

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.



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Drive intensified to achieve 50% forest cover, boost tiger conservation



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DICA: 200 companies fail to file AR in Jan 2026

ARTICLE

Youth, Freedom, and Responsibility

By Min Min Zan

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Locally Produced Engine Oil, Lubricants Eye Global Accreditation

Raw materials are systematically stored to preserve their integrity, production strictly adheres to approved formulations to ensure consistency, finished products undergo rigorous testing to maintain uniform quality standards, and laboratory equipment is regularly inspected to guarantee accuracy and compliance with established regulations.

Efforts are currently being made to obtain international certification for engine oil and lubricants manufactured in the Hlinethaya Industrial Zone and Thilawa Special Economic Zone.

Lubricant blending plants of Energetic Alliance Petroleum Products Co Ltd and Hein Engineering Co Ltd from the Hlinethaya Industrial Zone and Pacific-PSP Syntech Co Ltd from Thilawa SEZ import industrial raw materials and blend them locally to produce and distribute engine oil and lubricants.

In order to penetrate international markets, efforts are ongoing for locally produced engine oil and lubricants to meet quality standards and achieve international accreditation.

The inferior quality of lubricants directly affects the performance and longevity of machinery, equipment, and vehicles used in agriculture and industry. Substandard products can cause significant damage. Therefore, manufacturers are prioritizing quality control



This photo showcases engine oil and lubricant oil being produced from the Thilawa Special Economic Zone.

throughout the production process.

Furthermore, raw materials sourcing focuses on proper quality documentation and international certificates, and purchasing through contracts.

Raw materials are also stored properly to maintain integrity, while production follows approved formulas to ensure consistency. Finished products are tested to maintain uniform quality

standards.

Moreover, checking the laboratory equipment to ensure accuracy and compliance with established standards is also conducted. — ASH/KK

NATIONAL

Tatmadaw members must be combat-ready, fit, and skilled with bravery

- ❖ “Tatmadaw is an organization responsible for national defence, and everyone serving at all levels is required to have a clear understanding of defence perspectives.”
- ❖ “As Tatmadaw members need to conduct regular training and preparation to remain combat-ready, maintain physical fitness, possess bravery, develop skills, and always stay ready for combat.”

(An excerpt from the speech delivered by Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with Tatmadaw members and families in Cocokyun Station on 18 October 2025)

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

Republic of the Union of Myanmar National Defence and Security Council

Order 6/2026

3rd Waxing of Taboung 1387 ME
18 February 2026

Approval for Retirement

THE National Defence and Security Council has allowed U Min Aung to retire from the duties for the Judge of the Chin State High Court for his health condition under Subsection (b) of Section 427 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar starting from 5 February 2026.

By order,
Aung Lin Dwe
Executive Chief

Republic of the Union of Myanmar National Defence and Security Council

Order 7/2026

3rd Waxing of Taboung 1387 ME
18 February 2026

Appointment and Duty Assignment for Judge of Chin State High Court

THE National Defence and Security Council has appointed and assigned U Myat San to the duties for the Judge of the Chin State High Court under Subsection (b) of Section 427 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

By order,
Aung Lin Dwe
Executive Chief

Drive intensified to achieve 50% forest cover, boost tiger conservation

EFFORTS are underway to increase nationwide forest cover to 50 per cent, and plans are also being drawn up and implemented for a national-level tiger conservation programme, according to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation.

To restore forest cover across the country and achieve 50 per cent forest coverage, measures are being carried out to expand forest reserves and protected public forests, to establish forest plantations, to promote roadside greening, and to implement greening initiatives in 13 districts within the central dry zone as a national responsibility.

