

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.



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission, and dignitaries observe a one-minute silence to pay tribute to the loss of lives and property in the devastating Mandalay earthquake.

Rescuers Save 653 in Mandalay Earthquake

The government stresses the need to embed disaster resilience and long-term sustainability into the planning and implementation of future national development initiatives.

The State is carrying out earthquake rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts across various sectors, with about 84 per cent of the work completed in different sectors, said Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission, at the first anniversary remembrance of the Mandalay earthquake.

The Senior General delivered a speech and presented commemorative medals to internal and international organizations which participated in the activities of response to

the Mandalay earthquake, at the Myanmar International Convention Centre I (MICC I) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

All attendees at the ceremony observed a one-minute silence to pay tribute to the loss of lives and property in the devastating Mandalay earthquake, which struck on 28 March 2025.

Due to the 7.7 magnitude of the Mandalay earthquake, across 10 regions and states including Nay Pyi Taw, there were 3,818 deaths, five missing persons, and 5,104 injuries. A total of 162,563 households and

SEE PAGE 3

Salient points from the speech delivered by the Senior General at the 1st anniversary remembrance of the Mandalay earthquake

1. People have to continue nurturing the same determination and strength in the future as the nation embarks on a new chapter, working hand in hand with the State to overcome challenges together.
2. It is believed that the incoming new government, which will soon assume national responsibilities, will be able to continue these ongoing earthquake recovery efforts at the current pace.
3. All future construction of buildings, roads, and bridges should fully comply with established standards, including building codes.

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NATIONAL

Surplus products must be exported to domestic and foreign markets to generate increased income

- * It is necessary to systematically carry out production by calculating the local supply and demand within the relevant region.
- * In doing so, surplus products can be exported to other regions and foreign countries, thereby contributing to an increase in local income.

(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 state, district and township-level departmental officials and town elders in Mon State on 16 November 2025 to talk about regional development undertakings)

- 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.

MRF talks focus on fuel for farmers and rice mills



This image, taken on 25 March 2026, depicts the MRF annual general meeting in progress.

FOR farmers and rice mills to receive fuel to operate farming machinery, the Myanmar Rice Federation discussed during its annual general meeting held remotely on 25 March.

The meeting highlighted MRF projects implemented in 2025, discussions on 15 ongoing action plans, for providing necessary fuels for paddy harvesting and operation of rice mills, about internal and external rice mar-

ket potentials, machinery import for rice mills, implementation of rice export zone and data compilation of rice mills.

In addition, a vacancy for the general secretary position, a short-term loan for export items, plans and amending the MRF constitution were also covered.

The MRF president, vice-presidents, central executive members and members joined the virtual meeting. — MT/ZS

Traditional Myanmar Chinlone performed at Thihoshin Pagoda



This photo showcases a team of Chinlone players enjoying a traditional sport at the ancient Thihoshin Pagoda, Pakokku, on 28 March 2026. **PHOTO: BAR MI THA (PAKOKKU)**

A traditional Myanmar Chinlone (cane ball) performance was held at 10 am on 28 March in Pakokku, Magway Region, to commemorate the successful completion of the full gilding of the ancient Thihoshin Pagoda, which was built by Bagan King Alaung Sithu.

“The Chinlone performance features national athletes who have represented Myanmar in the SEA Games, along with regional selected players and 12 local teams. The event runs from 28 March to 1 April and aims not only to celebrate the completion of the gold robe offering but also to preserve Myanmar’s traditional Chinlone culture and pass it on to younger generations. The performances include various categories

such as 30 types of Chinlone playing sport. Players demonstrate techniques using different parts of the body, including the knees, toes, instep, soles, heels, inner and outer feet, shoulders, head, back, elbows, and a variety of stylized movements such as spinning kicks and artistic formations performed in teams,” said U Hla Phone, Chairman of the Pagoda Board of Trustees.

Moreover, the opening ceremony and evening Dhamma talks to mark the completion of the gold foil offering were held on 27 March. Cultural entertainment programmes will continue with performances by Mandalay Arman Thit theatrical troupe from 30 March to 1 April, and Mandalay Kaung Sit Hein

troupe from 5 to 7 April.

On 1 April, the religious events will be held, including Buddha consecration ceremonies, honorary certificate presentations, merit-sharing ceremony, and food donation event. In the afternoon, alms will be offered to 108 monks.

During the festival period, a fun fair featuring around 300 stalls will be set up, offering local food products, household goods, clothing, toys, agricultural tools, and kitchenware. There will also be entertainment areas, including children’s playgrounds and amusement activities such as pirate-themed attractions, ensuring an enjoyable experience for visitors from near and far. — Bar Mi Tha (Pakokku)/KTZH

Daily newspapers available online

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News and Periodicals Enterprise

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)

Rescuers Save 653 in Mandalay Earthquake

FROM PAGE 1

424,063 people were affected, with 279,111 people temporarily displaced. The total estimated value of damage and losses exceeded K7,979 billion.

Aids and relief supplies weighing 2,662.321 tonnes donated by organizations from the People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation, India, Belarus, Bangladesh, Brazil, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan and Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, UAE, Venezuela, Vietnam and AHA Centre and all of these stocks were distributed to the earthquake-affected areas.

Moreover, prefabricated offices, prefabricated houses, fuel, emergency operation theatres and medicines donated by the People's Republic of China were systematically distributed.

During the period, a total of 1,935 rescue crew members and 845 health professionals and medical doctors from 25 countries carried out search and rescue operations and performed healthcare services for the quake-affected people. Meanwhile, members of the Myanmar Fire Brigade, police members, Tatmadaw members, Red Cross members and social organization members, together with international rescue teams, diligently carried out search and rescue for the victims and saved 653 individuals successfully.

The Senior General expressed his honour for the courageous survival of the earthquake-affected people and his recognition for the international rescue teams, Myanmar Fire Brigade, police members, Tatmadaw members, Red Cross members and social organizations which risked their lives to carry out search and rescue efforts.

The Disaster Management Centre (DMC) was opened on the evening of 28 March 2025, immediately after the earthquake, and emergency response and recovery operations were systematically carried out around the clock, sector by sector, with full effort.

The State prioritized and swiftly implemented measures to search for and rescue those trapped in collapsed buildings, ensure that earthquake-affected people were moved under temporary shelter before the rains, provide for their immediate livelihood needs, restore communications, electricity, and drinking water supply, reopen schools in a timely manner, and deliver



Acting President and SSPC Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presents honorary commemorative medal for the Chinese rescue teams to the Chinese ambassador to Myanmar.

healthcare services.

The State provided support of K1 million for each person who died in the earthquake to assist their surviving families. In addition, over K1,600 billion in cash and construction materials were provided to aid the injured and to repair or rebuild damaged homes. More than K3,421.957 billion from the National Disaster Management Fund was allocated to support the repair, restoration, and reconstruction of religious schools, government offices and staff housing, educational, health, and basic infrastructure, as well as religious and cultural heritage buildings.

If the country aims to be built as a nation with guaranteed safety from disasters in the future, it is essential to learn lessons from past losses and damage caused by disasters and to ensure that all future construction of buildings, roads, and bridges fully complies with established standards, including building codes.

The State is carrying out earthquake rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts across various sectors, with about 84 per

cent of the work completed in different sectors, and activities are continuing to be carried out with strong momentum. He expressed his belief that the incoming new government, which will soon assume national responsibilities, will be able to continue these ongoing earthquake recovery efforts at the current pace.

Myanmar ranks sixth in the 2025 World Risk Index, which measures a country's exposure and vulnerability to damage from climate and environmental degradation, extreme weather events, and other hazards across economic, social, and other sectors. This underscores the urgent need for Myanmar to systematically integrate disaster risk management into every sector, ensuring that these efforts are carefully planned and implemented.

It is essential to incorporate disaster resilience and long-term sustainability into planning and implementation in future national development initiatives.

Just as the people have faced various disasters and challenges with the spirit of "We are Stronger, We are Together"

and overcome them with resilience, they are encouraged to continue nurturing the same determination and strength in the future as the nation embarks on a new chapter, working hand in hand with the State to overcome challenges together.

The Senior General presented honorary commemorative medals for Tatmadaw members who participated in the activities of responding to the Mandalay earthquake to a senior Tatmadaw officer, for the Chinese rescue team to the Chinese ambassador to Myanmar, for the Russian rescue team to the Russian ambassador to Myanmar, and for the Indian rescue team to the Indian ambassador to Myanmar, respectively.

