war materiel exports to US amid Middle East conflict



Mowag is a Swiss company founded in 1950, which develops, designs and produces armoured fighting vehicles for military applications in both land-only and amphibious configurations. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/WIKIPEDIA**

THE Swiss Federal Council said on Friday that Switzerland has halted the export of war materiel to the United States during the ongoing conflict

involving the United States, Israel and Iran.

In a statement, the Federal Council said that "exports of war materiel to the USA cannot

currently be authorized", as the country is "involved in an international armed conflict".

"Since the escalation of the conflict on 28 February, no new licences have been issued for exports of war materiel to the USA. No definitive licences for the export of war materiel to Israel have been granted for a number of years. The same applies to Iran," the statement said. The statement also noted that an interdepartmental group of experts will regularly review existing licences and other exports to the United States, and assess whether further action is required. — Xinhua

G7 foreign ministers urge Iran to immediately end attacks on neighbours

THE foreign ministers of the Group of Seven industrialized countries have urged Iran to immediately and unconditionally cease its retaliatory attacks against neighbouring countries.

"We condemn in the strongest terms the (Irani-

an) regime's reckless attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructure, including energy infrastructure, in Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Jordan, and Iraq," the G-7 members said in a statement

issued Saturday. The statement was in line with a UN Security Council resolution, adopted on 11 March that condemned Iran's "egregious attacks" against its regional neighbours amid the escalating violence in the Middle East. — Kyodo

US attempts to dominate global energy market: Russian FM

THE United States is pursuing a doctrine of domination in global energy markets, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said in an interview with Russian media on Saturday.

"They (the United States) care only about their own well-being. They are ready to defend this prosperity by any means — coups, abductions, or assassinations of leaders of countries that have natural resources Washington desires. All of this is related to oil," said

Lavrov.

Lavrov further asserted that the United States follows the principle that its interests always take precedence over international agreements.

He pointed out that the United States has historically welcomed — and continues to welcome — Russia's marginalization in European energy markets. He emphasized that for the United States to cooperate with Russia, it must first respect Russia's interests. — Xinhua



This image shows the logo of OPEC. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ AFP/FILE**

Tanker laden with Russian oil arrives in India

A Russian oil-laden tanker, MT Aqua Titan, chartered by Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd (MRPL), has arrived in India on Sunday amid growing concerns over global energy supply due to the escalating conflict in West Asia.

The tanker is currently anchored in the Arabian Sea, about 10 nautical miles off the Mangaluru coast. The tanker was expected to arrive in India on Saturday.

Its arrival comes at a time when global energy markets remain volatile, with supply chain disruptions and geopolitical tensions impacting crude and energy availability.

Earlier in the day, a cargo ship carrying Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) from Texas, United States, arrived at the New Mangalore Port in Mangaluru.

On Friday, the Shipping Ministry informed that New Mangalore Port has waived cargo-related charges for crude oil and LPG from 14 to 31 March. It also said that there is no congestion reported at any port.

During the interministerial briefing, Special Secretary of the Shipping Ministry, Rajesh Kumar Sinha, said all 22 Indian ships and 611 sailors in the Persian Gulf are safe amid the West Asia conflict. — ANI