In addition, as there is an urgent need to conserve and protect tigers and other rare wildlife



This photo features the forest plantation conservation work.

species in the Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary in Sagaing Region, national-level tiger conservation plans are being formulated and

implemented. It is also reported that 24 camera traps have been installed for a period of 90 days to record



This image reveals a tiger seen moving around in the Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary through a camera trap.

wildlife in the Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary. Documentation and surveys are being conducted on the habitats of endangered spe-

cies in the sanctuary, including the Bengal tiger, bear species, and other mammals and birds. — ASH/MKKS

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NATIONAL

Residents Urged to Prioritize Public Safety Amid Armed Terrorist Threats

ARMED terrorists have been launching attacks by using residential homes and administrative buildings in towns and villages as cover, where they have forcibly settled. They aim to shield themselves from Tatmadaw counterattacks while also persuading temporarily displaced persons to return to their native areas and recruiting new members. That enables terrorists to use civilians as human shields. Tatmadaw is committed to safeguarding the sovereignty of the State and will respond to these threats based on intelligence and prevailing conditions. Therefore, residents in areas where terrorists have taken control must prioritize their safety and protect themselves from being exploited by these groups.

(An excerpt from guidance given by Chairman of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to Shan State cabinet members and state-level departmental officials on 3 September 2024)

Myanmar delegation led by MoFA Union Minister holds retreat meeting with delegation led by Thai FM

AT the invitation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, Mr Sihasak Phuangkitkeow, a Myanmar delegation led by U Than Swe, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, currently on an official visit to Phuket, Thailand, held a retreat meeting with the Thai delegation led by the Minister of Foreign Affairs on 18 February 2026.

Both sides cordially exchanged views on further strengthening the existing ties of friendship and cooperation between Myanmar and Thailand. The two Ministers discussed ways to enhance multi-sectoral cooperation, including trade, investment, education, and public health. They also deliberated on promoting people-to-people connectivity, including matters related to Myanmar migrant

workers in Thailand.

Furthermore, both sides discussed intensifying collaboration between the two countries, particularly in jointly combatting transnational crimes to enhance border security and stability, including illegal cross-border trade, online scams, human trafficking, and drug trafficking, as well as strengthening cooperation in regional and international fora.

Following the meeting, the Union Minister and delegation attended a working dinner hosted by the Thai Minister of Foreign Affairs. — MNA

Union Minister U Than Swe and Thai Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Sihasak Phuangkitkeow discuss on bilateral cooperation in Phuket, Thailand, yesterday.



MoST Union Minister receives Belarusian science delegation

UNION Minister for Science and Technology Dr Myo Thein Kyaw received Academician Mr Alexey Shkadarevich from the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Belarus and a director from the Centre for

Science and Technology of the Republic of Belarus at the Ministry's meeting hall yesterday afternoon.

They held cordial discussions on cooperation between Myanmar and Belarus in the de-

velopment of science and technology and human resources.

Deputy Minister Dr Aung Zeya, directors-general and other responsible personnel also attended the meeting. — MNA/MKKS



Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Kyaw meets Academician Mr Alexey Shkadarevich from the National Academy of Sciences and a director from the Science and Technical Centre of Belarus in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

106th TOPIK scheduled on 17 May

THE 106th TOPIK 2026 has been scheduled on 17 May, according to the Embassy of the Republic of Korea to Myanmar.

The test will take place at the University of Yangon, Hline Campus, and an online application system has been introduced this year. The application form link will be announced by the embassy on 19 February, and the deadline is 25 February.

Seat numbers will be announced by the embassy in March after the exam fee is paid, and the test voucher can be available after filling in personal information at the TOPIK website <http://www.topik.go.kr>.

For filling the online application form, name spelling must be in capital letters, and date of birth, phone number

and email address must be correct, and it is up to the applicant for any incorrect information, it said.

The exam fee is US\$25, and cash payment only will be accepted and must be done in person or by a representative person from 27 February to 2 March at Toungoo Hall, Dagon Street, University of Yangon (Kamayut Campus).

Applicants who live in the city where the exam centre is located will need to come in person to pay the exam fee, and those outside the exam centre can pay by a representative, but he/she must be a family member, relative or friend.

The payment must be in dollars only, and exchange won't be provided at the application counter, it said. — MT/ZS

NATIONAL

MIFER Union Minister receives Belarusian science & technology delegation



Union Minister Dr Wah Wah Maung meets Academician of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus Professor Alexey Shkadarevich, Director of LEMT, yesterday morning in Nay Pyi Taw.