Commission Vice-Chairman Vice-Senior General Soe Win handed the medal to the Nepali ambassador to Myanmar for the Nepali rescue team, the Brazilian ambassador to Myanmar for the Brazilian rescue team, the UAE ambassador to Myanmar for the UAE's rescue team and the Sri Lankan ambassador to Myanmar for the Sri Lankan rescue team, respectively.

Commission Member and Prime Minister U Nyo Saw, Executive Chief U Aung Lin Dwe, Commission Secretary General Ye Win Oo and Commission Member and Union Minister for Defence General Maung Maung Aye also presented the medals ambassadors, charges d'affaires ad interim, military attaches of relevant countries to Myanmar for their rescue teams, and representatives from MPF, Myanmar Earthquake Committee, Myanmar Engineering Council, Fire Services Department, Federation of Myanmar Engineering Societies, and Myanmar Geosciences Society.

The Senior General and attendees watched a documentary video clip on the Mandalay earthquake.

After the ceremony, the Senior General and attendees viewed the documentary photos on activities of responding to the Mandalay earthquake and ministerial booths.

Also, present at the ceremony were Union-level dignitaries, Union ministers, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, deputy ministers, ambassadors, Military Attaches, officials from UN agencies and non-governmental organizations and well-wishers. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

NDSC holds alms offering for monks, nuns, and others killed in Mandalay quake

THE National Defence and Security Council held an alms-offering ceremony to mark the first anniversary of monks, nuns, and those who died in the Mandalay earthquake at 9:30 am yesterday at Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory.

The ceremony was attended by Uppatasanti Pagoda Ovadacariya Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maharattha Guru Bhaddanta Rajinda from Pauk Myaing Monastery in Lewe Township, Nay Pyi Taw, along with other Sayadaws, the Chairman of the National Disaster Management Committee and Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Phone Myat, Union Ministers U Ko Ko Hlaing, Dr Kan Zaw, Dr Wah Wah Maung, Dr Thida Oo, U Tin Oo Lwin, U Hla Moe, Dr Charlie



The alms-offering ceremony to mark the first anniversary of the Mandalay earthquake in progress yesterday at the Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory.

Than, Dr Chaw Chaw Sein, Dr Myo Thein Kyaw, U Myo Thant, and Dr Soe Win, as well as other

officials.

Attendees first observed the Five Precepts, administered

by Presiding Patron Uppatasanti Pagoda Ovadacariya Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maharattha Guru Dr

Bhaddanta Adiccavansa from Thirimingala Wegyi Monastery in Pobbathiri Township, while listening to the Metta Sutta recited by the Sayadaws.

Union ministers then presented and donated offerings to the Sayadaws, led by the Sayadaw from Pauk Myaing Monastery in Lewe Township.

Afterwards, the attendees listened to a dedication sermon delivered by Presiding Patron Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Vicakkhana from Aungsitha Pariyatti Buddhism Learning Centre in Pobbathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw, and shared merit in dedication to the monks, nuns, and people who had passed away due to the Mandalay earthquake. — MNA/MKKS

Parks adorned with posters, lights, and flowers for 81st Armed Forces Day

IN honour of the 81st Anniversary of Armed Forces Day on 27 March, posters featuring valiant, brave, and patriotic Tatmadaw (Army, Navy, and Air) personnel have been placed at the traffic lights at Pinlaung Junction and near the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) in Nay Pyi Taw.

Similarly, along the road from Pinlaung Junction to the parade ground, Tatmadaw slogans have been displayed in both Myanmar and English, while the grand arch at the entrance to the parade ground can also be seen in a magnificent display.

At the entrance to the Tatmadaw parade ground and along both sides of the road, truss beams, light boxes, lighting poles, LED strip lights, rain lights, uplights, programmed

LED displays, colourful lights, and banners have been installed on the Tatmadaw columns. In addition, the national flag and the

Tatmadaw (Army, Navy, and Air) flags, lighting effects, trees facing the salute stage at the Military Parade Ground adorned with

handmade lights, and the two stars representing the Tatmadaw flag beneath the statues of the Three Kings are all decorated

with LED strip lights.

Furthermore, in honour of the 81st Armed Forces Day in 2026, Tatmadaw Park in front of the Nay Pyi Taw Military Parade Ground has been illuminated with decorative lights and the national flag of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. The 81st Armed Forces Day commemorative badge, as well as scale models of Tatmadaw vehicles (Army, Navy, and Air), ships, aircraft, and helicopters, are on display. The park is also filled with small fibre statues of Tatmadaw members, decorated with flowers and colourful lights installed on trees.

In addition, various regions and states across the country are also illuminated with colourful lights and festive decorations in honour of the 81st Armed Forces Day. — MNA/MKKS



People enjoy their time at the Tatmadaw Park in front of the Nay Pyi Taw Military Parade Ground yesterday.

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Weekly Roundup

23 March

Work from Home

The Information Team of the National Defence and Security Council 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 in order to cut fuel consumption. Moreover, 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.

24 March

Head of State in good health

The Information Team of the National Defence and Security Council stated that the Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission, and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, was diagnosed with lumbar spondylosis accompanied by spinal stenosis caused by nerve compression. He consequently underwent a two-hour emergency surgical procedure on 20 March 2026, and the surgery was successful; the Senior General is reported to be in good health. He continues to carry out his State and Tatmadaw duties.

Pyithu Hluttaw establishes Bill Committee, Public Accounts Committee

The first regular session of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw continued its second-day meeting at the convention hall of the Pyithu Hluttaw at Hluttaw Complex in Nay Pyi Taw and formed the Bill Committee and the Public Accounts Committee.

25 March

Head of State attends fuel meeting

Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attended the meeting on the sufficient supply of fuel and efficient consumption.

Pyithu Hluttaw continues for third day

The Pyithu Hluttaw approved the establishment of the Bill Committee and the Public Accounts Com-

mittee, and the programmes to form the Hluttaw Rights Committee and the Government Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee, at its third day session.

Amyotha Hluttaw forms standing committees

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, and it established the Bill Committee, the Public Accounts Committee, the Hluttaw Rights Committee and the Government Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee.

26 March

Full-dress rehearsal of the parade inspected

State Security and Peace Commission Vice-Chairman and Defence Services Deputy Commander-in-Chief Vice-Senior General Soe Win inspected the full-dress rehearsal of the parade columns, which will participate in the parade of the 81st Anniversary of Armed Forces Day on 27 March 2026, at the Nay Pyi Taw Parade Ground.

27 March

Outstanding individuals honoured

The Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar conferred the Thura Title, Gallantry Medal and Ye Bala Medal on the relevant individuals for their excellent performance in serving the defence and security duties of the State.

Dinner hosted to honour 81st Anniversary of Armed Forces Day 2026

As a gesture of honouring the 81st Anniversary of Armed Forces Day 2026, Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla hosted a dinner at the square of Zeyathiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw.

Respect paid to retired senior Tatmadaw officers

Families of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) paid respect to retired senior Tatmadaw officers who had served Tatmadaw and who will attend the parade of the 81st Anniversary of Armed Forces Day, which falls on 27 March, in Nay Pyi Taw.

Tatmadaw leaders pay respects to retired senior Tatmadaw officers

On behalf of the Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, State Security and Peace Commission Vice-Chairman and Defence Services Deputy Commander-in-Chief Vice-Senior General Soe Win and his wife Daw Than Than Nwe paid their respects to retired senior Tatmadaw officers and their wives, who were temporarily staying at Bayintnaung Villa in Nay Pyi Taw to attend the 81st Anniversary Armed Forces Day parade on 27 March 2026.

28 March

Armed Forces Day Parade observed

Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing delivered a speech at the parade to mark the 81st Anniversary of Armed Forces Day 2026 at the Nay Pyi Taw Parade Ground.

Vice-Senior General Soe Win meets Independence Mawgun Award winners

State Security and Peace Commission Vice-Chairman and Defence Services Deputy Commander-in-Chief Vice-Senior General Soe Win hosted a tea party for one Independence Mawgun Second Class Award winner and two Third Class Award winners, a total of three, who would attend the military parade to mark the 81st Anniversary of Armed Forces Day, at the Bayintnaung Villa in Nay Pyi Taw.

