

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

## Four Objectives of the National Defence and Security Council

1. To steadfastly strive for emergence of political forces and the people's representatives who can implement a genuine, disciplined multi-party democratic system while constantly emphasizing on the national interests of the State.
2. To persistently strive for promoting the socio-economic life of the people through the development of agro-based industries in improving the agricultural sector, the vital foundation of the economic growth of the State.
3. To put emphasis on enhancing the national education and health sectors for sustainable development of the State.
4. To implement multi-party democratic system, with the participation of the people, to ensure the success of multi-party democratic general election process and successfully moving towards with the multi-party democratic system aspired by the entire people.



Acting President and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses the meeting on fuel supply and efficient usage yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

## Travel-Cost Controls Highlighted as Fuel Prices Climb

Fuel purchase permissions should be further eased to ensure uninterrupted operations of essential public services, including ambulances and social assistance vehicles.

All countries are experiencing fuel shortages due to conflicts in the Middle East region, while Myanmar is striving to address these problems, said Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting on sufficient supply of fuel and efficient consumption, yesterday afternoon.

The Senior General continued that to reduce domestic fuel consumption, measures have recently been taken, such as an odd-even system for the use of motor vehicles and motorcycles and for fuel refilling, as well as the use of QR codes for fuel purchases. Similarly, in order to further cut

fuel consumption, it has already been announced that government offices are to carry out their work from home every Wednesday.

He stressed that it is not possible to know how long the conflict in the Middle East will last. It is necessary to supervise expanding railway services and public bus lines to operate regularly in order to reduce fuel consumption and facilitate convenient travel for the public.

He stated that the time to celebrate the traditional Myanmar Thingyan Festival will soon arrive. Due to the major Mandalay earthquake last year, a request had been made to hold the Thingyan Festival only on a limited scale.

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### Salient points of the speech delivered by the Senior General at the fuel meeting

1. It would be more appropriate to designate specific areas in major cities and townships across regions and states to hold walking Thingyan events to prevent excessive fuel consumption.
2. The fuel required for public transport services, such as railway and highway bus services, must be provided without fail.
3. Efforts are needed to store reserve fuel and promote its prudent use.
4. It is necessary to supervise expanding railway services and public bus lines to operate regularly to reduce fuel consumption and facilitate convenient travel for the public.

# NATIONAL

## People in Affected Regions Must Work to Restore Peace and Stability

- \* Just as stability and peace are necessary for national development, the people living in the region must also work diligently.
- \* Similarly, a high level of education is indispensable.
- \* A country can only develop and progress when its people are actively working.

*(An excerpt from the speech delivered by Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with Kayin State-level departmental officials and town elders in Hpa-an on 15 November 2025 to talk about regional development)*

- 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 81<sup>st</sup> 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

## Nay Pyi Taw Square to host 2026 Walking Thingyan

THE 2026 Nay Pyi Taw Walking Thingyan will be held in Nay Pyi Taw Square.

This year's Walking Thingyan will be hosted in Nay Pyi Taw Square as the first national-level event of the new government.

This year's Thingyan festival will be more than just a fun event, but a grand festival where the government, Hluttaw representatives, service personnel, and the public will join together to celebrate with a new spirit, a new goal and new political landscape.

In the Walking Thingyan Festival, staff and the public will celebrate peaceful and happy experiences of Myanmar's traditional culture and customs, including Thingyan pavilion zones, entertainment zones, Thanaka Thingyan zones, Myanmar Tea and traditional Htamane receptions in various zones.

In addition to the entertainment programmes of famous singers, there will be many other programmes that will highlight the traditional Thingyan festival. Staff from Ministries and organizations will also participate in the walking Thingyan.

Then, walking Thingyan festivals will be held across the country, and it is known that separate train tickets will be arranged for the artistes to travel to be involved in entertainment programmes throughout the country, including Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA/MKKS

## Domestic Flights to Return to Regular Schedules Starting 25 March

THE government has arranged for the domestic airlines such as Myanmar National Airlines, Myanmar Airways International, Mingalar Airlines, Mann Yadanabon Airlines and Air Thanlwin Airlines to purchase the necessary jet fuel so as not to cause delays in public transport due to jet fuel risk. Starting 25 March 2026, the airlines will fully resume their flights as usual. The priority for flights is to PutaO, Myitkyina, Kengtung, Sittway, Kyaukpyu, Tachilek, Kawthoung, Kalay, Homalin and Khamti townships.

**Ministry of Transport and Communications**

## Public Notice

THE Anti-Corruption Commission has established corruption prevention units within ministries to curb corruption effectively.

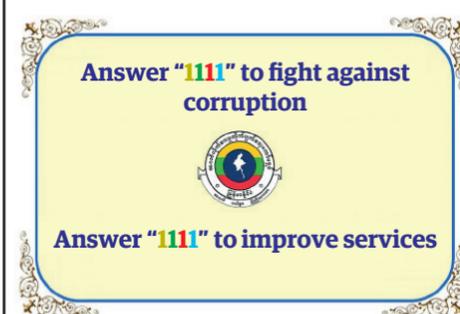
The ACC used SMS on mobile phones to ask the public who sought services at an office of the department of the relevant ministries via short code No "1111" for feedback, including the public feedback programme (PFP).

According to the PFP, the proper replies of the citizens via short code No "1111" will provide the quality of services of each department and the requirements for corruption prevention to be fixed.

Therefore, the public should reply to the questions of the ACC and corruption prevention units of the ministries via SMS

at short code "1111". Such doing is a supportive measure for PFP, and the people are urged to cooperate in the operations.

*Anti-Corruption Commission*



## Myanma Post issues K200 commemorative stamps honouring Myanma coffee

THE Ministry of Transport and Communications has announced that the Myanma Post will issue a new special commemorative post-

age stamp, valued at K200, in recognition of Myanmar's coffee cultivation and production. The stamp features an illustration of a local

coffee plantation.

The stamp will be released for sale at 9:30 am on Friday, 27 March 2026 (the 10<sup>th</sup> waxing of Tagu, 1387 ME). It will be available simultaneously at the Nay Pyi Taw Central Post Office, the Yangon General Post Office, the Mandalay General Post Office, and other major post offices

across the respective regions and states.

As a special arrangement, commemorative date cancellation marks will be applied to postage stamps and First Day Covers purchased on the day of release at the central post offices of Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, and Mandalay. — MNA/MKKS



A special stamp to honour Myanma Coffee.

# 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)*

## Travel-Cost Controls Highlighted as Fuel ...

### FROM PAGE 1

This year as well, it is desired that fuel restrictions do not create difficulties for the holding of the Thingyan Festival.

The attendees at the meeting discussed the remaining fuel stock, more arrivals of oil tankers, efforts to purchase fuel abroad to address the fuel shortages at home, storage capacity of fuel at home, managements to distribute fuel to actual consumers, expansion of rail transport for convenience of passengers with linking additional carriages at trains, plans to run battery locomotives produced by the Locomotive Assembling Factory (Nay Pyi Taw) along Yangon circular railway, efforts to continue domestic flights, taking action against those who operate vehicles which do

not follow the announcements to reduce fuel consumption and unregistered vehicles under the law, a plan to hold the walking Thingyan festival in townships, requirements to supervise systematic consumption of fuel in the Thingyan festival, taking action against offenders who fail to follow the fuel trading regulations, and systematic prevention of flowing fuel to the illegal activities.

In his response to the discussions, the Senior General pointed out that domestic fuel consumption must be managed as effectively as possible, and that efforts are needed to store reserve fuel and promote its prudent use. It is also necessary to ensure that fuel reaches the hands of those who genuinely need it, and to take action against illegal trading

and black-market sales. Furthermore, efforts should be made to coordinate with partner countries to secure fuel supplies.

The Senior General underlined that the fuel required for public transport services, such as railway and highway bus services, must be provided without fail. Priority must also be given to operating air transport services to towns that are difficult to access by road, including PutaO, Hkamti, Myitkyina, HomaLin, Tachilek, Kalay, Sittway, Kyaukpyu, Manaung, Myeik, and Kawthoung.