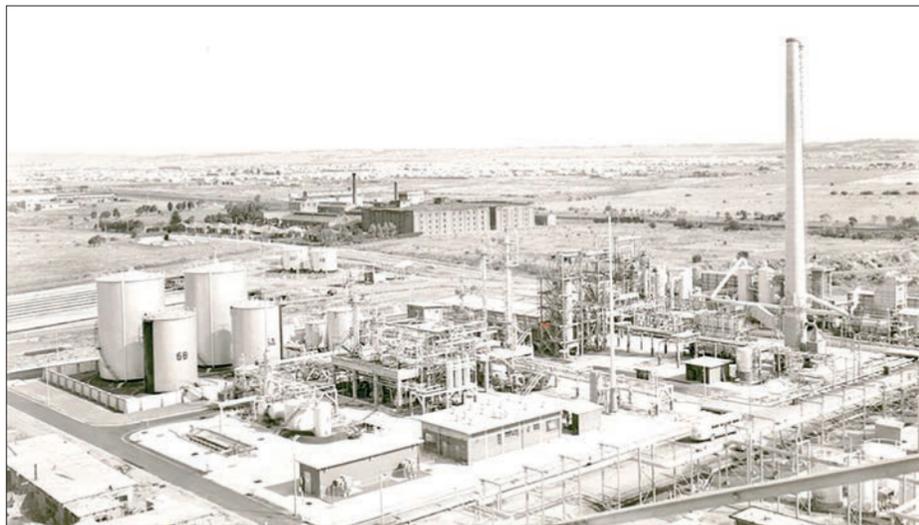
Afghanistan exports 205,000 tonnes of dried fruits

AFGHANISTAN exported 205,000 tonnes of dried fruits valued at US\$667 million during the Persian calendar year of 1404, which ended on 20 March 2026, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry announced.

The shipments went primarily to the country's key trade partners, including Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Türkiye, Pakistan, China, France, the Netherlands, Russia, Tajikistan, Britain, Australia and other nations, the official Radio and Television of Afghanistan quoted ministry spokesperson Akhundzada Abdul Salam Jawad as saying on Sunday.

The exported products included raisins, figs, pistachios, dried apricots, almond nuts, walnut kernels, pine nuts and prunes, according to the official. — Xinhua

6 fuel ships to Australia cancelled or deferred: energy minister



This photograph depicts the Geelong Oil Refinery in Victoria, Australia.

PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ VIVA ENERGY

SIX fuel ships bound for Australia next month have been cancelled or deferred, Energy Minister Chris Bowen said on Sunday.

Six ships from Malay-

sia, Singapore and South Korea, which had been expected to arrive next month, were cancelled or deferred, among over 80 ships expected from mid-April to mid-May, the

minister told Australian Broadcasting Corporation Television.

"The flow of oil to Asian refineries has slowed, and that has downward impacts on us," he

said, conceding that there will be "bumps in supply" in Australia amid the Middle East conflict.

But he said some of those have already been replaced by the importers and refiners with other sources, and that governments will "work with the refiners and the importers to manage those and minimize impacts".

Bowen noted fuel supplies within Australia were slightly higher than before the crisis began, with 38 days of petrol and 30 days supply of diesel and jet fuel, ruling out the possibility of invoking fuel rationing laws in the short term, which "is not designed to be invoked lightly". — Xinhua

Maldives' plastic bag levy revenue down with reduced consumption

THE Maldives' plastic bag levy is cutting plastic consumption as intended, with government revenue from the surcharge dropping 40 per cent in the first two months of 2026, the Maldives' state media PSM News said Saturday.

Statistics released by the Maldives Inland Revenue Authority showed that the state collected US\$43,259.47 from the levy during January

and February, down from \$72,186.64 in the same period last year.

The levy, introduced under the national Waste Management Act, has required retailers to charge \$0.13 per plastic bag at the point of sale, PSM News said.

Officials said the lower revenue reflects a decline in plastic bag imports, indicating reduced consumption nationwide. — Xinhua



The levy, introduced under the national Waste Management Act, has required retailers to charge \$0.13 per plastic bag at the point of sale.

PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ ADOBE STOCK

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MOON LIGHT VOY.NO. (ML024)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MOON LIGHT VOY.NO. (ML024)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **23-3-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S THURIYA SANDARWIN COMPANY LIMITED

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CAPE FELTON VOY.NO. (0B80BS1NC)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CAPE FELTON VOY.NO. (0B80BS1NC)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **23-3-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S CMA-CGM SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BANGKOK VOY.NO. (254N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BANGKOK VOY.NO. (254N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **23-3-2026** 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

ROLLING UPDATES WORLD

War in the Middle East: latest developments

Here are the latest developments in the Middle East war on Sunday:

- # Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed to pursue senior commanders of Iran's Revolutionary Guards "personally", during a visit to an Israeli town struck by an Iranian missile the previous day. "We're going after the regime. We're going after the IRGC, this criminal gang," Netanyahu said as he inspected the damage in the southern town of Arad.
- # The World Health Organization warned that strikes around nuclear sites in Iran and Israel had pushed the Middle East war to a "perilous stage".
"I urgently call on all parties to exercise maximum military restraint and avoid any actions that could trigger nuclear incidents," WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said on X.
- # Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz said his country's military had been ordered to destroy more bridges over the Litani river in south Lebanon he alleged were used by Hezbollah. He said the military was also instructed to "accelerate the demolition of Lebanese houses in the contact villages in order to thwart threats to Israeli communities".
- # Israel's military said that Iran had fired more than 400 ballistic missiles at Israel since the start of the Middle East war, with around 92 per cent of them intercepted.
- # Three Turkish nationals, including a serviceman, and three Qatari military



This photo taken with a mobile phone shows emergency responders working at an impact site of an Iranian missile attack in Arad, southern Israel, 21 March 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA

- personnel were killed when a helicopter crashed in Qatar's territorial waters, the Gulf country's defence ministry said. While Qatar has been targeted by several Iranian strikes since the start of the Middle East war, no connection has been made between the chopper and the conflict triggered by US-Israeli attacks on Iran.
- # British minister Steve Reed said one missile launched by Iran targeting a joint UK-US military base in the Indian Ocean "fell short" while another missile was "intercepted". Diego Garcia,

- part of the Chagos Islands, is one of two bases which the UK has allowed the United States to use for what the British government calls "defensive operations" in the war against Iran.
- # Iran's critical water and energy infrastructure have suffered extensive damage due to US and Israeli strikes, the country's energy minister Abbas Aliabadi said. "The attacks targeted dozens of water transmission and treatment facilities and destroyed parts of critical water supply networks," he said, adding that repairs

were under way.

- # At least six overnight attacks targeted a US diplomatic and logistics centre at Baghdad's International Airport, two Iraqi security officials told AFP. "Eight separate attacks, carried out until dawn with rockets and drones targeted the US centre," a senior security official told AFP, while a second security official said there had been six strikes.
- # Israel said rocket fire from Lebanon killed one person as Hezbollah said it attacked soldiers in northern Israel, the first fatality there in fire from Lebanon since the latest war erupted. Local firefighters said flames engulfed two vehicles after a "direct hit" in the northern Israeli kibbutz community of Misgav Am.
- # Blasts were heard and air raid sirens sounded in Jerusalem early Sunday, AFP journalists said, after the Israeli military warned of incoming missile fire from Iran. Israel's emergency medical service said there were no immediate reports of casualties.
- # Saudi Arabia's defence ministry said three ballistic missiles were detected around the capital Riyadh, while the UAE said it responded to Iranian missile and drone attacks.
- # The Israeli military said its forces launched a wave of strikes on Tehran, hours after Iranian missile fire hit two cities in southern Israel. — AFP

Iranian President calls for constructive role of BRICS to halt West Asia conflict

IRANIAN President Masoud Pezeshkian on Saturday called for a more proactive and independent role of BRICS in addressing the ongoing conflict in West Asia during a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

During the discussion, Pezeshkian emphasised the need for BRICS to contribute towards halting ongoing hostilities and ensuring regional and global stability, referring to New Delhi's chairmanship for this year and urged member nations to play a constructive role in de-escalating tensions. Iran is the part of BRICS. "Referring to India's rotating presidency of BRICS, Pezeshkian called for the group to play an independent role in halting aggressions against Iran and in safeguarding regional and international peace and stability," the statement from the Iranian Embassy in India read. — ANI

UK Navy nuclear sub moves into Iran strike range: Report

HMS Anson, fitted with Tomahawk Block IV land-attack missiles with a range of 1,609 km and Spearfish heavyweight torpedoes, is believed to be taking up position in the waters of the northern Arabian Sea, reports the Daily Mail.