Tribute paid to fallen heroes

On behalf of State Security and Peace Commission Chairman and Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing, SSPC Vice-Chairman and Defence Services Deputy Commander-in-Chief Vice-Senior General Thiri Pyanchi Maha Thray Sithu Soe Win attended the ceremony to lay a wreath at the Memorial to Fallen Heroes (Nay Pyi Taw). — GNLM/TTA

MoFA Deputy Minister receives Brazilian Ambassador

DEPUTY Minister for Foreign Affairs U Naing Min Kyaw received Mr Gustavo Rocha de Menezes, Ambassador of the Federative Republic of Brazil to Myanmar, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

They cordially exchanged views on matters of the acceleration of existing friendly relations and mutually beneficial coop-

eration between Myanmar and Brazil, mutual interest, including trade and investment. Furthermore, the discussion focused on the enhancement of cooperation under the ASEAN-Brazil Sectoral Dialogue Partnership, the way forward for the promotion of cooperation between ASEAN and Brazil, and the strengthening of bilateral cooperation based on the principles enshrined in

the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC). Also present at the meeting were officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — MNA

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Naing Min Kyaw meets Brazilian Ambassador Mr Gustavo Rocha de Menezes at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.



ARTICLE

The Truth demonstrated by Statistical Evidence: Myanmar's Efforts to Combat Online Scam Operations

By Min Khant

The online scam and online gambling operations did not originate in Myanmar, but are transnational crimes that avaricious people from other countries have established themselves on the borders of some Southeast Asian countries, and are operating illegally. The criminals leading these transnational crimes are foreign nationals, using other nationals to commit crimes. They are linked to major crimes such as human trafficking, human smuggling, forced labour, money laundering, and arms smuggling, threatening not only the region but also the entire world.

In Myanmar, online scam operations gangs have infiltrated the area where the government's administrative machinery has not yet functioned properly, but some armed insurgent groups have operated. Then, the related crimes, including online fraud, have emerged. Hence, the government has not viewed this issue as a simple crime, but has decisively suppressed it. It has been evidenced by the number of cases arrested, the number of foreign nationals involved, the number of Myanmar citizens who illegally cooperated, and the amount of related equipment seized.

The government has taken the fight against online fraud and online gambling, which pose a threat to Myanmar and the world, as a national responsibility, and is vigorously and decisively suppressing it, while also reporting publicly on the actions taken.

This is done in accordance with the law to protect the future younger generation of the country from crime and to fully safeguard the lives and property of the people. It is also a matter of responsibility and accountability to cooperate with neighbouring countries to prevent the spread of cross-border crimes across international borders through Myanmar.

Like a military operation, the government is cracking down on the online fraud and online gambling being operated by online scam operation gangs, which have infiltrated the armed insur-



This photo shows the demolition of the building used to commit telecom fraud and online gambling in the KK Park area.

gents-controlled areas where the government's administrative mechanism is not fully functioning.

In order to eradicate online fraud in border areas and prevent it from spreading domestically, the 'The Central Supervisory Committee on Combatting Telecom Fraud and Online Gambling' and the 'Anti-Scam Centre (ASC)' have been established. They are carrying out tasks such as drafting standard operating procedures for combatting and suppressing online fraud, handing over illegal foreign immigrants involved in the online fraud to their home countries, taking effective and harsh action against the main offenders at home and abroad, and cooperating with the international community.

We have seen and heard that the dollar-seeking pessimist media outlets opposing the government and turning a blind eye to these activities are spreading fake news and misinformation to tarnish the reputation of the government's efforts to eradicate online scam operations, and to mislead the public and the international community.

Citing a 2024 report by the United States Institute of Peace (USIP), the pessimist media coverage exaggerated the baseless allegations accusing that Myan-

mar is a major hub for online criminal gangs in order to mislead the public.

Although social media platforms have spread misinformation alleging that online money fraud criminal gangs are still operating in Myanmar, we would like to affirm that the government, in reality, is not turning a blind eye to these issues or is not involved in them from behind the scenes. Even the USIP organization has officially recognized that the Myanmar government has been eradicating the online scam operation gangs in northern Shan State since 2023.

In addition, the government has publicly announced in a press release that harsh action will be taken without prejudice to anyone if any government officials are found to be involved in bribery in such cases. Since these heinous acts, which have caused great suffering not only to Chinese people but also to Myanmar people, are transnational in nature, the government is making every effort to identify and take action against such criminals.

To eradicate such a serious problem of online scam operations, the government is not only working by itself but also collaborating with neighbouring countries. In particular, in close cooperation with China's police force, the government success-

fully conducted a special operation called 'Operation Storm' during the period from late 2023 to 2024. It completely crushed hundreds of online scam operations in northern Shan State.

In order to effectively take legal action against the main offenders, Myanmar Police Force officials systematically handed them over to the Yunnan Provincial Police of the People's Republic of China, and thousands of people were safely handed over to their home countries.

Not only that, a special task force was formed among Myanmar, China, and Thailand. Then, an effective action plan was also drawn up, leading to a joint trilateral military operation during the period from 1 April 2023 to 16 June 2023. In addition, Myanmar is continuously working with international law enforcement organizations to combat online fraud cases. Therefore, today, Myanmar is internationally recognized as a country that is standing at the forefront of the global fight against online fraud crimes, alongside its neighbouring countries.

This recognition is due to the decisive actions of the Anti-Scam Centre, which, as per the continuous guidance of the Head of State, has conducted raids, arrests, and technolog-

ical control, with the cooperation between the Tatmadaw and the Myanmar Police Force, at locations of online scam operations across various towns and villages, including border areas, to combat online scam operations.

In terms of technological control, the government is taking measures such as blocking IP address related to online scam operations, freezing of thousands of bank accounts, anti-measures for cryptocurrency and advanced money laundering, raids based on location of unauthorized Internet Bandwidth, monitoring and seizing money flows through illegal money transfer (Hundi) networks, and blocking unauthorized satellite internet services used in border areas.

The Tatmadaw and Myanmar Police Force are rapidly carrying out a joint operation called Border Safety Operation against the online scam operation gangs that have been sheltered in the territory of the KNU terrorists. In particular, the buildings built to protect the online scam operations in the Myawady-Mae Htaw Tha Lay (KK Park) and Shwe Kokko areas were completely demolished with large machinery, and the photos and video files of the demolition have been broadcast internationally.

SEE PAGE 7

ARTICLE/NATIONAL

81st Armed Forces Day Reception held in Seoul, South Korea

THE 81st Anniversary of Armed Forces Day reception was held on the evening of 26 March at the Mondrian Seoul Itaewon in Seoul. It was jointly organized by the Myanmar Embassy and the Office of the Myanmar Military Attaché (Army, Navy and Air) in Seoul, according to a statement from the embassy.

The ceremony proceeded according to the following programme: national anthem; a one-minute moment of silence was observed to mark the first anniversary of the major Mandalay earthquake that occurred on 28 March 2025; commemorative speeches were delivered by Charge d'Affaires/Ambassador Wunna Kyaw Htin U Myo Myint Maung and Brig-Gen Wint Thu, Military Attaché; a documentary video honouring Armed Forces Day was screened; certificates of honour were pre-

sented to those who contributed to the success of the ceremony; the cutting of a commemorative cake and a group photo session; and guests were treated to a dinner featuring traditional Myanmar delicacies.

Approximately 260 guests attended the event, including

ambassadors from Belarus, Laos, the Philippines, and Singapore, foreign military attachés and diplomats, officials from the ASEAN-Korea Centre, and business leaders and representatives from organizations collaborating with Myanmar. — Htun Htun/ZN



This photo captures the Myanmar charge d'affaires/ambassador, the Myanmar military attaché, and foreign military attachés with their spouses at the Armed Forces Day reception.

Sitagu Sayadaw marks Mandalay quake anniversary with Samvega discourse



This image shows Sitagu Sayadaw delivering the Samvega discourse.

A merit-making ceremony and a spiritual urgency (Samvega) discourse by the Sitagu Sayadaw were held on 28 March to commemorate the first anniversary of the Mandalay earthquake.

Under the auspices of the Sagaing Region Government, the event was organized and the ceremony took place on the morning of 28 March at the Dhamma Hall of the ancient Yaddana Zedi Sinmya Shin Pagoda in Sagaing.

The ceremony was graced

by the presence of the Sitagu Sayadaw, who delivered a discourse on spiritual urgency and the nature of impermanence to the audience.

During the ceremony, participants shared the accumulated merit with those who were affected or lost their lives due to the earthquake disaster. Additionally, officials from the Sagaing Region Government offered various religious alms and donations to the monks, led by the Sitagu Sayadaw. — MT/ZN

FROM PAGE 6

This is irrefutable evidence of the rapid demolition and removal records by the government through joint military operations. In the Myawady-Mae Htaung Tha Lay (KK Park) area, 635 illegal buildings used for criminal activities had been completely demolished, using state-of-the-art technology and legal authority.

Following such a decisive crackdown, foreign nationals exploited by online scam operation gangs are being systematically transferred to their home countries in accordance with existing laws and procedures, based on humanitarian considerations and friendly relations between the countries.