UNION Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Dr Wah Wah Maung received a delegation led by Academician of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus Professor Alexey Shkadarevich, Director of LEMT, yesterday morning at Office 1 of the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations.

Both sides cordially and openly exchanged views on matters relating to cooperation in the field of science and technology, which is one of the cooperation areas under the Roadmap for the Development of Cooperation between the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Republic of

Belarus (2026-2028), signed during the official goodwill visit of the President of Belarus to Myanmar. Discussions also covered the promotion of investment to support the development of the science and technology sector of Myanmar; facilitating technology transfer that would benefit various production sectors through research and development activities, and enhancing bilateral economic relations between the two countries.

Senior officials and responsible personnel from the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations were also present on the occasion. — MIFER

Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister receives WHO Representative to Myanmar



Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Ko Ko Kyaw and WHO Representative to Myanmar Dr Thushara Fernando shake hands during the meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

U Ko Ko Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, received Dr Thushara Fernando, WHO Representative to Myanmar, who has completed his assignment, yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

They exchanged views on

matters related to cooperation between Myanmar and the WHO during his term in Myanmar, as well as further activities of the WHO in Myanmar.

Officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were also present at the meeting. — MNA

Myanmar backs ASEAN-Korea Centre initiatives

U Myo Myint Maung, Chargé d'Affaires/Ambassador of the Myanmar Embassy in the Republic of Korea, stated that the embassy will assist in the successful implementation of the ASEAN-Korea Centre's programmes during the 18th Annual Council Meeting of the AKC, held on 11 February at the Westin Josun Seoul, Republic of Korea.

He noted that the AKC's proposed work plan for 2026 includes specific collaborative initiatives with Myanmar, such as trade support missions and programmes to bolster cultural and tourism ties between ASEAN and Korea.

In addition to U Myo Myint Maung, the meeting was attended by the Myanmar delegation, Mr Kim Jae-shin, Secretary-General of the AKC,



The 18th Annual Council Meeting of the ASEAN-Korea Centre (AKC) is in progress.

Ambassadors and senior officials from ASEAN member states, and Mr Ha Daegoo, Director from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea.

During the session, representatives discussed and approved several key agendas, including the continuation of

cooperation between ASEAN and the Republic of Korea, work programmes to be implemented in 2026, plans to increase trade and investment between ASEAN and Korea and programmes aimed at supporting the promotion of culture and tourism. — Htun Htun/ZN

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

NATIONAL

People's Military Service Training 22 opened across regions & states



Photos show the opening of the People's Military Service Training 22 yesterday in Kengtaung Township in Shan State, and Hopon Township, South-East Command and the Triangle Region Command.

ELIGIBLE and capable citizens who will attend People's Military Service Training 22 to

perform national defence and security duties have arrived at the training schools within the

areas of respective commands and have undertaken the necessary preliminary preparations.

Opening ceremonies for People's Military Service Training Course No 22 were held at

the various training schools yesterday morning. At the ceremonies, the commandants of the respective schools delivered opening addresses.

The Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman, the chief ministers of regions and states, the deputy commanders and responsible officials attended the ceremonies. They met the trainees of Training 22, presented them with honorary cash awards, foodstuffs and essential items, and offered words of encouragement.

As every citizen has a duty to safeguard the Three Main National Causes: non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity, and perpetuation of sovereignty. The People's Military Service Law was brought into force on 10 February 2024 to enable citizens to receive military training and to serve in national defence and security. Subsequently, People's Military Service training courses have been opened and conducted. Graduates of these courses are now serving dutifully and steadfastly in their assigned battalions and units, carrying out national defence and security responsibilities without hesitation. — MNA/KNN

Systematic preparations underway to boost esports medal haul

ARRANGEMENTS will be made to continue to nurture qualified athletes systematically to win medals in the esports sector, according to the Myanmar Esports Summit 2026 held at Pan Pacific Yangon Hotel in Yangon.