Lieutenant General Nick Perry, running overseas missions from Permanent Joint Headquarters (PJH), could potentially give the order to fire salvos at Iran if authorized by UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer, defence sources told the outlet.

This comes as Starmer recently caved to US pressure and allowed the use British bases to launch strikes on Iranian sites targeting the Strait of Hormuz.

The decision triggered a mass rally in London, where thousands took to the streets to protest US-Israeli aggression against Iran.



HMS Anson is believed to be taking up position in the waters of the northern Arabian Sea. PHOTO: UK NAVY/SPUTNIK

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi warned in a post on X that the UK PM was putting the lives of his

compatriots at risk by allowing British bases to be used for aggression against Iran. — SPUTNIK

SPORTS

Afghanistan-Myanmar Asian Cup qualifier moved to Yangon

THE second-leg match between Afghanistan and Myanmar in the 2027 AFC Asian Cup third-round qualifiers will be held at the Thu-wunna Youth Training Centre in Yangon at 5 pm on 26 March.

The match was originally scheduled for November 2025, but it was postponed to March due to Afghanistan's home-ground difficulties. It was initially planned to be played in Qatar on 26 March. However, due to current circumstances, the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) decided to change the venue, and both football federations later agreed to hold the match in Myanmar.



Myanmar and Afghanistan players compete during the first-leg match. PHOTO: SOE NYUNT THAW

Myanmar will therefore host both matches against Afghanistan. In the first leg, Myanmar defeated Afghanistan 2-1.

Myanmar will play its final Group E match against Pakistan on 31 March in Pakistan. In the group standings, Syria have already qualified with 15 points from five matches, while Myanmar have six points from four matches, and Afghanistan and Pakistan have two points each from two and five matches respectively.

Myanmar began training on 19 March with a 28-player preliminary squad for the remaining two matches. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

FIFA-MFF U15 Youth League 2026 (Yangon Zone) set for early Apr

ORGANIZED by the Myanmar Football Federation, the MFF U15 Youth League 2026, which is slated to continue this year, will begin the first round qualification for the Yangon zone in early April.

The qualification of registered teams will take place according to groups in the Yangon zone, and a total of six teams that win first and second at the group stage will have the chance to go up to the next stage. The qualification matches have been scheduled from 4 to 8 April.

At the next stage, 12 teams from the previous year and six qualified teams, along with MFF U14 and YUFC, totalling 20, will compete by one-round format, said MFF. However, in Mandalay, Taunggyi and Mawlamyine zones, each six team will compete in a two-round format. The third and final stage will include a total of eight teams— the first to fourth-ranked teams from the Yangon zone, the top-ranked teams from Mandalay, Taunggyi and Mawlamyine zones and the best second team from the

three zones will compete.

Teams from Yangon zones are Phar Si Myay FC, Little Comets FC, Dagon East Star FC, Bo Min Yaung FC, Future Stars FC, Future Goal FC, Phoenix Future Soccer FC, Burma Football Academy FC, Syriam Myoma FC, Bushido Team FC, Swat-E FC, BH5 FC and St Paul FC.

The MFF U15 Youth League plays a vital role for youth soccer development of Myanmar and raises future national team players, said MFF. — MT/ZS



This image captures the meeting on the Yangon zone qualification matches of the FIFA MFF U15 Youth League.

Dortmund part ways with sporting director Kehl

BORUSSIA Dortmund sporting director Sebastian Kehl has ended his tenure “by mutual consent”, the club said in a statement released Sunday.

The surprise announcement, which sees Kehl leaving with immediate effect, comes amid rumours linking the former Dortmund player, who won three Bundesliga titles during a 13-year stint with the club, to the sporting director job at Hamburg.

Lars Ricken, Dortmund's board member for sport — a po-

sition above Kehl's in the hierarchy — said the decision came after a “very open discussion”.

“(We) came to the shared conclusion that the summer is the right time for changes,” Ricken said in the statement.