According to the testimonies of foreigners rescued in Kayin State, they were trafficked through routes such as entering Thailand by air and being transported from Bangkok to Mae Sot by vehicle/plane, illegally crossing the Thaungyin River through Mae Sot and being transported to companies in Myawady, Kayin State. They also arrived at Yangon International Airport in Myanmar with different visa types and were transported by vehicle to companies in Myawady, Kayin State. Although relevant embassies were asked for help by pre-



According to field investigations, the real truth is that Myanmar did not create the online fraud operations itself, but rather foreign criminal gangs took advantage of the instability in the border region to establish a safe haven. The Myanmar government has not officially granted the members of the online scam operation gangs, nor has it accepted them as guests, and is demonstrating to the world that it has eradicated them through military operations like 'Operation Storm' and the 'Border Safety Operation'. We would like to clearly inform the international community that Myanmar is not a centre for the online scam operations, as pessimists accuse, but rather "a fighter against the encroachments by evil doers".



senting their citizens as victims of human trafficking, some of them are not victims of human trafficking but rather people who come to work for their own benefit.

From 5 October 2023 to 24 March 2026, the government took action against online fraud and online gambling sites, including those who illegally entered Myanmar, and handed 71,975 foreigners involved in online scam operations over to their home countries in accordance with procedures.

Just as foreign nationals are being transferred to their home countries on humanitarian grounds, Myanmar citizens who are involved in online fraud and gambling are being effectively

prosecuted in accordance with existing laws to eradicate the issue of online scam operations. The arrested local offenders are being prosecuted and taken harsh legal actions under relevant sections of the Electronic Transactions Law and the Gambling Act.

In fact, solid evidence clearly shows that those involved in the online scam operations manipulated by avaricious foreigners are ethnic armed terrorist organizations. In particular, the KNU, a terrorist organization, has provided a safe haven to illegal criminals in the areas they control, allowing them to operate online money fraud operations for their own benefit. The story of the

online scam operations in Kayin State begins with the fact that the illegal land lease agreement was signed by the KNU Finance Committee in charge, Pado Kwe Htoo Win (current chairman), and the second witness, Pado Saw Roger Khin, personally signed the agreement, clearly proving their unjust actions for their own benefit.

According to field investigations, the real truth is that Myanmar did not create the online fraud operations itself, but rather foreign criminal gangs took advantage of the instability in the border region to establish a safe haven. The Myanmar government has not officially granted the members

of the online scam operation gangs, nor has it accepted them as guests, and is demonstrating to the world that it has eradicated them through military operations like 'Operation Storm' and the 'Border Safety Operation'. We would like to clearly inform the international community that Myanmar is not a centre for the online scam operations, as pessimists accuse, but rather "a fighter against the encroachments by evil doers".

The Myanmar government's decisive crackdown on online scam operations is an undeniable reality that no one can deny. The statistics of tens of thousands of arrests and the solid record of systematic transfers to neighbouring countries strongly demonstrate the strong endeavours of the government.

Accordingly, the government will continue to stand firmly at the forefront of the global war against cybercrime and make efforts to combat it as a national responsibility. We urge the international community to actively cooperate with Myanmar's efforts to combat the online fraud operations, which is proven by facts and figures, rather than one-sided criticism of these achievements from a mistaken perspective.

OPINION

BOOKRACK POEM

Analyze economic opportunities in the multipolar world

EVERYONE must recognize that technology serves as a fundamental battlefield in the competitive landscape of the multipolar world. Because of these characteristics, everyone knows all countries across the world are actively working to not only develop but also enhance their domestic technological capabilities.

In this regard, stakeholders in the economic sector of Myanmar need to notice that dependence on foreign technologies must be reduced by supporting research, innovation, and investment in infrastructure, while cybersecurity and data protection can also be strengthened. It is necessary for all stakeholders to strive to keep pace with international technological standards and advancements.

Moreover, energy and resource security are additional issues that require careful consideration. The ability to access and utilize energy, water, and rare minerals is crucial for the long-term stability of the nation. As such, businesspeople at home and abroad must be invited to put investments in renewable energy, nuclear power, and

other diverse energy sources. As a precaution against potential disruptions caused by geopolitics, it is also necessary to ensure the security of rare minerals and food supplies.

When planning the country's sustainable development programmes, everyone must coordinate and implement them in a balanced manner across different sectors such as economic, security, and technological ones. In particular, Myanmar needs to make reforms to align with the changing global order (New World Order) in the economic sector.

People must reduce excessive dependence on a single market, expand trade relations across regions, and promote regional economic integration to minimize potential losses caused by global disruptions. They must also strengthen regional supply chains. Priority should be given to putting investments in the sectors critical to national interests and economic security, such as food security,

energy, and technology. Moreover, it is noticeable that technology and digital ownership are also key sectors that require significant investment. In particular, artificial intelligence (AI), semiconductors, and cybersecurity are the technological fields that will play decisive roles in the future.

Amid changing international conditions, Myanmar also faces numerous challenges as well as opportunities. It is necessary to place emphasis that the Myanmar government has been systematically carrying out efforts to maintain internal peace, sustain the flourishing of democracy, and implement transformative reforms. While one side works to ensure political stability, the other side is working to advance economic development. At the same time, plans are underway to link economic progress with social development, promoting greater unity and social cohesion within Myanmar society.



Book Title	-	Model Essays for IELTS
Author	-	Maung Maung Myint Thein (RIT)
Publishing House	-	GENIUS
Publication Date	-	March 2026 (1 st Edition)
Price	-	K12,000

Model Essays For IELTS

“MODEL Essays For IELTS” by Maung Maung Myint Thein (RIT) is a book published as Volume 5 by GENIUS Publishing House, which continuously publishes academic books. As an English Language Trainer, he has also collaborated with members of the MMT Translation Group to present essays in both the English Language and the Myanmar Language in this book.

In the preface, it reads ...I have been teaching IELTS for many years. Through both individual and classroom teaching, I have come to understand the difficulties students face. Therefore, I began writing the book Preparation for IELTS, and I felt pleased to hear that it has been very beneficial for students. After that, I also wrote Vocabulary for IELTS (Volume I and Volume II) and IELTS essays. These works are based on my teaching experience and my efforts to share my knowledge.

For most of the IELTS candidates, Academic Writing is more difficult than

other skills, such as Reading, Speaking, and Listening. IELTS Task 2 is an essay type, and it requires you to write an essay of at least 250 words within 40 minutes. Students who prepare and practice in advance can achieve high band scores without much difficulty. When examining the essay questions, we can see various question types based on different topics.

The students have to write an IELTS Essay presenting academic writing skills regarding giving their opinions, arguments, advantages, and disadvantages for one case. The topics are modern, and the background knowledge of candidates can affect the difficulty of the questions.

One major mistake that students make in essay writing is overloading their essays with too many facts and excessive arguments. In reality, essays should be based on how well ideas and writing are coherent and aligned. Writing complex sentences effectively can increase the chances of

achieving a higher score. Students need to study different types of essay responses, practice regularly, and become familiar with writing. Reading the resources extensively and learning vocabulary are essential for improving writing skills. Guidance from teachers combined with practice is found to be more effective.

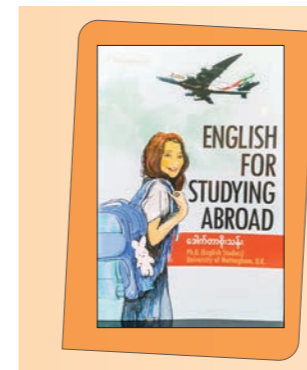
The first paragraph of the essay “Biodiversity” is presented as a sample.

The importance of biodiversity is being more widely recognized as increasing numbers of species come under threat.

What can be done to maintain biodiversity?

Biodiversity

In recent years, there has been growing awareness of the importance of preserving the world's biological diversity. As increasing numbers of unique, and potentially useful, plants and animals come under threat, people are beginning to ask whether more can be done to reverse this trend.



Book Title	-	English for Studying Abroad
Author	-	Dr Soe Than, PhD (English Studies), University of Nottingham, the UK
Publishing House	-	Seikku Cho Cho
Publication Date	-	January 2026 (1 st Edition)
Price	-	K9,000

English for Studying Abroad

THIS week's pick is an education guidebook for students and young people, referring to the sentiment that makes this book a trustworthy companion when you navigate your new life, follow your dream and achieve life goals. This book, titled English for Studying Abroad, is written by Dr Soe Than, PhD (English Studies), University of Nottingham, the UK, a teacher renowned for English language instruction among students.