He added that it would be more appropriate to designate specific areas in major cities and townships across regions and states to hold walking Thingyan events in order to prevent excessive fuel consumption. He added that fuel

purchase permissions should be eased for essential services used by the public, such as ambulances and social assistance vehicles.

In conclusion, the Senior General highlighted that measures must be taken to prevent travel costs from rising due to fuel prices, and that Tatmadaw should also cooperate in assisting to ensure convenient travel for the public.

The meeting was also attended by Commission Vice-Chairman Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Commission Member Prime Minister U Nyo Saw, Executive Chief U Aung Lin Dwe, Commission Secretary General Ye Win Oo, Commission members, Union ministers and senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief. — MNA/TTA

## Pyithu Hluttaw approves Bill Committee, Public Accounts Committee, forms 2 additional committees

THE first regular session of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw continued its third-day session at the convention hall of the Pyithu Hluttaw at the Hluttaw Complex in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The Hluttaw approved the establishment of the Bill Committee and the Public Accounts Committee. Moreover, the programmes to form the Hluttaw Rights Committee and the Government Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee were submitted to the Hluttaw.

Speaker U Khin Yi of the Pyithu Hluttaw announced that out of a total of 373 Pyithu Hluttaw representatives entitled to attend the third day of the first regular session of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw, 371 were present at yesterday's meeting, representing 99.46 per cent



The third-day meeting of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw's first regular session is underway yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

attendance. As a quorum was met, the Speaker declared the meeting duly convened.

The approval of the Hluttaw was sought for attendance at the meeting, and it was docu-

mented.

The Speaker sought the approvals for the reports on the

formation of the Bill Committee and its responsibilities, authority, rights and term in addition to the committee meetings. The Hluttaw approved it. Hence, the Hluttaw approved the formation of the Bill Committee with 15 members, including Chair Dr Nanda Kyaw Swa from the Dagon Constituency and Secretary U Thein Tun Oo from the Amarapura Constituency, along with the responsibilities, authority, rights and term in addition to the committee meetings.

Moreover, the approval from the Hluttaw was sought for the formation of the Public Accounts Committee, its responsibilities, authority, rights and term in addition to the committee meetings. As the Hluttaw approved it and announced its approval for the formation of

**SEE PAGE 4**

# NATIONAL

## Amyotha Hluttaw forms Bill Committee, Public Accounts Committee, Hluttaw Rights Committee, Vetting Committee

THE first regular session of the Third Amyotha Hluttaw continued its session on the second day at the convention hall of the Amyotha Hluttaw at the Hluttaw Complex in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe announced that all 213 Amyotha Hluttaw representatives who were entitled to attend the second day of the first regular session of the Third Amyotha Hluttaw were present, constituting a full quorum. He then declared the meeting duly convened and opened, and recorded the attendance status with the approval of the Hluttaw.

The Speaker explained the formation of the Bill Committee while Amyotha Hluttaw representative Daw Nwe Nwe Oo from the Ayeyawady Region Constituency 2 clarified the responsibilities, authority, rights and term of the committee.

The Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker informed the Hluttaw of forming the Bill Committee with 15 members led by Amyotha Hluttaw representative Daw Nwe Nwe Oo from the Ayeyawady Region Con-



The second-day meeting of the Third Amyotha Hluttaw's first regular session is in progress yesterday.

stituency 2 as the Chair and Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Zin Min Htet from the Bago Region Constituency 7 as the Secretary.

He also clarified the formation of the Public Accounts Committee. Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Than Aung from the Taninthayi Region Constituency 2 presented the responsibilities, authority, rights and term of the committee.

The Speaker also explained the formation of the Public Accounts Committee with 15 members led by Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Chit Swe from the Ayeyawady Region Constituency 10 as the Chair and Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Than Aung from the Taninthayi Region Constituency 2 as the Secretary.

Furthermore, the Speaker clarified the establishment of

the Hluttaw Rights Committee. Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Aung Tin Myint from the Ayeyawady Region Constituency 8 explained the responsibilities, authority, rights and term of the committee.

The Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker announced that the Hluttaw Rights Committee will be established with 15 members, led by Amyotha Hluttaw representative Jeng Phang Naw Taung from the Kachin

State Constituency 2 as the Chair and Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Aung Tin Myint from the Ayeyawady Region Constituency 8 as the Secretary.

The Speaker clarified the programme to constitute the Government Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee. Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Hla Thein from the Bago Region Constituency 10 reported on the responsibilities, authority, rights and term of the committee.

The Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker informed the Hluttaw about the formation of the Government Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee with 15 members led by Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Hla Thein from the Bago Region Constituency 10 as the Chair and Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Yan Naing Oo from the Yangon Region Constituency 9 as the Secretary.

The second-day session of the Amyotha Hluttaw was adjourned, and the third-day session will continue on 26 March. — MNA/TTA

## Pyithu Hluttaw approves Bill Committee, Public ...

### FROM PAGE 3

the Public Accounts Committee with 15 members, including Chair U Teza Kyaw from the Aungmyaythazan Constituency and Secretary U Aung San Chit from the Aungmye San Chit Constituency, along with the responsibilities, authority, rights and term in addition to the committee meet-

ings.

The Speaker explained the formation of the Hluttaw Rights Committee, and Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn reported on the responsibilities, authority, rights, term and meetings of the Hluttaw Rights Committee.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker submitted a plan to the Hluttaw

for the formation of the Hluttaw Rights Committee with 15 members, chaired by U Maung Maung Ohn from the Tatkon Constituency, along with Dr Kyaw Kyaw Htay from the Dawei Constituency as the Secretary.

The Speaker also clarified the formation of the Government Guarantees, Pledges and Under-

takings Vetting Committee, while the Deputy Speaker reported on the responsibilities, authority, rights, term and meetings of the committee.

The Speaker submitted a plan to the Hluttaw for the establishment of the Government Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee

with 15 members, chaired by U Than Tun Oo from the Kengtung Constituency, together with U Than Tun from the Patheingyi Constituency as the Secretary.

The third-day session of the Pyithu Hluttaw was adjourned, and its fourth-day session will take place at 10 am on 26 March. — MNA/TTA

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# NATIONAL

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Salon (Moken) New Year Festival held in Kawthoung

THE second Salon (Moken) New Year Festival took place in Ma-kyongalat Village, Sunge Barline Village-tract in Kawthoung, Taninthayi Region, yesterday.

The festival was jointly organized by the Taninthayi Region Ethnic Affairs Minister and the Salon (Moken) literature and culture association, and attended by the Taninthayi Region Transport Minister and other relevant officials.

After the ceremonial procedures, the minister and party observed the ethnic traditional booths. During the festival, the Salon (Moken) people performed dances.

The regional transport minister made a speech at the event, and the entrepreneurs, locals and donors made cash donations.

Officials also presented prizes to winners of the dancing

competition and drama contests, marking the Salon (Moken) New Year Festival.

After the event, Salon (Moken) New Year Festival organizing committee chair U Soe Naing expressed gratitude.

The Taninthayi Region Transport Minister and party also watched the Salon traditional boat racing, swimming events and diving contests, and awarded the winners.

During the festival, various activities were showcased, including traditional ethnic dances, a Salon cultural exhibition, marine conservation awareness booths, and stalls selling traditional food and souvenirs. The festival was held from 21 to 23 March and featured traditional dances, ethnic drama performances, and live music concerts.

— District IPRD/KTZH



Images capture the second Salon New Year Festival in full swing, with Salon (Moken) people celebrating joyfully.

## Yangon circular train to launch battery-electric locomotives on 25 Mar

MYANMA Railways (MR) has announced that trains powered by battery electric locomotives will begin operating on the Yangon circular railway starting 25 March.