“To allow both sides to prepare, we mutually agreed to an immediate termination of Sebastian's contract.

After retiring in 2015, Kehl joined the club in a player management role before taking over as sporting director in 2022. — AFP

Sinner, defending champ Mensik advance to third round at Miami Open

WORLD number two Jannik Sinner made a smooth start Saturday at the Miami Open, where defending champion Jakub Mensik shook off a “horrible” first set to win his opening match.

Six days after he lifted the Indian Wells trophy, Sinner launched his pursuit of tennis' “Sunshine Double” in confident style with a 6-3, 6-3 victory over 76th-ranked Damir Dzumhur.

“First-round matches are never easy,” said the 24-year-old

Italian, who won the 2024 Miami crown.

After beating Daniil Medvedev for his first Indian Wells title, Sinner is trying to become the first to sweep the Indian Wells and Miami ATP Masters 1000 titles since Roger Federer in 2017.

He pocketed the first set against Dzumhur in 34 minutes and broke the Bosnian for a 2-1 lead in the second set before breaking again on match point with a backhand winner. — AFP



China's southern frontier region emerges as medical AI gateway to ASEAN

The event took place at a 16 March ceremony launching Guangxi's new Medical Artificial Intelligence Research Institute, a key step in China's regional "AI + Healthcare" push.

IN a high-tech hall at Guangxi Medical University in south China, a digital avatar came to life, speaking fluent Vietnamese to a room full of delegates from across Southeast Asia.

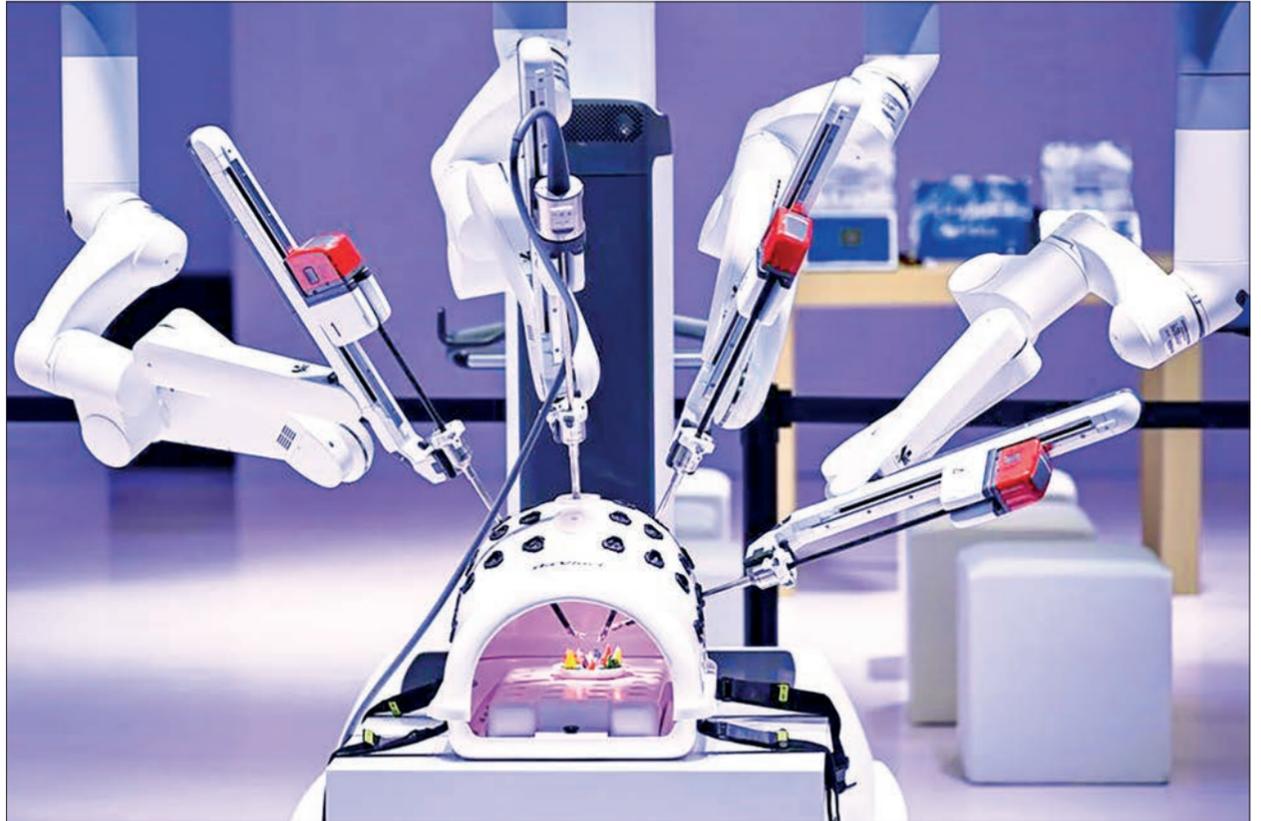
The scene unfolded at a ceremony on 16 March marking the official launch of the Guangxi Medical Artificial Intelligence Research Institute, the latest milestone in China's regional "AI + Healthcare" strategy.