This book is intended for students preparing to pursue their studies at a university in an English-speaking country. As English is essential for basic needs such as adapting to dormitory life and getting along with roommates, ordering food, asking for directions, participating in study groups, and socializing with friends.

This book will offer practical English use to international students to overcome difficulties, build confidence and feel comfortable in their new environment.

The book contains 10 chapters: On Campus, Off Campus, Health and Well-being,

Social Life, Practical Matters, Cultural Adjustment, Academic Integration, Language Development, Employment Opportunities and Post-Graduation Planning.

This book is written for Myanmar high school graduates preparing to study at a university in an English-speaking country. While English classes prepare you well for academic work, there are other challenges that you can encounter in daily life abroad. In the author's foreword, the author provides the following guidance: (1) Read aloud every day. Speaking English requires practice. Read each expression aloud repeatedly until it rolls off your tongue naturally. (2) Study according to the situation. Focus on the chapters most relevant to your immediate needs. For example, if you are about to move into a dorm, first master the expressions from that chapter.

(3) Practice with friends. Find a practice partner and practice conversations together. You can build confidence before facing real situations. (4) Remember key phrases. You

don't need to memorize everything. But you should remember the most important expressions from each chapter so they come to mind automatically when needed. (5) Prepare and make it your own. Use these phrases as templates. You can substitute words to fit your own situation. (6) Review regularly. Even after you move forward, revisit earlier chapters. Repeated review strengthens your proficiency.

What is the most important thing? “Don't forget that making mistakes is also part of learning. Native English speakers will appreciate you for making efforts to communicate in their language. With each attempt to speak, you will surely gain more confidence. I wish you great success in your studies abroad, the author mentioned.

“The author expresses his aspiration that May this book be a trustworthy companion and unfailing guide for you to actualize your full potential and bring your dreams to fruition.”



Noble Victory of Myanmar Conquest

By Mya Thae (Research)

Eminent criterion is the place of birth.
Independent Shwe Myanmar Country is our heart.
Independence Day is twenty-seven March.
On that day, the army was marching to a general who held a grand military review.
The audience also wants to see the victory celebration renewed.

All of them give a salute to the Myanmar Country Flag delightfully.
They play Myanmar drums and brass gongs for martial music, likely.
Damsels welcome the soldiers with Aung Thapayay nicely.
They search for their lovers by waving a handkerchief widely.
They find their lovers finally.
In honour of Myanmar Tatmadaw Day

Ref: Mya Thet Mu (Vocalist)
Shwe Myaing Thapayay Nyo and her daughter (Home

Whispers of Summer

By Min Min Zan

The chirping birds sing softly in the trees,
A gentle song that dances with the breeze.
Their melodies announce the summer near,
A season bright that everyone holds dear.
In every note, warm sunlight seems to stay,
Proclaiming summer's joyful, golden day.



World Poetry Day (21 March 2026)


By Myat Soe (Institute of Medicine I)
Translated by Myint Zan

born from the heart
phrases and words
they beautify and are
inscribed for the record
'tis poetry
Translated on 26 March 2026.

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ကမ္ဘာ့ကဗျာနေ့

နှလုံးသားကပေါက်ဖွား
စာ, စကားလုံးလေးတွေနဲ့
အလှဆင် ကမ္ဘာ့စာတင်တာ
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မြတ်နိုး (ဆေး-၁)



NATIONAL Entertainment

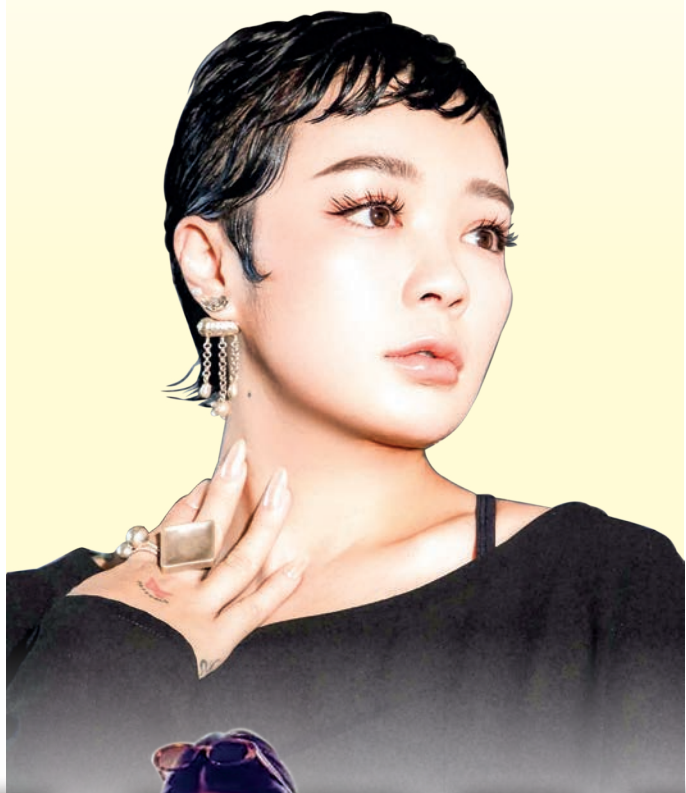


Maung Myo Min
(Yindwin Phyt)

DIRECTOR Maung Myo Min spoke out regarding scam cases in which fraudsters used the names of famous actors from the charity performance of the play 'The Day Rose Will Bloom'. He remarked, "This is extremely low-class behaviour like cheating people for money. It's even worse than online scam gangs. They seem ready to exploit anyone at any time just to make money."

Phway Phway

ACADEMY Phway Phway is currently starring as 'Khin Taya' in the film Black Sheep, which screened on 27 March. Regarding the praise she received from senior actress Academy Myo Thanda Htun, she posted, "Hearing such rare and heartfelt words from someone I deeply respect and admire gives me strength to move forward. I will cherish this in my heart forever. Thank you so much."



Myo Gyi

ROCK singer Myo Gyi, who entered the music industry in 1997 with his solo album 'Kyauksar Myar', held a special concert to celebrate his 50th birthday, together with the Iron Cross Band. Songwriter San Pee, who attended the concert, commented, "More than 10 years ago, I attended the '90 mins' shows performed by Lay Phyu and Myo Gyi. This is my first time attending again since then. It was memorable to hear the songs I wrote, 'Min Shitae Myo' and 'Eait Mat Myit', presented successively. May God continue to bless him."

To commemorate the 90th birthday (Navarat Jubilee) of legendary singer Sithu Daw Tin Tin Mya, a grand musical concert titled 'Nawarat Koe Thwal Hte Ka Mya' will be held.

The press conference of the concert was held at Karaweik Hall in Yangon on 26 March.

The concert is mixed with artistes from the music, movie and theatrical fields, such as Mega Show, and those who love Myanmar traditional music will surely love it.

"In 1885, the British colonized Myanmar and enslaved an entire nation. They took many things, but there was one thing they could not take, which was Myanmar music. They could not dominate it. Many heroes preserved and protected our music. Among those we honour is Daw Tin Tin Mya, who has lived a long life with virtue and is one of the prominent figures who safeguarded national music. Honouring her means honouring our national music and expressing gratitude. I deeply respect and commend all those, led by Academy Maung Myo Min, who organized this event, and I thank the younger generation as well," said script writer and director Academy Nyein Min.

Legendary songstress Tin Tin Mya to mark 90th birthday with concert

CELEBRITY BRIEF



Aung Zabau

TRADITIONAL theatrical actor Aung Zabau will star in the series 'Chitthaw Mahayathi', produced by CANAL+. The series will be directed in two parts by directors Nora Ko and Htut Tin Htut. The cast includes Aung Zabau, Nae Thit Aye Aung, Sit Min Htet, May Mi Ko Ko, Wint Yamone Naing, Shwe Eain Min, JK Sophia, and child actor Mo Gyi. The media launch event was held on 26 March at the Pan Pacific Hotel in Yangon.



Yoon Waddy Lwin Moe

ACTRESS Yoon Waddy Lwin Moe attended the special screening of the film Black Sheep, which portrays a father's love, together with her father. She tearfully told the media, "I am very lucky to have a father like mine. While others may be watching an actor, I'm watching my own father, and it feels like he's speaking directly to me. I felt like I was in Ma Phway's place."

Nan Su Yati Soe

ACTRESS and singer Nan Su



Yati Soe released a new music video on 27 March. The song, titled Standard, is dedicated to those who love with their own standards. The music video features Hlwan Paing, too, along with the actress. — Htun Htun/KTZH



The concert is produced by Power New Active Production, led by Daw Khaing Khaing Aung, with Hlaing Myat Soe serving as production manager. Academy Award-winning Diramoe and Han Htoo Zin are serving as music directors.