At the Myanmar Esports Summit 2026, organized by the Myanmar Electronic Sports Federation (MESF), President of MESF Dr Kaung Myat San delivered a speech outlining the history of esports in Myanmar, the country's achievement in winning its first-ever world championship title through esports, and plans to systematically develop national athletes to compete in world and ASEAN competitions. Federation Vice-President U Kyaw Htet

Lin also explained the competitions included in the Myanmar Esports League ecosystem, the expansion of esports at university and basic levels, domestic tournaments to be held this year and international competitions.

"Myanmar Esports Summit 2026 is an event to present the roadmap moving forward and to showcase the achievements gained in the esports sector in 2025. Myanmar will compete in the 20th Asian Games and the Esports World Cup to be held in Saudi Arabia. For these competitions, we will systematically prepare our teams, organize domestic tournaments, and nurture more outstanding athletes for the country. After winning the world championship title in 2025,



The Myanmar Electronic Sports Federation holds the Myanmar Esports Summit 2026 at Pan Pacific Yangon Hotel in Yangon yesterday. PHOTO: ZWE MARN

the government recognized and awarded young esports athletes. These honours have become a new source of motivation for the youth, and the federation is

extremely proud and delighted. We will continue striving with full dedication," said Dr Kaung Myat San, president of MESF.

For the international com-

petitions, the National Esports Championship Road to Asian Games, which is the highest Esports event in Myanmar, will be held from February to May, featuring three stages- qualifiers, groups and finals. The schedules will be announced on the MESL-Myanmar Esports League Facebook page.

In 2025, the teams – Yangon Galacticos and Terror Queens of MESF – won the World Cup championship and third place, respectively. Falcon Esports secured a national-level achievement at the 33rd South-East Asia Games, and Mythic Seal grabbed a national-level achievement at the MLBB Mid-Season Cup 2025. — Thitsa (MNA)/KTZH

NATIONAL

BNRA leader Naing Lin (aka) Naga rejoins legal framework alongside family members, arms

THE government is extending an invitation to those involved in various armed groups, including the PDF, to return to the legal fold. Those who do so are being provided with necessary assistance and support.

When understanding the peace processes of the government and Tatmadaw, leader of BNRA, Naing Lin (aka) Naga, along with his family members, contacted and reported to a Tatmadaw security camp conducting regional security operations in Pale Township, Sagaing Region, at 4:50 pm yesterday. They entered the legal fold together with six assorted weapons and related equipment.

PDFs and other terrorist



This image shows BNRA leader Naing Lin, also known as Naga, surrendering arms to rejoin the legal fold.

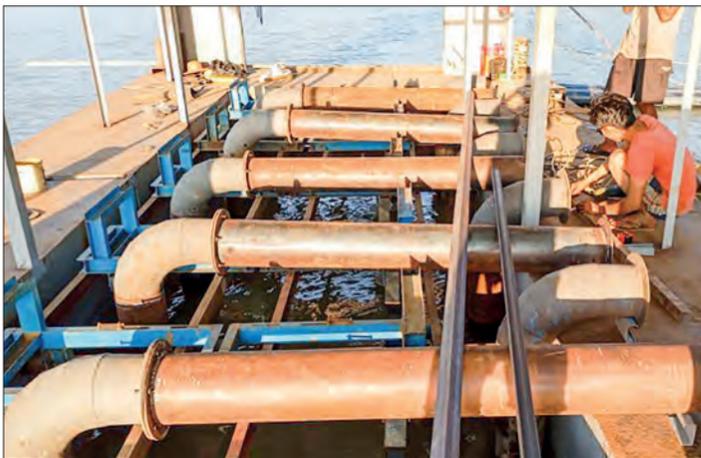
groups have been carrying out attacks against the government and Tatmadaw, as well as oppressing local civilians through armed force. Over time, internal disputes based on personal interests, territorial conflicts, disagreements over shares, and incidents of intimidation, torture, and killings among themselves have arisen. Due to dissatisfaction with such terrorist acts and having come to trust and accept the peace processes of the government and Tatmadaw, BNRA leader Naing Lin (aka) Naga decided to enter the legal fold.