The new battery-powered circular train will consist of four passenger coaches and one brake van. Currently, MR is already utilizing bat-

tery locomotives for the No 27 Up / 28 Down Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay-Nay Pyi Taw airbag express train, which commenced service on 22 November, 2025.

Switching from diesel to battery electric power offers significant savings: Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay Route – saves over K1.3 million per round

trip compared to diesel; Yangon circular route – expected to save approximately K600,000 per day compared to diesel locomotives.

The launch ceremony for the battery electric Yangon circular train is scheduled for 25 March at 7 am at Platform 1, Yangon Central Railway Station. — Htun Htun/ZN



The battery electric locomotive is seen prepared for service on the Yangon circular railway.

## Capital Retail, G&G, Wellington Pharmacy, and CTZ Pay sign MoU to launch MMQR



Images depict the MoU signing ceremony for 'nationwide MMQR rollout and digital partnership'.

AN MoU signing ceremony for 'nationwide MMQR rollout & digital partnership' was held between Capital Retail, G&G Convenience Store, Wellington Pharmacy, and CTZ Pay on 22 March at the Wyndham Grand Hotel, Yangon.

The primary goals of this collaboration are to increase the number of shoppers utilizing the MMQR, to create easier and faster payment experiences for customers and to promote the widespread adoption of MMQR.

The ceremony was attended by officials from Capital Retail Limited, G&G Limited, Well-

ington Pharmacy, MCB Bank, CTZ Pay, and MyanmarPay Company Limited, along with other guests. The signing marks a unified effort to foster the growth of Myanmar's Digital Economy Ecosystem.

According to CTZ Pay, this partnership will soon allow customers to make rapid payments using CTZ Pay MMQR at all G&G branches, Capital supermarkets, and Wellington Pharmacy locations nationwide.

This signing is officially recognized as a significant milestone toward achieving the highest level of digital payment adoption in Myanmar. — MT/ZN

# NATIONAL

## Myanmar marks World TB Day 2026; Dy Minister outlines fight against high TB rates

THE commemoration ceremony for World TB Day 2026 was held yesterday at the Ministry of Health's assembly hall in Nay Pyi Taw.

In his opening address, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Aye Tun noted that 24 March is designated annually as World TB Day, with commemorations held globally, including in Myanmar. He highlighted that Myanmar remains among the 30 countries with the highest prevalence of tuberculosis (TB), TB/HIV co-infection, and drug-resistant TB. Furthermore, Myanmar has the second-highest incidence of new TB cases in the WHO South-East Asia Region; consequently, there is an urgent need to accelerate both the detection and treatment of the disease.

To combat TB, National Strategic Plans have been developed and implemented in collaboration with partner organizations. The "Double X Strategy" is currently being applied to



The ceremony to commemorate World TB Day 2026 is underway yesterday, addressed by Deputy Health Minister Dr Aye Tun.

diagnosis and treatment. Additionally, the Ministry of Health has expanded the use of stool samples for TB detection and the

administration of Tuberculosis Preventive Treatment (TPT) for children under the age of eight. Diagnostic efforts have been

bolstered by the use of AI technology (X-ray CAD) for chest X-rays, alongside portable Tru-enat devices, which offer ease of

transport and use. Furthermore, an Integrated TB e-Surveillance System is being implemented to manage TB control activities in real-time. In line with the 2026 theme, "Let the State Lead and the People Lead," the Deputy Minister emphasized the necessity of a multi-sectoral approach. This involves the Ministry of Health, related ministries, social organizations, and domestic and international partners working together under government leadership, with active participation from every citizen.

The ceremony was attended by directors-general, deputy directors-general, directors, medical superintendents, and specialist doctors. Also in attendance were officials from the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, and the Myanmar Red Cross Society, as well as health workers and representatives from partner organizations. — MNA/MKKS

## Myanmar migrants to Malaysia warned of respiratory disease risk



Myanmar workers leaving for Malaysia are seen at the airport.

MYANMAR migrant workers going to Malaysia will need to strictly follow health guidelines for respiratory diseases like tuberculosis, Safe Migration announced on 23 March.

The announcement was made after the Malaysian Ministry of Health (KKM) said on its Facebook page that the resurgence of TB cases has been seen recently in Malaysia and suggested enhancing the effective treatment and prevention measures.

The Ministry of Labour has released the list of people approved for departure, and OWIC workers, either skilled

or on leave, will need to leave by the prescribed departure date or resubmit the departure permit in compliance with specified rules if they want to change the date, it said.

If any misconduct is found through the OWIC process, the card won't be issued even if the worker, who is going to work in Malaysia by their own arrangement as a worker on leave, is included in the OWIC eligible list. In addition, the departure permit shall be sought at least five days in advance on weekdays after OWIC is granted and the air ticket is bought, it said. — MT/ZS

## US Embassy Head highlights fair competition at Yangon Mobility Show

THE US Embassy to Myanmar announced on 24 March that Chargé d'Affaires ad interim Mr Douglas Sonnek visited the Yangon International Mobility Show 2026 to emphasize the United States' commitment to ensuring a level playing field for its companies in Myanmar.

In addition, the statement said that they are proud to stand with American businesses in supporting Ford and creating more choices in the Myanmar automotive market.

The show, organized by the Automotive Association of Myanmar (AAM), was held at

the Yangon Convention Centre (YCC) from 9 am to 5 pm on 20-22 March.

The exhibition brings together some of the world's top brands in one place, including Chery, DFSK, Forthing, BAIC, Changan, Venucia, and Zeekr. — Htun Htun/TH



Photos capture Mr Douglas Sonnek, Chargé d'Affaires ad interim from the US Embassy to Myanmar, exploring the Yangon International Mobility Show 2026.

# NATIONAL

## 27 DPLA, KNDF, PNLO, PDF members reintegrate into society

THE government provides necessary assistance for individuals from PDF and other armed groups who return to the legal fold. A total of 27 DPLA, KNDF, PNLO and PDF members who understand the peace process of the State and Tatmadaw returned to the legal fold, bringing along arms and ammunition.

These 27 returnees — seven DPLA members, five KNDF members, 14 PNLO members and one Thaton PDF member who returned to the legal fold were welcomed by officials and handed over to their parents at Thanlwin Hall of the Eastern Command Headquarters yesterday.



The welcome and awards ceremony for 27 DPLA, KNDF, PNLO, and PDF members rejoining the society is underway in Taunggyi, Shan State.

The commander and a relevant official made speeches and explained the peace and stability of the region, and the provisions of the law. Those who returned to the legal fold presented one M-16, two M-22 rifles, one sniper rifle, one AK-47, three Type-81, two pistols, and other arms brought along with them to the commander.

The commander and officials presented K4 million for two pistols, K40 million for eight rifles, and K4.9 million to 27 persons who returned to the legal fold. It has been learned that there are still individuals who wish to return to the legal fold for reunification with families. — MNA/KTZH

## South Korean citizen deported from Myanmar



Immigration process is underway for the deportation of a South Korean.

MYANMAR transferred a Korean citizen involved in telecom fraud and other criminal activities in Kayin State via the Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge II yesterday.

Myanmar authorities officially handed the deportee the necessary legal documents to ensure the smooth repatriation.

Between 30 January 2025 and 24 March 2026, a total of 14,616 illegal immigrants were identified and detained in Myanmar. Of this number, 13,336

individuals have already been deported through Thailand to their respective countries, while arrangements are being made to deport the remaining 1,280 individuals. These individuals are currently under detention while awaiting repatriation.

The government is cracking down on online scams and online gambling by cooperating with other countries, including neighbouring countries. — MNA/KTZH

## Tachilek drug lab raided, K20.2B worth of drugs seized

SECURITY forces yesterday seized a large quantity of illicit drugs and drug-making equipment near Kawra village, Monghae (Lower) village-tract, Tachilek Township. The estimated value of the seizure is K20.2 billion.