The event is directed by Maung Myo Min (Yindwin Phyt), with associate director Thant Zin (EC) and director Aung Kyaw Tun (Tawagu Opera). Performers will include academy Yan Aung, Nay Toe, Kyaw Kyaw Bo, Tun Tun, and Ye Lay, along with A Linn Yaung, Ye Htike, Moe Htet Myint, Min Bhone Myat, Hein Tay Za, Aung Zabau, Sam Yae Moe, and many singers such as Tin Tin Mya, Htar, Al Tin Tin Hla, Nwe Yin Win, Yi Yi Thant, Hnin Yi Thant, Shwe Yamin Oo, Thuzar Aung, Sein Lei Lei, Win Lei Cherry, Ei Ei Choon, Hon-ey, May Thet Htar Swe, Aye Mya Phyu, Mae Chit Thet, Myo Thandar Htun, Moe Yu San, Phu Sone, Cindy Myat, along with students from 3H Art Academy. — Htun Htun/KTZH

SME agri-business course launched to boost entrepreneurs

MISS Agripreneur will conduct course packages related to Agri-Value Added Products & SME Business in April to help farmers and entrepreneurs be equipped with technical skills to incorporate a business mindset and operate a business enterprise.

Miss Agripreneur, an agricultural-related opportunity hub centre on an online platform for Myanmar's farmers and agri youths, will offer these course packages to share recipes of nine products per package and provide a good opportunity for processors to produce and sell value-added products when basic food commodity prices are rising. Moreover, it will enable them to set up a robust MSME to develop essential business skills to turn farm produce into a value-added product of the sustainable and competitive enterprise and to yield higher profits.

The course will be taught by a specialist, Daw Saint Yee Htet, Founder of the Global Food Safety Institute, who has extensive international experience in the food business sector and SME



Fermented bean paste produced from Anya and fermented bean paste making business in Anya.

consultation.

The course will provide practical guidance on transforming agricultural raw materials into value-added products, developing food SME business ideas that can be started from home on a small scale to commercial production and practical instruction on production techniques as well as applicable business

mindsets. One course package will include detailed instructions on nine products.

Package 1 covering value-added processing for boiled chickpeas, Poneyaygyi (fermented bean paste), tofu, roasted chickpeas, fried bean flakes, peanut snack stick, peanut oil, fermented soybean cake, and snacks made from fermented

soybean cake will be offered from 7 pm to 9 pm on 6-8 April via Zoom application. The Package 2 will share how to run a food business from home by making curry paste powder, dried curry paste, pounded Ngapi (fish paste), fried soy sauce, fried dried fish, fried tamarind/roselle, fried dried shrimp, tomato paste and tomato sauce

from 7 pm to 9 pm on 20-22 April.

Package 3 to produce Fermentation & Pickles Products, including fermented bamboo shoot, pickled mustard greens, kimchi, various pickled vegetables, pickled cucumber, pickled onion, wet/dry fermented soybeans, sour fish, and Ngapi (fish paste), is scheduled to take place from 7 pm to 9 pm on 27-29 April.

Those first 20 participants will benefit from early registration with a special price of K79,000 for a single package, whereas the regular price is K89,000. Two packages combined will cost K178,000, and early applicants can attend with a special price of K149,000. Meanwhile, All-in-One (all three packages) totalled K219,000, covering a total of 27 products.

The training will be conducted via Zoom, with recorded videos made available for viewing in a Telegram group for one full year. Those wishing to register can do so by sending the name of the desired package to the Miss Agripreneur page messenger. — NN/KK

DICA delists Myanmar MMT Jade Co Ltd from blacklist

THE Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) removed Myanmar MMT Jade Co Ltd from the blacklist.

That company was blacklisted for having fraudulent or inaccurate office addresses registered in the MyCO system upon a report forwarded by the Bureau of Special Investigation. DICA has already notified that the registrar will publicly declare the deny list and weak compliance matters on the DICA's website if companies registered on the online registry system, MyCO, fail to comply with the existing law, rules and bylaws of the government institutions concerned and provisions stipulated in the Myanmar Companies Law.

In early December 2025, DICA declared blacklisting of 25 companies for fraudulent ad-



The facade view of the DICA office in Yangon.

resses for registration until the end of the 2026-2027 financial year.

These 25 companies were flagged for an unauthorized address because they are no longer at the registered address on the MyCO submitted by the relevant ministries: the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Bureau of Special Investigation, and the Internal Revenue Department. One was referred by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 13 by the Bureau of Special Investigation, and 11 by the Internal Revenue Department. — NN/KK

GRGI factory offers feed meal, rice bran for sale via sealed tender

GRGI factory will sell feed meal and rice bran through a sealed tender system. Qualified companies are invited to submit a tender by 2 April.

The GRGI factory, located at 2-A, 1/16 G, 8th Floor, East Horse Race Course Road, Manaung Ward, Tamway Township, Yangon Region, will sell feed meal, mixed concentrate (feed meal), and rice bran through a tender system periodically. Entrepreneurs from the company are invited to submit sealed tenders.

The sealed tender form, designated envelope, and tender regulations can be obtained at the head office between 24 March and 2

April by providing the required documents.

Sealed tenders must be submitted to the GRGI Tender Box by 5 pm on 2 April 2026.

Copies of the company registration certificate must accompany tender applications, the company's updated extract, the company's bank statement, the municipal business licence, the applicant's national registration card, and the bank slip showing the deposit of K10 million.

For further details, individuals can enquire through the Tender Committee at 09 5078091 and 09 425308385. — NN/KK

ECONOMY WORLD

Shipping costs surge as Gulf conflict adds 340 mln euros per day to industry



Aerial photo taken on 29 July 2022 shows a Maersk container vessel departing from the Qianwan Container Terminal in Qingdao Port, east China's Shandong Province. **PHOTO: LI ZIHENG/XINHUA/FILE**

AS 99 per cent of the global fleet is still powered by fossil fuels, it said, the industry is "directly exposed" to fuel price volatility and supply disruptions.

Tensions around the Strait of Hormuz are pushing up costs across the global shipping industry, with companies facing an additional 340 million euros (US\$393 million) in daily fuel expenses, transport and environment, a European clean transport advocacy group, said Friday.

Shipping firms have incurred more than 4.6 billion euros in extra fuel costs since 28 February, when the United States and Israel started massive attacks on Iran, the group said in a report.

Marine fuel prices have surged sharply, it said, with very low sulphur fuel oil climbing to 941 euros per tonne in Singapore, up 223 per cent since the start of 2026. Liquefied natural gas prices have also risen by 72 per cent since early March, further increasing

operating costs for shipowners.

As 99 per cent of the global fleet is still powered by fossil fuels, it said, the industry is "directly exposed" to fuel price volatility and supply disruptions.

"Chaos in the Strait of Hormuz is putting global maritime trade under the spotlight, but its most immediate impact is on oil markets," said Eloi Norde, the organization's shipping policy officer. "The war is costing the industry millions every day." — Xinhua

Thailand secures safe Hormuz Strait passage for vessels

THAILAND has successfully secured safe passage for its oil tankers through the Strait of Hormuz following diplomatic



Ships traverse the Strait of Hormuz, a critical chokepoint for nearly 20 per cent of global oil shipments. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/X**

coordination with regional partners, helping ease concerns over potential energy supply disruptions amid the ongoing tensions in the Middle East, according to the government's public relations department.

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), Thailand has engaged in direct diplomatic communication to clarify that Thai vessels are not involved in the conflict since the Thai cargo ship Mayuree Naree came under attack on 11 March while sailing in the Strait of Hormuz, leaving three crew members unaccounted for. — Xinhua



XtalPi, leveraging AI to facilitate drug discovery for global biopharmaceutical firms, made multiple commercial progress last year. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IAGE/ BIOPHARMAAPAC**

Chinese AI firms start to crack profit code in niche markets

WHILE Silicon Valley chases artificial general intelligence with billion-dollar training runs, a burgeoning crop of Chinese AI firms has been achieving what the entire industry is striving for: sustainable profitability in specialized markets.

Thanks to China's industrial scale and market volume, these notoriously R&D-heavy tech ventures are now cashing in on their early commercial viability.

A financial report this week brought an encouraging glimpse into the momentum. XtalPi, an AI drug discovery company listed in Hong Kong, turned a profit of 134.6 million yuan (approximately US\$19.5 million) in 2025,

following a loss of 1.5 billion yuan the year before. This turnaround occurred even as the tech firm increased its R&D expenditure by approximately 36 per cent. Such a success serves as a microcosm of China's broader strategy in the global tech race: rapidly integrating AI with its robust industrial base to capture premium advantages in specialized sectors.