Officials from the local security command warmly welcomed Naing Lin (aka) Naga

and his family members upon their return. Necessary assistance, medical support, and administrative arrangements were provided to ensure their convenience. Required verification processes continue in accordance with the procedures.

There are still individuals who wish to return to the legal fold. Those who intend to do so are encouraged to promptly contact and report to the nearest Tatmadaw bases or police stations. They will be welcomed and accepted, provided with the necessary assistance and support, and cash rewards for any arms and ammunition. — MNA/KTZH

53 solar water pumping projects rolled out to boost nationwide irrigation



Farmers utilize a solar pumping system to supply water at a model farm in Thanlyin Township.

A total of 53 solar-powered water-pumping projects were implemented nationwide to support irrigation between the 2020-2021 and 2025-2026 financial years, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.

Of the total, 12 projects involved stand-alone solar pumping systems, while 41 featured hybrid solar installations, bringing the combined number of completed projects to 53. The ministry stated that these initiatives were aimed at improving water availability for agricultural purposes across the country.

An official from the ministry said that the projects ac-

counted for a total installed solar capacity of 10,643.87 kilowatts. The expansion of solar technology in irrigation infrastructure has contributed to enhanced efficiency and reduced reliance on conventional energy sources.

Similarly, the Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department has overseen the construction of nine reservoirs, 49 saltwater-intrusion prevention embankments, 171 water-control gates and 23 electric river-pumping stations in Yangon Region. Owing to geographical and past technological limitations, southern districts previously benefited

less from irrigation water delivery to farmlands compared with northern districts.

To address this imbalance, the department has accelerated the adoption of solar energy to operate large water pumps at river-pumping stations. Authorities have also conducted demonstrations of small-scale portable solar pumping systems that farmers can use independently in reservoir-irrigated, river-pumped and summer paddy cultivation areas.

During the 2025-2026 summer paddy season, officials distributed 100 sets of two-panel portable solar pumping units and 30 sets of 14-panel low-lift solar pumping units to farmers, enabling timely and effective agricultural use.

The ministry emphasized that water availability remains a primary requirement for domestic agriculture and livestock activities. The department will continue to implement solar-powered pumping projects in each financial year to ensure a sufficient irrigation supply for seasonal crop cultivation. — ASH/KZL

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7 pm Wednesday, 18 February 2026)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at 5:30 pm MST today, the low-pressure over the Equatorial Indian Ocean and adjoining South-West Bay of Bengal still persists. It is likely to move west-northwestwards towards Sri Lanka and further intensify over the South-West Bay of Bengal and adjoining Equatorial Indian Ocean during next 24 hours. The weather is generally fair over the North Bay of Bengal, a few clouds over the Central Bay of Bengal and partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 19 February 2026: Widespread rain or thundershowers in Taninthayi Region and fairly Widespread in Kayin, and Mon States, isolated rain or thundershowers in Yangon, Bago, and Ayeyawady Regions. Degree of certainty is 80 per cent. The weather will be partly cloudy in Nay Pyi Taw, Magway, and Upper Sagaing Regions and Kachin, Kayah, and (southern and eastern) Shan States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Taninthayi Region and Kayin, and Mon States. In the area along the cumulonimbus clouds movement, the weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied with rain, thunder, lightning and hail may occur and therefore it is recommended to be aware in advance of these phenomena.

STATE OF THE SEA: The sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about 4-6 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR THE SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Ayeyawady, and Taninthayi Regions and Kayah, Kayin, Mon, Rakhine, and Shan States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19 February 2026: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19 February 2026: Partly cloudy and likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 60 per cent.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19 February 2026: Generally fair weather. — DMH

NATIONAL

DICA: 200 companies fail to file AR in Jan 2026

A total of 200 were struck off the register in January 2026 as they failed to file annual returns (AR) on the online registry system, MyCO, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

A total of 7,300 companies in 2025 and 19,000 companies in 2024 also failed to submit the AR.

The DICA notified those companies that failed to file their AR on MyCO were struck off the register from the date of the directive under 430 (F) of the Myanmar Companies Law, according to the DICA's notification.