During the inspection, authorities found two large sheds for drug processing, one shed used for cooking rice, and four residential sheds. Seized items included 6.9 million WY stimulant tablets, six bags of 20-kilogramme crushed stimulants, 15 bags of 20-kilogramme pink powder, 49 packs of 1-kilogramme Ice, 46 bags of caffeine, 16 steel trays, drug processing machines, 32 gas cylinders, a large generator, stamping equipment, Promethazine cough medicine, vinyl, food colour bottles, small plastic bags, and a Starlink Gen 3 unit.

The seized drugs and equipment are being examined by a multi-agency team and handed over to the relevant authorities. The structures used for drug processing are being



Images reveal the confiscated drug laboratory along with seized equipment and materials.

destroyed in line with regulations. Clearance operations continue as authorities suspect

the presence of other illegal drug facilities in the area. — MNA/KZL

# OPINION

## Build a peaceful and prosperous nation

**E**lected representatives in the respective Hluttaws are viewing the country's political, economic, and social sectors from a broad perspective and have begun organizing and preparing to serve their duties to the best of their abilities for national development. Accordingly, relevant sectoral committees have been formed within the Hluttaw sessions to initiate and undertake their respective responsibilities.

In drafting the State's laws, efforts are being carried out in accordance with Hluttaw procedures with the objectives of adopting appropriate approaches, enacting effective legislation, and, in particular, considering key factors for the development of the country's economic sector. These efforts also aim to gain knowledge

of internationally practised standards and to ensure the smooth implementation of the new government's functions. The Hluttaws and the respective government bodies must, without fail, undertake efforts to ensure peace and stability and the rule of law, which are fundamental to national development. A key weakness in economic development has been the shortage of skilled professionals capable of driving the economy forward. To enhance knowledge and skills, individuals must study a wide range of disciplines, with school education serving as the foundation for sharpening intellectual capacity and developing critical thinking. Therefore, the respective Hluttaws and the new government must continue to strengthen education for future generations of youth, as only then will the country's human resources develop and improve.

Infrastructure, inter-regional connectivity, and strong digital communication systems are essential requirements for national economic development. To modernize the country, these infrastructures must be further improved. This cannot be accomplished by the government alone; it requires the cooperation and participation of local communities, relevant organizations, the Tatmadaw, and all Hluttaw representatives.

In promoting peace and the rule of law, the participation of each individual citizen is essential. Only when the rule of law is upheld can peace be achieved. Therefore, peace talks based on sincerity and transparency, involving all relevant organizations, should be resumed. With the future of the nation and the younger generations in mind, it is necessary to prioritize the national interest over individual or group interests, so as to build a peaceful nation.

Only then will it be possible to transform our beloved Myanmar into a peaceful nation and, from there, build a modern, developed, and prosperous country, enabling development activities to be carried out across all regions of the country. To realize such a peaceful and prosperous country and to end armed conflicts, the Hluttaws, the respective governments, Tatmadaw, and the entire population must work together with determination and collective effort.

## Golden Decade of Mekong-Lancang Cooperation and Myanmar-China "Pauk-Phaw" Friendship

By H E U Than Swe

Member of the State Security and Peace Commission and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

**H**uman civilization traces its origins to the great river basins, where early societies first took root and flourished. From a life of migration in search of greener pastures, early human communities gradually settled along river systems that offered both sustenance and connectivity. Over time, these settlements evolved into organized and harmonious societies, shaped by a dynamic balance and mutual interaction between humanity and nature, which in turn propelled the advancement of human history.

Among the world's great river basin civilizations, the Mekong River Basin — shared by China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam — is a region with a rich and long history of culture and development. As the people and nations relying on these basins need to collaborate in balancing sustainable development with ecosystem conservation, the leaders of our six nations, guided by a far-sighted vision, officially launched the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation (MLC) ten years ago. This was formalized through the Sanya Declaration during the first Mekong-Lancang Summit held on 23 March 2016 in Sanya, Hainan Province, China.

**A Partnership Built on a Shared River**

Originating from the snow-capped Tibetan Plateau, the Mekong River (known as the Lancang River in China) connects over individual or group interests, so as to build a peaceful nation.

In today's global landscape, the growing interconnectivity and integration among the re-



gional countries have become a key driver of international development. In this context, the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation (MLC), founded on mutual trust, shared benefit and sustainable development among its member countries, has achieved significant progress over the past decade. It has also embraced the goals of socioeconomic development and prosperity of the people across the region. For Myanmar, this cooperation — rooted in the existing "Pauk-Phaw" friendship with China — has strengthened the historic partnership between the two countries and helped it grow in line with the modern era. This progress is indeed a source of pride and satisfaction.

**Shared Vision and Firm Principles**

The MLC was founded with the vision of "Building a Community of Shared Future" to support regional socioeconomic development, enhance prosperity, narrow the development gap, support the ASEAN Community, implement UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and promote South-South cooperation.

Guided by the principles of consensus, equality, mutual consultation, voluntarism, collective engagement, shared benefit and respect for the Charter of the

United Nations and international law, the MLC has become one of the most practical and efficient regional mechanisms.

**A Decade of Achievements and Promising Future Prospects**

As it transitions into a new decade, the MLC has now firmly evolved into a comprehensive sub-regional cooperation mechanism that encompasses multiple levels of engagement from people-to-people cooperation to the Leaders' level. Throughout the past decade, member countries have consistently carried out cooperation aimed at regional peace, stability, and development while maintaining friendly and close relations among themselves. As a result, tangible progress has been achieved, generating positive outcomes that support the socioeconomic development of the people in the region.

Notably, since 2017, China's initiative, the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (LMC) Special Fund, has been instrumental in implementing people-centred development projects with a total budget of US\$300 million. It is heartening to observe that over the past decade, a total of 991 projects have been approved across all member countries. These initiatives have significantly contributed to the socioeconomic development of the people residing along the Mekong River Basin.

Moreover, amidst the global economic challenges, the MLC stands as a driver for economic and trade cooperation among Member States. China remains the primary trading partner for the Mekong countries. It is encouraging to see the report that the total trade between China and the Mekong countries has

been recorded at over US\$500 billion in 2025.

The MLC has also proven its resilience against global crises. During the COVID-19 pandemic, "Fast Tracks" and "Green Lanes" initiatives were implemented to maintain regional trade. In addition, the joint efforts on combatting transnational crimes, particularly online scams and human trafficking through initiatives such as "Operation SEAGULL" and "Safe Lancang-Mekong 2025" Joint Operation (launched on 26 February 2025) have strengthened regional security. Myanmar, as a responsible member, has actively participated in these efforts.

In truth, our six nations are like "fellow travellers in the same boat," navigating together towards a shared future under the banner of the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation. By rowing in unity and supporting one another, we can undoubtedly overcome any obstacle without wavering and reach our envisioned destination successfully. As we elevate the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation from its foundations to a more advanced stage of development — Mekong-Lancang Cooperation 2.0 (MLC 2.0) — we remain steadfast in our resolve to build a better community based on unity, mutual respect, and mutual benefit. We will accelerate our cooperation in existing sectors such as law enforcement, connectivity, trade as law enforcement, connectivity, agriculture, water resource management, and human resource development while fostering our collaboration in emerging fields, including AI-based digital transformation, sustainable development, innovation, and combatting non-traditional security issues.

SEE PAGE 10

## A Decade of Lancang-Mekong Cooperation: Forging Ahead Together Towards a Shared Future

By H E Wang Yi

Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee And Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China



**T**he Lancang-Mekong nourishes our six nations and binds us closely together. On 23 March 10 years ago, we officially launched the LMC, sowing the seeds of solidarity, collective strengths and mutually beneficial cooperation among regional countries. Under the guidance of President Xi Jinping and leaders of Mekong countries, our six countries have embraced the LMC culture of equality, sincerity, mutual assistance and kinship, acted in the LMC spirit of development first, equal consultation, pragmatism and efficiency, and openness and inclusiveness, and created the LMC speed, with progress and results delivered daily, monthly and annually. Thanks to such efforts, the LMC has grown from a seed to a towering tree, setting an example for the building of a community with a shared future for humanity.