XtalPi, leveraging AI to facilitate drug discovery for global biopharmaceutical firms, made multiple commercial progress last year, including advancing targeted cancer therapies and pediatric disease treatments into clinical trials. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Malaysia considers nuclear energy amid energy disruptions

MALAYSIA is undertaking a comprehensive assessment of its potential nuclear energy programme, covering policy development, legal and regulatory frameworks, project feasibility, industry participation, stakeholder engagement and human capital development, Deputy Prime Minister Fadillah Yusof said on Friday.

The move to explore nuclear energy for electricity generation is a strategic effort to strengthen long-term energy security while supporting the nation's clean energy transition, Fadillah, who is also minister of energy transition and water transformation, said in a statement.

"The need to evaluate the feasibility of nuclear energy is increasingly relevant amid a changing global energy landscape shaped by geopolitical uncertainties and fluctuations in fuel supply and prices," he said. "In this context, nuclear energy offers stable, low-carbon baseload power and can reduce dependence on fossil fuels," he said, adding that Malaysia's interest in nuclear energy is in line with regional trends. — Xinhua

South Africa, China seek stronger trade ties amid global uncertainty, says expert

SOUTH Africa and China are seeking to expand bilateral trade amid global uncertainty, a senior China-Africa researcher has said. The remarks followed the China-South Africa Economic and Trade Forum held on Friday in Cape Town, which brought together government officials, business leaders and trade representatives to explore closer cooperation

in investment and industry partnerships.

Cobus van Staden, a senior researcher at the South African Institute of International Affairs, said the forum serves as an important platform to deepen economic and political ties and advance practical, mutually beneficial trade arrangements.

“Both sides are interested in expanding trade

relations amid ongoing international uncertainty,” he said. “Trade has become strategically important for both sides.” Van Staden said agriculture, green energy, automotive manufacturing and minerals are key areas of cooperation, as the two countries navigate rising tariffs and geopolitical tensions, including the conflict in the Middle East. — Xinhua



An aerial drone photo taken on 2 December 2025 shows container ships berthing at the Meishan port area of the Ningbo-Zhoushan Port in east China's Zhejiang Province. PHOTO: WENG XINYANG/XINHUA/FILE

Japan firm launches orange-flavoured juice without oranges amid rising costs

IN the face of rising import costs due partly to the poor crop of oranges globally, Japanese food and beverage maker Kagome Co has launched an orange-flavoured juice without actually using the fruit.

After roughly two years of development, the orange taste was replicated by using the company's unique technology, combining ingredients including yellow carrots grown in New Zealand and apples, the manufacturer said.

In recent years, orange prices have surged in Japan, which relies largely on imports, as poor harvests in major producing countries such as Brazil coincided with a weaker yen, leading to suspended sales of orange juice.

According to trade data, the import price of orange juice stood at about 980 yen (\$6.1) per litre in 2025, nearly four times that of 2020. The new product, called Beyond, was introduced earlier this month to supermarkets and convenience stores across the country as a 100 per cent vegetable and fruit juice. It comes in a 195-millilitre box and costs around 140 yen. — Kyodo



Yellow carrots used in the juice have a natural sweetness, while apples were added to enhance the sweet taste. PHOTO: KYODO

Sri Lanka to begin pilot for smart railway ticketing system

SRI Lanka Railways is set to launch a pilot programme for a smart ticketing system in April, a step towards modernizing passenger services and reducing reliance on paper-based ticketing. The initiative follows the introduction of an online train ticket booking facility under the ongoing sector reform programme. The new system is intended to replace paper tickets with a digital alternative supported by validation equipment at railway stations.

The pilot programme will be carried out over several days on the Kelani Valley line, covering the Narahenpita, Nugegoda, Makumbura, Homagama, and Padukka stations. Officials said the pilot phase will be used to identify operational and technical issues before expanding the system. Following this stage, the digital ticketing system is expected to be introduced across all stations on the Kelani Valley line and later extended to other railway lines. — Xinhua

Brunei targets over 2 mln air passengers by 2030

BRUNEI is aiming to increase passenger traffic at Brunei International Airport to more than two million passengers and handle 38,000 tonnes of air cargo by 2030, local media reported on Friday.

According to the Borneo Bulletin, Pengiran Shamhary Pengiran Haji Mustapha, minister of Transport and Information, said on Thursday that the targets are outlined in the ministry's strategic plans to

strengthen the country's aviation sector.

He noted that the initiative is part of broader efforts to enhance connectivity, improve logistics capabilities and support economic growth through the aviation industry.

Pengiran Shamhary also said Brunei is exploring the possibility of establishing a low-cost carrier to operate at Brunei International Airport. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC SHENZHEN VOY.NO. (610W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MCC SHENZHEN VOY.NO. (610W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29-3-2026 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/MIP where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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 MAERSK A/S

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MCL 4 VOY.NO. (SSL001)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MCL 4 VOY. NO. (SSL001) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29-3-2026 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 SUPER LIGHT LOGISTICS COMPANY LIMITED

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS DIGEST

MARCH 28

Pope denounces widening gap between the rich and poor

POPE Leo XIV on Saturday decried the growing divide between rich and poor during a visit to Monaco, marking his first trip to Western Europe.

Greeted by Prince Albert II and Princess Charlene, the American pontiff called inequality a "structure of sin" and urged that wealth serve law, justice, and peace.

Bells rang across Monaco as crowds waved Vatican and Monegasque flags. The

pope's itinerary included visits to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and Saint Devota's Church, culminating in an open-air mass for 15,000 people.

His speeches will address peace, environmental stewardship, and protection of life. Prince Albert hailed the visit as "a powerful sign" of Monaco's importance in promoting faith and global solidarity. — AFP



This photo taken and handout on 17 January 2026 by The Vatican Media shows Pope Leo XIV exchanging gifts with Prince Albert II of Monaco during their meeting in The Vatican. PHOTO: MARIO TOMASSETTI / VATICAN MEDIA / AFP/FILE

MARCH 27

China empowers Global South's sovereign AI

AI emerged as the primary focus of the Boao Forum for Asia annual conference, evidenced by the high attendance at related subforums and the inclusion of robotic moderators and performers.

Discussions prioritized global inclusion to prevent technological divides, with Sam Daws of Oxford University noting that China's open-source ecosystem significantly lowers entry barriers for the Global South.

China's provision of low-cost, integrated full-stack solutions is seen as a key enabler for sovereign AI development in developing nations.

Experts cautioned that without intervention, the concentration of AI talent in advanced economies threatens to entrench technological dependency and widen global inequalities.

Xue Lan of Tsinghua University emphasized that China's open-source models contribute significantly to universal access to AI technologies worldwide. — Xinhua

MARCH 26

Bangladesh celebrates 56th Independence Day

BANGLADESH celebrated its 56th Independence and National Day on Thursday. Bangladeshi President Mohammed Shahabuddin attended the Independence and National Day parade.

The ceremony was also attended by Prime Minister Tarique Rahman and other members of the cabinet, senior government and military officers, ambassadors of various countries, as well as Bangladeshi and foreign guests.

On 26 March every year, Bangladesh commemorates the country's declaration of independence in the early hours of 26 March 1971.

Wearing the red and green of the Bangladeshi flag, people of all ages and all walks of life also thronged the national memorial to pay respect to war heroes.

The national flag was hoisted atop all government and private buildings. Important buildings and structures have been illuminated. — Xinhua

MARCH 25

Shipping body calls for ways to help stranded ships

A Japanese shipping industry body said Wednesday it hopes the government will soon find ways to help dozens of ships stranded within the Persian Gulf, as the war in Iran drags on.

As a result of the strikes by the United States and Israel on Iran, which started about a month ago, 45 Japanese-related vessels are stranded in the gulf, as Iran has effectively blocked the Strait of Hormuz, the Japanese Shipowners' Association said.

"The situation is expected to worsen over time, and that increases the chances of ship crew members getting involved in problems," Hitoshi Nagasawa, the head of the association, said.

As vessels from countries such as India, Pakistan and Turkiye have reportedly passed through the strait, Nagasawa said that the association has asked the transport ministry to gather information on what can be done to allow Japanese ships to leave the gulf. — Kyodo

MARCH 24

Trump, Modi discuss keeping Strait of Hormuz open

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump on Tuesday spoke with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor informed of the development saying the two leaders discussed the ongoing situation in the Middle East, including the importance of keeping the Strait of Hormuz open. The ongoing conflict in West Asia has entered its fourth week, disrupting trade routes through the Strait of Hormuz.