Positioned as a specialized platform for China-ASEAN medical intelligence sharing, the institute was officially launched in Nanning, the capital of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. Its debut reflects the rising importance of regional hubs in China's broader AI strategy, aiming to export localized and cost-effective healthcare solutions to neighbouring countries.

Guangxi, the only Chinese provincial-level region sharing both land and sea borders with ASEAN, leverages a "shared clinical profile". From hereditary blood disorders like thalassemia to tropical infectious diseases, the medical challenges in Guangxi closely mirror those faced across Southeast Asia, from Hanoi to Bangkok.

"Given our unique advantage of possessing a massive volume of characteristic clinical data, the institute will serve as a strategic hub," said Li Lang, vice president of Guangxi Medical University.

The launch drew a crowd of high-profile regional



This photo taken on 14 March 2025 shows a surgical robot demonstration during the 2025 China Medical Equipment Conference & Medical Equipment Exhibition held at Chongqing International Expo Centre in southwest China's Chongqing Municipality. **PHOTO: XINHUA/WANG QUANCHAO/FILE**

stakeholders, including Singapore's Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR) and Vietnam's Hue Central Hospital, alongside sectoral heavyweights

such as Beijing Yidu Technology Holdings Co, Ltd, and Shanghai SenseTime Shancui Healthcare Technology Co, Ltd. — Xinhua

Iran threatens Middle East infrastructure after Trump ultimatum



A view of the headquarters of UAE's state oil company ADNOC in Abu Dhabi. **PHOTO: AFP**

IRAN has threatened widescale attacks on energy, IT, and desalination infra-

structure across the Middle East if the US follows through on President Don-

ald Trump's ultimatum to "obliterate" Iranian power plants over the Strait of Hormuz blockade.

Tehran's warning came after its missiles struck two southern Israeli towns, including Dimona near Israel's undeclared nuclear arsenal, wounding over 100 and demonstrating Iran's continued retaliatory reach.

Israel responded with new strikes on Tehran while probing air-defence failures. Trump has set a 48-hour deadline to reopen the strait, a key global oil route, warning that failure will trigger massive US strikes.

The standoff has jolted markets, lifted Brent crude above \$105 a barrel, and prompted 22 countries to pledge support for securing the waterway.

Iran has also kept up attacks on Gulf states and Iraq, deepening regional instability. — AFP

Japan may send SDF to clear Hormuz mines

JAPANESE Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi on Sunday hinted at the possibility of dispatching the country's Self-Defence Forces for mine-sweeping operations in the Strait of Hormuz, provided that a cease-fire is realized in the conflict between Iran and the United States and Israel.

Speaking on a TV programme, Motegi said, "In the event that mines pose an obstacle, we may have to think about it," referring to a potential SDF dispatch. — Kyodo