Over the past decade, we have linked our future more closely together. Facing changes unseen in a century, our six countries have forged ahead hand in hand, realized full coverage in building bilateral communities with a shared future, and become good neighbours, good friends and good partners sharing weal and woe and supporting each other in times of need.

Over the past decade, we have gained more robust momentum for development. Trade between China and the five Mekong countries surpassed US\$500 billion, an increase of 150 per cent over a decade ago. The dedication and hard work of government departments and various localities of our six countries have produced fruitful cooperation results.

Over the past decade, we have forged a stronger underpinning for security. Our six coun-

tries have carried out the Safe Lancang-Mekong Operation, and made concerted efforts in disaster prevention and mitigation and public health, providing effective protection for the life and property of people in the region. China has shared the Lancang River's hydrological information with downstream countries to help with flood and drought prevention and response.

Over the past decade, we have deepened people-to-people exchanges. The Lancang-Mekong Visa was launched. Small and beautiful livelihood programmes such as the LMC Bumper Harvest projects and the Lancang-Mekong Sweet Spring Action have delivered impressive cluster effects. The people of our six countries are visiting each other more frequently, strengthening the bonds of cultural exchange and mutual understanding.

Looking back over the past decade, we see three principles that are essential to the robust development of the LMC: first, upholding good neighbourliness, friendship and a shared future; second, focusing on development to serve the people; and third, pursuing innovation and breaking new ground.

Right now, the world is entering a period of turbulence. He-

gemony and power politics are asserting themselves and dealing a heavy blow to the international order. Meanwhile, China just concluded the Two Sessions and officially launched the 15<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan, providing much-needed stability for our region. It is important that we better synergize our development strategies, jointly build an "LMC 2.0", and demonstrate the relevance of the LMC for our times. This will contribute to long-term stability, security, development and prosperity of our region, and set an LMC example for global governance.

We should pursue unity and cooperation in the LMC. We should carry forward the Asian values of peace, cooperation, openness and inclusiveness, and accelerate the establishment of an LMC International Secretariat, so as to boost the building of a Lancang-Mekong community with a shared future.

We should pursue openness and win-win outcomes in the LMC. We should press ahead with infrastructure connectivity among our countries, further explore the Multi-Nation Multi Park cooperation, deepen cooperation along the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor, and jointly build the LMC Economic Development Belt.

We should pursue green and innovation-driven development in the LMC. We should deepen the development of the Lancang-Mekong Innovation Corridor, advance cooperation in the digital economy, artificial intelligence, sci-tech innovation and ecological governance, promote investment in new energy, build regional green value chains, and foster green industrial clusters in the region.

We should pursue mutual

learning among civilizations in the LMC. We should speed up the development of the Lancang-Mekong Tourism Cities Cooperation Alliance, continue to deepen cooperation among the media outlets and think tanks, amplify the benefits delivered by the LMC Special Fund projects, and step up personnel and youth exchanges among our six countries, so that friendship will be passed on from generation to generation.

We should strengthen cooperation on whole-basin governance, share upstream and downstream hydrological information, step up efforts to combat cross-border crimes such as online gambling and telecom fraud, and ensure the success of the Safe Lancang-Mekong Operation and the Mekong River Joint Patrol and Law Enforcement Operation. By doing so, we will create a safe environment for building a community with a shared future.

Since the very inception of the LMC, we have been holding the same view that our cooperation should not be "talk shops" but "bulldozers". With a commitment to putting people first, we should work to deliver real benefits for the people of our six countries. Standing at a new starting point, China will follow the principle of amity, sincerity, mutual benefit and inclusiveness on neighbourhood diplomacy, and work with the five Mekong countries to usher in a new golden decade of the LMC. Together, let us build a peaceful, safe, secure, prosperous, beautiful and amicable home, and make our contribution to peace and development in our region and the wider world.

(Views expressed in the article solely belong to the author.)

# NATIONAL

## Golden Decade of Mekong-Lancang Cooperation and Myanmar-China “Pauk-Phaw” Friendship

**FROM PAGE 9**

### MLC and Myanmar's Strategic Role

In fact, Mekong and Lancang share the same river — upstream is called ‘Lancang’ in China and the downstream is called ‘Mekong’, which runs across Myanmar, Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam, spanning approximately 4,350 kilometres. Although Myanmar’s share of the river may be modest at just about 234 kilometres (three per cent of the total basin area), its strategic location connecting the upper and lower streams of the river and positioning as the heart of the Myanmar-Laos-Thailand “Golden Triangle” cements Myanmar’s role as an indispensable member of the MLC.

Throughout this decade-long journey, Myanmar, as a responsible Member State, has played a pivotal role in the MLC. In a significant historical milestone, Myanmar served as the Co-Chair of the MLC alongside China from 2020 to 2023. Grounded in the MLC’s shared vision, fundamental principles, and its three main pillars — Political and Security; Economic and Sustainable Development; and Social, Cultural, and People-to-People Exchanges — Myanmar focused its efforts on promoting cooperation in regional integration and addressing both traditional and non-traditional security issues, as well as strengthening collaboration in law enforcement, water resources management, science, technology, and innovation.

In addition to its co-chairmanship, Myanmar hosted the 4<sup>th</sup> MLC Leaders’

Meeting and the 7<sup>th</sup> MLC Foreign Ministers’ Meeting, and also co-chaired the 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> MLC Foreign Ministers’ Meetings in collaboration with China. The culmination of these efforts led to the adoption of key documents, namely the Nay Pyi Taw Declaration and the MLC Plan of Action (2023-2027), as well as a consensus among Member States to establish a meeting mechanism for the MLC Innovation Corridor.

As Myanmar attaches great importance to the MLC and has been actively participating in its activities, Myanmar celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the MLC with a series of activities such as publishing commemorative articles and celebratory advertisement in state-owned newspapers alongside the broadcasting of documentary video, hosting a commemorative reception and a photo exhibition on 5 March 2026 at M Gallery Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw — which showcased the successful implementation of LMC Special Fund projects and brought together the Union Ministers and Senior Officials from the LMC Special Fund projects implementing ministries and Ambassadors and diplomats from MLC Member States.

### Complementary of Myanmar-China Relations and MLC

Commenced in 1950, the diplomatic journey between Myanmar and China reached its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) in 2025, and it was elevated to a Comprehensive Strategic Cooperative Partnership in 2011. This en-

during relationship remains remarkably resilient today, characterized by a unique diplomatic model. Its longevity is anchored in several foundational pillars: the visionary leadership of both nations, a shared geography as close neighbours, and deep-rooted cultural affinities. Furthermore, the partnership continues to thrive on the bedrock of the “Pauk-Phaw” spirit and a steadfast commitment to the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, ensuring a bond that remains as firm as ever in the modern era.

It would not be an overstatement to suggest that the bilateral relationship between Myanmar and China and the MLC framework are fundamentally synergistic and reinforcing one another. The deep-seated trust and robust diplomatic ties shared by the two nations provide a firm political foundation for regional engagement. Conversely, the success of this regional cooperation further cements bilateral ties, allowing both nations to achieve their shared goals through collective strength and more effective implementation.

Projects implemented under the LMC Special Fund are those that directly enhance the socioeconomic lives of the populace. These initiatives play a vital role in supporting Myanmar’s national efforts toward socioeconomic development. Myanmar stands as one of the top recipients of projects among the MLC member states. From 2017 to 2025, the country was granted a total of 132 pro-

jects under the LMC Special Fund, with a cumulative value of over US\$38.6 million. To date, over 100 of these projects have been successfully implemented, yielding substantial benefits across various sectors in Myanmar, including agriculture and livestock, rural development, infrastructure development, health, science and technology and MSMEs.