Earlier, US President Donald Trump said the Strait of Hormuz, a vital global shipping route, will be "open very soon" amid the conflict in West Asia and suggested that he envisions it being managed jointly by the US and Iran. Trump said that the strait will be "open very soon" if ongoing negotiations with Tehran continue successfully.

He added that he and the newly appointed Supreme Leader of Iran, Mojtaba Khamenei, will "jointly" control the critical shipping and global energy route. — ANI

MARCH 23

New service automates municipal bear responses

A NEW service has been developed to automate municipal responses to bear sightings in Japan by combining artificial intelligence, drones and an app for residents, its developer said. NTT Docomo Business Inc said it will start selling the service in April, aiming to win adoption by more than 100 municipalities.

Cameras installed in areas where bears are suspected and drones capable of automated flights detect animals, while AI analyzes images.

If the system identifies a bear, it sends information to police and fire departments, and it notifies residents through a municipality's official app.

The company also plans to promote the service as being usable against other crop-damaging wildlife such as deer and boars. — Kyodo

MARCH 22

Musk launches project to make own AI chips

ELON MUSK announced a plan to make chips for artificial intelligence, robotics and data centres in space, in the latest bold project by the world's richest person.

The "Terafab", a manufacturing facility based near Austin, Texas, will aim to produce one terawatt of computing power per year, Musk said.

A terawatt is equivalent to one trillion watts. That is slightly less than the total power generation capacity of the United States.

Musk said the project would be run jointly by his electric-vehicle firm Tesla and his rocket company SpaceX.

He did not disclose the initial investment. Previous US media reports have put the figure between \$20 billion and \$25 billion. — AFP

SPORTS

Germany's Wirtz delivers statement display in Switzerland win

WEARING a shy smile, Florian Wirtz soaked in the applause at Basel's Saint Jakob Park.

Dozens of fans cheered the 22-year-old Liverpool forward as he reflected in post-match television interviews on his two goals and two assists, which helped Germany secure a 4-3 victory over Switzerland, its first win over the host nation in 18 years.

The outpouring of praise, hailing a world-class display, felt almost therapeutic for the Liverpool attacker after a difficult start following his move from Bayer Leverkusen last summer.

"He can benefit from a dif-

ficult situation. It shapes your personality as a young footballer when things don't always go in one direction," Germany coach Julian Nagelsmann said.

While international media lauded Wirtz's performance, Nagelsmann revealed he had held multiple discussions with his leading forward, who has struggled in the Premier League under the weight of a reported 125 million euro transfer fee.

"We grew closer over the months," Nagelsmann said. "He completely opened up. He is a very smart person, you get a lot of valuable responses." — Xinhua



Germany's midfielder (17) Florian Wirtz celebrates scoring his team's third goal with Germany's defender (22) David Raum during the international friendly football match between Switzerland and Germany at St Jakob-Park in Basel, Switzerland on 27 March 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

Myanmar to play two key international tournaments



Myanmar national football players are seen in the previous AFC Asian Cup Qualifier match. **PHOTO: SOE NYUNT THAW**

THE Myanmar national team will compete in two major international tournaments later this year, both at the ASEAN level.

The team will take part in the ASEAN Hyundai Cup from 24 July to 26 August and the FIFA ASEAN Cup from 21 September to 6 October. The ASEAN Hyundai Cup has been

held biennially since 1996 under different sponsorship names.

In the ASEAN Hyundai Cup, Myanmar have been drawn alongside Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines and Laos, and will play two home and two away matches in the group stage. Meanwhile, the FIFA ASEAN Cup will be

staged for the first time this year to promote regional football development, although its format has yet to be finalised.

Myanmar are currently competing in the AFC Asian Cup Qualifiers and will play their final group match against Pakistan away on 31 March. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Figure skating: Japan's Sakamoto ends career on high with 4th world title

JAPANESE figure skating star Kaori Sakamoto brought her competitive career to a triumphant end Friday by winning her fourth world championship.

The 25-year-old Milan Cortina



Japan's Kaori Sakamoto performs her free skate on the way to winning her fourth figure skating world championship in Prague on 27 March 2026. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Olympic silver medallist scored 158.97 for her free skate to total a personal-best 238.28 and top the podium in Prague ahead of Japanese teammate Mone Chiba in second place on 228.47.

Belgium's Nina Pinzarrone was third with 215.20 points, while Japan's Olympic bronze medallist Ami Nakai totalled 200.00 to finish ninth.

"I'm glad I was able to finish on such a high note," Sakamoto said. "This season was much tougher than I expected."

Sakamoto stepped onto the ice to a loud reception from the crowd and pumped her fists after completing a virtually flawless performance set to Edith Piaf's "Non, Je Ne Regrette Rien." — Kyodo

The AI-generated micro drama "Feng Shui Tian Shi" exploded in popularity, racking up over 100 million views on Douyin within just 12 hours of its release.

AI redefines China's booming micro drama industry



This undated photo shows the filming site of a micro drama at the Shanghai International Short Video Centre in Shanghai, east China. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Micro dramas are captivating global audiences with their fast-paced plots, yet the billionaires and deities whose mere smiles tug at countless heartstrings may not always be portrayed by human actors.

AI-generated micro drama "Feng Shui Tian Shi", meaning master of feng shui, has gone viral since its release last week, amassing over 100 million views within just 12 hours on Douyin, the Chinese version of TikTok.

"It looks so real. I didn't even realize it was AI-generated at first," one social media user commented, highlighting the content's striking lifelikeness.

The hit underscores AI's growing role in micro drama production and its potential to reshape the burgeoning industry.

According to DataEye, a leading

industry data platform, AI-generated comic-style micro dramas accounted for an estimated 16.8 billion yuan (about US\$2.44 billion) in market share in 2025, and over 10,000 such productions have been released monthly since the start

of 2026.

Behind these remarkable numbers lies the rapid advancement of AI technology. In the past, AI-generated images were often criticized as unnatural and inconsistent. Today, however, AI models

can produce videos with professional-level cinematography and lifelike characters, with the most advanced systems now achieving a usability rate of over 90 per cent for generated footage. — Xinhua



Heritage experts say revival of havelis is still possible, but only through neighbourhood level regeneration rather than isolated showpiece projects. **PHOTO: AFP**

Old Delhi's Mughal havelis: From noble glory to crumbling shadows

OLD Delhi's majestic Mughal-era havelis, once lavish homes of nobility with airy courtyards and carved sandstone arches, now teeter between revival and ruin. In the bustling walled city of Shahjahanabad, restored gems like the Kathika Cultural Centre shimmer with stained-glass light and rosewater scents, hosting

musicians in frescoed spaces that evoke lost grandeur.

Yet, narrow Chandni Chowk lanes reveal crumbling facades, sagging balconies, and abandoned shells overtaken by urban sprawl.

Challenges abound: fractured inheritances leave no one footing repair bills, while bureau-

Old Delhi's majestic Mughal-era havelis are caught in a delicate balance between restored grandeur and crumbling ruin as urban sprawl takes over.

cracy stifles progress.

Atul Khanna, Kathika's founder, calls for streamlined permits over subsidies. Haveli Dharampura thrives as a heritage hotel, but owners like Vidyun Goel stress the need for sustained support.

Residents like Ashok Mathur cling to ancestral havens amid decaying woodwork, mourning vanished communities. Experts urge neighbourhood-wide regeneration to preserve not just bricks, but intertwined crafts and traditions — before these living artworks fade forever. — AFP

Record 17.9M viewers watch Japan-Australia WBC game on Netflix

Around 85 per cent watched the WBC games on TV.

A total of 17.9 million people in Japan watched the World Baseball Classic game between Japan and Australia streamed on Netflix, surpassing the record for any anime, film or other sports programme for Japanese audiences, the company said Wednesday.

Around 85 per cent watched the WBC games on TV, compared with about 38 per cent on smartphones or tablets, according to Netflix, which had exclusive streaming rights in Japan. The Japan-South Korea matchup, with 17.86 million viewers, was the second most-streamed game, followed by the Japan-Venezuela clash, which drew 17.26 million. Japan defeated Australia and South Korea but was eliminated in the quarterfinals after an 8-5 loss to Venezuela. Iwate, the hometown of Los Angeles Dodgers two-way superstar Shohei Ohtani, and Kumamoto, where Chicago White Sox left-handed hitter Munetaka Murakami hails from, saw a higher share of viewers than other prefectures in Japan, the company said. — Kyodo



Kaata Sakamoto, Netflix vice-president of content for Japan. **PHOTO: NETFLIX**

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