The registration and re-registration of companies on the MyCO website commenced on 1



Office of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

August 2018, in keeping with the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

All registered companies must submit an AR on the MyCO registry system within two

months of incorporation and at least once every year (no later than one month after the anniversary of incorporation), according to Section 97 of the law.

Under Section 266 (A) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017, public companies must submit annual returns and financial statements (G-5) simultaneously. All overseas corporations must submit ARs in the prescribed format on MyCO within 28 days of the financial year ending, under Section 53 (A-1) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

As per DICA's report, thousands of companies were suspended for failing to submit AR forms before the due date. Newly established companies are required to submit ARs within two months of incorporation or face a fine of K100,000 for filing late returns.

The DICA has notified that any company which fails to submit its AR within 13 months will be notified of its suspension (I-9A). If it fails to submit the AR within 28 days of receiving the notice, the system will show the company's status as suspended. Companies can restore their status only after shelling out a fine of K50,000 for the AR fee, K100,000 for restoration of the company on the Register, and K100,000 for late filing of documents, totalling K250,000. If a company fails to restore its status within six months of suspension, the registrar will strike its name off the register, according to the DICA notice. — NN/KK

YU to open Diploma in Gem Identification on 23 Feb

YANGON University will offer a Diploma in Gem Identification on 23 February 2026 under the programme of the Human Resource Development Centre.

Those who have a bachelor's degree from a recognized university are entitled to attend this post-graduate diploma

course. The maximum number of students is 60. It is a nine-month course. The diploma certificate will be awarded upon completion and submission of the project paper.

The programme is designed to provide comprehensive training in gem identifica-

tion, equipping students with the knowledge required for professional gemstone analysis and certification. The application form can be submitted starting from 19 February at the Department of Geology of Yangon University at 09 420162651. — NN/KK

Central farmland body issues rules, rights for Form-7 holders

THE Central Farmland Management Body has issued the regulations that the holders of Form-7 Land Use Certificate need to comply with, along with their rights.

They are entitled to cultivate the farmland in accordance with the provisions of the law, pay land taxes and other taxes levied under any existing law of the farmland, register land transaction at the relevant Township Department and paying the stamp duty prescribed by existing law according to the value appraised by the Township Farmland Management Body in selling, mortgaging, leasing, exchanging or transferring the farmland, register the inheritance at the relevant Township Department Office when inheriting the farmland use right in accordance with existing law and mortgage the right of farmland use only for capital in farming and only with government banks or authorized banks. They must not utilize the farmland for other purposes and are not allowed to switch crops freely from seasonal crops without permission. They must not leave the farmland uncultivated without a valid reason. However, if some circumstances arise to leave the land fallow, reporting to the Township Farmland Man-

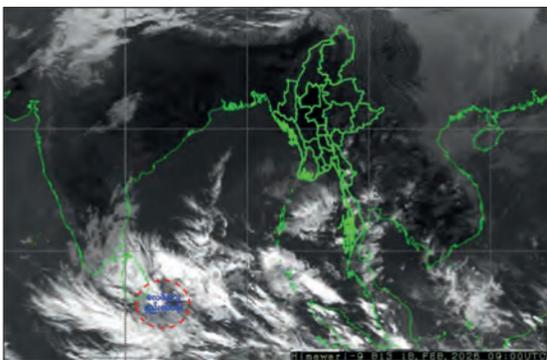
agement Body through the Ward or Village-Tract Farmland Management Body is required. Leaving the land unseeded shall not exceed two consecutive years, except for shifting cultivation.

Obligations include selling, mortgaging, leasing, or transferring the farmland before obtaining the right to use the farmland, or during an ongoing dispute over the right.