### From a Decade to a Century

To summarize, the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation (MLC) continues to accelerate the Comprehensive Strategic Cooperative Partnership between China and the countries in the Mekong region. Furthermore, it serves as a mechanism that strengthens the robust bilateral ties and close collaboration between China and its regional neighbours. The mutual friendship and cooperation among these nations are the cornerstones of the MLC’s long-term sustainability and success. As a regional state, Myanmar remains an inseparable partner with China, committed to the interests of both peoples, as well as to the stability, peace, prosperity, and sustainable development of the region. In this regard, the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation — grounded in sincerity and goodwill — should continue to strive towards enduring from its golden decade into the century ahead. With this aspiration, this commemorative note is presented in honour of the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation.

*(Views expressed in the article solely belong to the author.)*

## Life skills and sprint ToT course commences in Yangon



THE Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS), in collaboration with the Danish Red Cross and Danish Red Cross Youth, is currently conducting a Life Skills and Sprint Training of Trainers (ToT) course. The programme, which began on 23 March, is scheduled to run until 27 March 2026.

Hosted at the Sayasan Hotel in Yangon, the training aims to empower Red Cross Youth volunteers to promote social cohesion within their local communities. Ten youth volunteers from the Mandalay

Region, Magway Region, and Kayin State are participating in the course to develop the necessary skills to lead these community initiatives.

The opening ceremony featured welcoming remarks from Professor Dr Myo Nyunt, President of the Myanmar Red Cross Society, along with Ms Nuria Beneitez, Country Manager for the Danish Red Cross, and Ms Caroline and Ms Kristine from the Danish Red Cross Youth. The event was also attended by officials from the German Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), alongside the participating youth volunteers. — ASH/KZL

Trainees attentively follow the trainer's instructions in a ToT course.

## Registration board bans 55 pesticides

THE Pesticide Registration Board, operated under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, issued a list of 55 restricted pesticides at its meeting held on 10 March 2026, in exercise of the power conferred by Section 47 of the Pesticide Law, according to its notification 7/2026.

Those pesticides are identified, including toxic chemicals that can pose hazards to human beings, animals, crops and the environment.

Any governmental institutions and organizations are prohibited from registering, distributing, importing, repackaging, selling, or using the following chemicals: aldrin, dieldrin, endrin, chlordane, heptachlor, lindane (gamma-hexachlorocyclohexane), alpha-hexachlorocyclohexane, beta-hexachlorocyclohexane (BHC), toxaphene,



A farmer sprays pesticides in a field.

chlordecone, chlorobenzilate, mirex, hexachlorobenzene (HCB), strobane (polychloroter-

penes), and DDT (dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane); aldicarb, carbofuran, methomyl,

methamidophos, methyl parathion, monocrotophos, parathion ethyl, phosphamidon, diafen-

thiuron, trichlorfon, terbufos, chlorpyrifos, EPN, dinoseb, DNOC, and paraquat; alachlor, captafol, triflumizole, benomyl, carbendazim, glufosinate-ammon, 2,4,5-T, and 2,4,5-TP; arsenic compounds, mercury compounds, ethylene dibromide (EDB), ethylene dichloride, fluoroacetamide, borax decahydrate, boric acid, hydramethylnon, metaflumizone, and mineral oil; as well as chlordimeform, binapacryl, endosulfan, and pentachlorophenol (PCP).

Those involved in illegal sales of those pesticides will face legal actions under the Pesticide Law.

The board can revise and issue the list of prohibited pesticides as necessary. The previous notification 15/2023 issued by the board was hereby cancelled, and this notification will be effective from 1 April 2026. — NN/KK

## CBM injects US\$45M into fuel import sector



Greenbacks are seen at the money changer counter.

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) made a US\$45 million injection into the fuel oil import sector on 23 March to increase oil imports.

CBM's report showed transactions of 50 million baht on the foreign exchange trading platform to importers to meet market needs, along with selling 2.424 million baht in the market. CBM also sold \$1.339 million to fuel oil-importing companies on that day.

CBM sold \$1.5 million to edible oil-importing companies and \$1.16 million to fuel

oil-importing companies on 20 March, along with an injection of 3.37 million baht into the market.

In addition to an injection of a large amount of foreign currencies (yuan, dollar, baht) into the foreign exchange market, CBM has been injecting US dollars to stabilize the foreign exchange market and calm the edible oil prices, with over \$1.38 million to edible oil-importing companies on 19 March, \$1.84 million on 18 March, \$1.55 on 17 March, \$2.38 million on 16 March, \$1.98

million 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 \$1 million into the fuel import sector on 3 March.

CBM injected foreign currencies 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

## YRTC endorses K29.8B worth of investment

THE Yangon Region Tourism Committee gave the go-ahead to over K29.8 million worth of investment made by newly endorsed hotels and tourism businesses, according to the Yangon Region Tourism Committee.

The committee granted one hotel construction permit and one guesthouse renovation permit, seven hotel business licences, one guesthouse business licence, renewal of 79 hotel licences and 15 guesthouse licence, new licence for one guesthouse, 76 tour licences (inbound/outbound), 28 outbound tour agency licences, renewal of 259 tour licence (inbound/outbound) and 146 outbound tour licence, 229 licences for tour guides, 16 licences for local pilgrimage and tour ser-

vice, and licence renewal of 16 pilgrimage and tour businesses during at its meeting held at the meeting hall of the Yangon Region government office on 18 March 2026. Those businesses are to create over 460 jobs for locals.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, Chair of the committee, delivered a remark regarding tourist arrival, tourism industry and related business' situation, regional tourism development and human resource development courses in the 2025-2026 financial year, budget allocated by the Yangon Region government for the tourism sector in the 2026-2027 financial year, and plans for regional tourism development. — NN/KK

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# ECONOMY

## WORLD/AD

### Vietnam aims for 2 renewable energy hubs by 2030

VIETNAM has set a target of establishing two renewable energy industry and service hubs by 2030 under the amended plan for implementing the international agreement Just Energy Transition Partnership, local media outlet VnEconomy reported Tuesday.

Renewable energy is expected to account for about 47 per cent of the Southeast Asian country's total installed power

capacity by 2030, while emissions from the power sector are projected not to exceed 170 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent, the report said.

By 2030, Vietnam also aims to finalize a policy and regulatory framework to attract investment in offshore wind, solar power and energy storage, while engaging with international partners. — Xinhua



This photo taken on 23 April 2019 shows solar panel installations and a wind turbine at the Phu Lac wind farm in southern Vietnam's Binh Thuan province.

PHOTO: AFP/FILE

### Economists cut ASEAN-6 GDP growth amid Mideast conflict

*Surging energy prices and disruptions to commodity supplies will be negative for most ASEAN countries, which are net oil and gas importers*

ECONOMISTS have trimmed ASEAN-6 gross domestic product (GDP) growth forecast to 4.5 per cent in 2026 from 4.8 per cent, and to 4.7 per cent in 2027 from 4.8 per cent, due to the fallout of the conflict in the Middle East.

The ASEAN-6 nations refer to Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, the Philippines, and Malaysia.

Maybank Investment Bank said in a recent note that the downgrades are larger for the Philippines (-0.4 percentage points), Vietnam (-0.4 percentage points) and Thailand (-0.3 percentage points).

“Surging energy prices and disruptions to commodity supplies will be negative for most



The Department of Energy Business (DOEB) says Thailand's fuel shortage crisis is beginning to ease following a series of government interventions aimed at stabilizing supply and distribution. PHOTO: THAI OIL

ASEAN countries, which are net oil and gas importers,” said the research house.

According to Maybank, Malaysia is the only country in the region that stands out as a net

energy exporter, which will help cushion the impact of the Middle East shock. — Xinhua

#### Changing Trade Name For Registered Pesticide

The pesticide manufactured by Jiangxi Zhengbang Crop Protection Co.,Ltd and Guangxi Baikal Biochemical Products Co.,Ltd and distributed by Agro Golden Rose Co.,Ltd is changing trade Name as follow. Any objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board within (14) days.

No	Previous Name	New Name	Active Ingredient	Registration No
1	ZB-Winner Plus 32.5 % SC	Skoll Plus	Azoxystrobin 20% + Difenconazole 12.5% SC	F2024-4802
2	ZB-Academay	Super Benzo	Emamectin Benzoate 5.7% EW	P2023-6159
3	ZB-Nimble 240 SC	Rose Spider King	Spirodiclofen 240 g/l SC	P2021-5304
4	ZB-Combined Strength 70 % WG	Rose Dimorph	Cymoxanil 20 % + Dimethomorph 50 % WG	P2022-4795

#### Changing Trade Name For Registered Pesticide

The pesticide manufactured by Jiangxi Zhengbang Crop Protection Co.,Ltd and distributed by Sunrise Agri-Science Co.,Ltd is changing trade Name as follow. Any objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board within (14) days.

No	Previous Name	New Name	Active Ingredient	Registration No
1	ZB-Delicate 30 SC	Team Mate	Indoxacarb 30 % SC	P2022-5740
2	ZB-Quick	Tann Shin	Haloxypop-P-methyl 108 g/l EC	F2023-4278

### Australia, EU finalize free trade deal

AUSTRALIAN and European Union (EU) leaders on Tuesday announced they have finalized a “landmark” free trade agreement following years of negotiations.

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and European Commission President

Ursula von der Leyen said in a joint statement after meeting in Canberra on Tuesday morning that both sides have struck a deal on the Australia-EU free trade agreement.

They said the deal will lower trade and investment barriers be-

tween the two markets upon completion of domestic processes.

Under the deal, 98 per cent of Australia's exports will enter the EU duty-free, and almost all EU tariffs on Australian agricultural products will be eliminated. — Xinhua



Australian National Maritime Museum, Darling Harbour. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

## Vietnam's flag carrier to suspend lower-demand domestic routes

NATIONAL flag carrier Vietnam Airlines plans to temporarily suspend operations on several lower-demand domestic routes starting from 1 April, local daily Tuoi Tre reported Tuesday.

The move aims to reallocate resources to national connectivity routes, trunk air routes and key

transport corridors serving travel, trade and tourism.

The plan follows a warning from the Civil Aviation Authority of Vietnam that aviation fuel supply is facing a possible shortage, forcing airlines to review their operational plans and prioritize essential routes. — Xinhua



National flag carrier Vietnam Airlines plans to temporarily suspend operations on several lower-demand domestic routes starting from 1 April. **PHOTO: VIETNAM AIRLINES**

## S Korea's producer price rises for 6<sup>th</sup> month in Feb

PRICES for goods and services among South Korean suppliers rose for the sixth successive month, central bank data showed Tuesday.

The producer price index (PPI) gained 0.6 per cent in February from a month earlier, keeping an upward momentum since September last year, according to the Bank of Korea (BOK).

The consecutive growth was attributed to expensive farm goods and a rebound in oil products prices.

Price for agricultural, livestock and fishery products among suppliers



The producer price index (PPI) gained 0.6 per cent in February from a month earlier, keeping an upward momentum since September last year, according to the Bank of Korea (BOK). BOK Headquarters in Seoul. **PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA**

expanded 2.4 per cent in February on a monthly

month.

Producer prices for industrial products, including oil products, swelled 0.5 per cent last month.

Prices for coal and oil products soared 4 per cent in February, turning around from a decrease of 3.8 per cent in the prior month.

Service price was up 0.6 per cent due to higher costs for the finance and insurance service.

The price for electricity, natural gas and tap water added 0.1 per cent in February compared to the previous month — Xinhua

basis after going up 0.7 per cent in the previous

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PELICAN VOY.NO. (0087N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PELICAN VOY.NO. (0087N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **25-3-2026** 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:

**(ONE) OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS LINE**

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V XO LUCKY VOY.NO. (X2606E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V XO LUCKY VOY.NO. (X2606E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **25-3-2026** 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 TI2 LOGISTICS PTE LTD**

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V TC MESSENGER VOY.NO. (164N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V TC MESSENGER VOY.NO. (164N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **25-3-2026** 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES**

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (3605S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (3605S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **25-3-2026** 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 BLPL SHIPPING LINE**

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC ZHI VOY.NO. (2606S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC ZHI VOY.NO. (2606S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **25-3-2026** 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 SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD**

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V OTANA BHUM VOY.NO. (248N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V OTANA BHUM VOY.NO. (248N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **25-3-2026** 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 REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES**

# ROLLING UPDATES

## WORLD

# War in the Middle East: latest developments

**Here are the latest developments in the Middle East war:**

# Iranian authorities said that 466 people have been arrested, accused of seeking to destabilize the country through their online activity.

The exact nature of the online activity nor the dates of the arrests were provided. Internet has been shut down in Iran since the start of the war on 28 February.

# Iran named a former Revolutionary Guards commander, Mohammad Bagher Zolghadr, as the new chief of the Supreme National Security Council to replace Ali Larijani, killed in an Israeli strike, state television said.

# The Gulf states will need to re-evaluate their shared security after the war, which has resulted in a “breakdown of the security system,” a Qatar foreign ministry spokesman said.

# Lebanon withdrew the accreditation of Iran’s ambassador and gave him until Sunday to leave the



A Palestinian man climbs on the Iranian missile remnant that landed in the Israeli-occupied West Bank. **PHOTO: AFP**

country. The move came after Beirut accused Iran’s Revolutionary Guards of commanding the operations of the Tehran-backed Hezbollah in its war against Israel.

# Israel’s military said that it had completed a “large wave of strikes in Isfahan”.

# Israel’s Defence Minister Israel Katz said the military would take control of

south Lebanon up to the Litani River as a “security zone”, as it presses its fight against Iran-backed Hezbollah. The hundreds of thousands of south Lebanon residents who have been displaced by the war “will not return south of the Litani River until security is guaranteed for the residents of the north” of Israel, he said.

# The UN Human Rights Council said it will hold an urgent meeting on Wednesday on Iran’s strikes on countries in the Gulf region.

# Iranian media reported on Tuesday that Israeli-US strikes targeted two gas facilities and a pipeline, hours after US President Donald Trump stepped back from his threat to at-

tack power infrastructure. In an interview with state TV, Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi said that Iran is less vulnerable to attacks on energy infrastructure because it was spread out, with 150 power plants across the country.

# A rocket attack in Iraq’s north killed six fighters from the peshmerga armed forces of Iraq’s autonomous Kurdistan region, officials said. The region’s armed forces ministry blamed Tehran, saying “six Iranian ballistic missiles targeted” the troops in two attacks.

# A strike in western Iraq on Tuesday killed 15 fighters, including Saad Dawai al-Baiji, provincial commander and head of operations in Anbar for the former paramilitary coalition Hashed al-Shaabi, also known as the Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF). The PMF is now part of Iraq’s regular army, but also includes some pro-Iranian groups. It has blamed the attack on the US. — AFP

## Ursula von der Leyen urges end to West Asia “hostilities”

PRESIDENT of the European Council Ursula von der Leyen on Tuesday called for an immediate end to “hostilities” in the Middle East, warning that the escalating conflict is creating a “critical” situation for global energy supply chains, according to France 24.

Addressing the Australian Parliament during her visit to Canberra, the European Commission President said the ongoing conflict is already having far-reaching

consequences worldwide.

“We all feel the knock-on effects on gas and oil prices on our businesses and our societies,” von der Leyen said alongside Prime Minister Anthony Albanese in Canberra, as quoted by France 24.

As quoted by France 24, she added, “It is of utmost importance that we come to a solution that is negotiated, and this puts an end to the hostilities that we see in the Middle East.” — ANI

## Global epicentre of AI development shifting towards Asia

THE global epicentre of artificial intelligence (AI) development is progressively shifting from Europe and the United States toward Asia, according to a report released Tuesday by the Boao Forum for Asia.

“Capitalizing on their substantial digital populations, diverse application ecosystems and coherent policy frameworks, Asian economies are rapidly evolving from AI followers into frontrunners,” said the report titled “Asian Economic Outlook and Integration Progress Annual Report 2026”.

Among the leading echelon, it noted, China has achieved full-chain industrial maturity and demonstrated robust capabilities in large-scale deployment, while Japan and the Republic of Korea concentrate their efforts on high-end manufacturing and industrial automation. Singapore, serving as a model of application-driven

advancement, plays a pivotal role in governance innovation and functions as a platform hub. — Xinhua



LG Electronics Inc’s CLOiD robot is displayed at a convention center in Las Vegas in this file photo taken on 5 January 2026. **PHOTO: YONHAP/KYODO/FILE**

# SPORTS

## Myanmar duo shine at Stallion Laguna

MYANMAR women's national team players San Thaw Thaw and Phyu Phway are performing well while playing on loan for the Philippine women's club Stallion Laguna FC.

The two players joined the club on short-term loan deals in February to help the team in the knockout stage of the AFC Women's Champions League scheduled later this month. Both players belong to Myanmar Women's League champions Ayeyawady United Women FC and were loaned under a partnership programme between the two clubs.

They have been receiving regular

playing time in the Philippine Women's League, with San Thaw Thaw scoring goals and showing strong form.

In the AFC Women's Champions League knockout round, Stallion Laguna will face Japanese club Tokyo Verdy Beleza in an away match on 28 March.

Phyu Phway and San Thaw Thaw also became Myanmar women players to play abroad after Win Theingi Tun and Khin Marlar Tun. Win Theingi Tun is currently playing for Nepal club Sankata Club. — Shine Htet Zaw/KZL



Myanmar women's players San Thaw Thaw and Phyu Phway (L) join Filipino club Stallion Laguna FC on loan. PHOTO:SLFC

## MFF launches basic referee course to nurture new talent

AIMING to produce new quality referees in the Myanmar football industry, Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) opened the MFF basic referee course 1 for 2026

in collaboration with the MFF referee committee.

The opening ceremony was held on 24 March at Thuwunna Stadium's press

conference hall at 10 am. MFF general secretary U Tun Tun Aung gave an opening speech at the event, and the referee committee member U Tun Hla Aung introduced the training course after that.

The basic referee course was held from 24 to 30 March, and 29 trainees — education staff, sports and youth affairs staff, university students and young football enthusiasts from different regions and states, including Yangon, Ayeyawady and Bago regions and Kayin State, have joined.

The course includes football rules, referee ethics and basic theory and practical training on decision-making during play. After this course finishes, further training will be continued for would-be referees until they can take assignments for local games. — MT/ZS



The MFF basic referee course 1/2026 opening ceremony is in progress in Yangon.

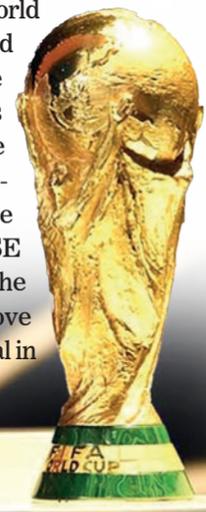
## Supporters' group file lawsuit against 'excessive' World Cup ticket prices

THE Football Supporters Europe (FSE) group filed a lawsuit on Tuesday with the European Commission against football's world governing body FIFA over "excessive ticket prices" for this year's World Cup finals.

The FSE and the Euroconsumers group said the tickets for the 11 June-19 July tournament in the US, Canada and Mexico were overpriced and complained that FIFA has a monopoly over the sales.

"Euroconsumers and Football Supporters Europe (FSE) have filed a formal complaint with the European Commission against FIFA, alleging that the football body has abused its monopoly position to impose excessive ticket prices and opaque and unfair purchasing conditions and processes on European fans ahead of the 2026 World Cup," the FSE said in a statement.

"FIFA holds a monopoly over ticket sales for the 2026 World Cup and has used that power to impose conditions on fans that would never be acceptable in a competitive market," the group added. The FSE said the prices for the final were way above those for the 2022 final in Qatar. — AFP



World cup trophy. PHOTO: AFP

## Hassan withdraws from 2026 London Marathon with achilles injury



Reigning Olympic champion Sifan Hassan has pulled out of this year's London Marathon on 26 April after being injured in a treadmill mishap. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

REIGNING Olympic champion Sifan Hassan has pulled out of this year's London Marathon on 26 April after being injured in a treadmill mishap.

The Dutchwoman, who delivered a dramatic victory in London in 2023, had been set to face a formidable field including Tigst Assefa, the defending champion and women-only world record holder, and Peres Jepchirchir, the reigning world champion. At their last meeting at the Paris Olympics in 2024, Hassan surged past Assefa in the closing stages.

However, an announcement re-

leased Monday confirmed that Hassan will not compete due to injury concerns.

According to the statement, Hassan "has been hampered by an Achilles injury which has impacted her training".

It continued: "Hassan picked up the injury following an unfortunate incident while training on the treadmill six weeks ago. Initially the injury was believed to be minor, and she continued to train but, as her preparations for the London Marathon intensified, the Dutch athlete was unable to progress as planned." — Xinhua



After addressing the Lok Sabha yesterday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday addressed the Rajya Sabha on the escalating conflict in West Asia, highlighting its far-reaching impact on global energy markets, trade routes, and the safety of Indian citizens abroad, while reaffirming India's commitment to diplomacy and preparedness.

Noting that the war has entered its fourth week, the Prime Minister said the crisis has triggered a severe global energy disruption and posed significant challenges for India. "More than three weeks have passed since this war began in West Asia. This war has created a serious energy crisis across the entire world," he said.

Expressing concern over disruptions in key maritime routes, he pointed to the strategic importance of the Strait of Hormuz, where several ships, including those with Indian crew members, remain stranded. "Many ships from around the world are stranded in the Strait of Hormuz, a very large number of Indian crew members are among them. This is also a major cause of concern for India," he stated.

Calling for collective global action, the Prime Minister urged Parliament to send a strong message of peace. "In such a critical situation, it is essential that a united voice of peace and dialogue goes out to the entire world from this Upper House of India's Parliament," he said. — ANI

## PM Modi calls for peace and assures energy security amid West Asia crisis

*PM Modi voiced concern about disruptions in vital sea lanes, highlighting the strategic Strait of Hormuz, where multiple vessels – including some carrying Indian crew – are currently stranded.*



The Prime Minister said the crisis has triggered a severe global energy disruption and posed significant challenges for India. PHOTO: ANI

## Asia's economy expected to expand 4.5% in 2026: report

ASIA remains the world's primary growth engine, with its economy forecast to expand by 4.5 per cent in 2026, according to a report released by the

Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) on Tuesday. Asia's share of global GDP is projected to continue its upward trajectory, rising from 49.2 per cent in 2025 to 49.7

per cent in 2026 on a purchasing power parity basis, according to the report titled "Asian Economic Outlook and Integration Progress Annual Report 2026."

The foundations of Asian trade integration have continued to strengthen, the report noted, citing data that intra-regional trade dependence edged up from 56.3 per cent in 2023 to 57.2 per cent in 2024, as major economies across the region increasingly orient their trade ties toward one another.

"China and ASEAN continue to stand out as the region's twin 'anchors of stability,'" the report pointed out.

Asia-Pacific economies are increasingly transitioning from individual integration into global value chains towards a model of shared regional integration, with many advancing up the value chain ladder buoyed by support from within the region, it said. — Xinhua

## Kim Jong-un officially declares South Korea hostile state

IN his keynote speech at the first session of North Korea's 15th Supreme People's Assembly, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un officially declared South Korea a hostile state.

"We will especially regard South Korea as the most hostile state, completely rejecting and ignoring it with the clearest words and actions," Kim said, as quoted by the state-run Korean Central News Agency (KCNA).

Any encroachment by South Korea on North Korea will be followed by merciless retribution, he warned. — SPUTNIK



This 23 March 2026 photo shows a view of the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) International Conference Centre in Boao town of Qionghai city, South China's Hainan province. PHOTO: XINHUA