The Form-7 holders have the right to possess the farmland, to cultivate it, to change seasonal crops, and to enjoy the benefits arising from such cultivation, the right to sell, mortgage, lease, exchange or transfer the whole or part of the farmland in accordance with prescribed regulations, right to seek court determination in accordance with existing law when disputes concerning inheritance of the farmland use arises, the right to continue holding the farmland use as long as the prescribed regulations are not violated, the right to jointly operate the agricultural development with the government or government-recognized associations, or with private investors, the right to jointly operate with foreigners or organizations involving foreigners in accordance with Foreign Investment Law. — NN/KK

Low-Pressure Area Condition

Issued at 4 pm MST on 18 February 2026



ACCORDING to the observations at 3:30 pm MST today, the low-pressure over the Equatorial Indian Ocean and adjoining the Southwest Bay of Bengal still persists. It is likely to move west-northwestwards towards Sri Lanka and further intensify over the South-West Bay of Bengal and adjoining Equatorial Indian Ocean during next 24 hours. — DMH

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OPINION

ARTICLE

From the election towards the Hluttaw

MYANMAR is practising a genuine and disciplined multi-party democratic system, in which a multiparty general election is a fundamental pillar. Such an election must be conducted in a manner that is free, fair, and dignified. It must be free from electoral fraud and unlawful acts.

The multiparty democratic general election, which began on 28 December 2025 in Myanmar, was successful and dignified. The people who cast their votes during the election phases genuinely accepted and desired the multiparty democratic system, and they voted peacefully, systematically, and in an orderly manner in keeping with the dignity of the nation and as responsible citizens. This is a matter of pride for the State.

The Union Election Commission, in order to successfully hold the multiparty democratic general election, designated townships where the election could and could not be conducted, compiled voter lists in successive stages, organized and conducted the election successfully in phases, and announced the voting results and the lists of elected representatives.

In carrying out the election in phases, Myanmar's electronic voting machines were relocated promptly to designated locations for each phase and were systematically installed and used. As the election was conducted impartially and in an orderly manner, the fact that no political parties have lodged objections regarding the election up to the present time also reflects its dignity and credibility.

In holding the election, the State Government took steps to ensure the participation of political parties. To enable small parties and ethnic representatives to take part in the political platform of the Hluttaw, the Proportional Representation (PR) system was adopted. This arrangement allowed representatives from all regions and ethnic political parties to participate in the Hluttaw and to advocate for the interests of their respective regions and the aspirations of their people. As a result, in this election, there was increased participation of representatives from ethnic parties and smaller political parties.

to participate in the Hluttaw and to advocate for the interests of their respective regions and the aspirations of their people. As a result, in this election, there was increased participation of representatives from ethnic parties and smaller political parties.

Political parties that maintained extensive engagement with the public and were able to effectively organize and mobilize their members received the support of the people. Political parties can draw the lesson that they must make systematic preparations well in advance of the election period. They need to publicize their party policies and rules so that the people are well informed and carry out their organizational activities accordingly to be able to enter the Hluttaw through thorough preparations for forthcoming elections in the future.

SOMETIMES, while going about our daily journeys, we come across scenes that catch our attention. Among these scenes, there are things that make us feel gentle, thoughtful, emotional, or reflective in different ways. I myself am a person who travels and moves about almost every day, so I often encounter such scenes.

In particular, what I frequently see these days are young people in their late teens. When I see these young people, I first notice them, then think about them, and after that, the issue of "youth and rights" begins to occupy my mind.

Once, while I was passing through a market area, I saw two young men. One of them had dyed his hair. The other had his hair styled strangely, with part of it standing up thickly and heavily. In modern terms, it could be called "fashion." Both of them were wearing T-shirts and jeans. I could not help smiling when I looked at them. The reason was that, as young people, they were making use of the rights that belong to youth.

As for me, I am only around thirty years old. However, because I am a civil servant, I cannot dress and behave as freely and casually as those teenagers. Because of my surroundings, my age, and my awareness, my lifestyle has become more like that of an adult. So, although I am still called a young person, I am no longer a "real" young person.

But are the young people I mentioned earlier real young people? Once, I read in a journal an

Youth, Freedom, and Responsibility

article criticizing hair styling, hair length, and hair dyeing, saying that these things were blamed on only a small group of people. Young people think in a youthful way, and adults think in an adult way.

What I found was that younger people want to try many different hairstyles. I can accept this as their right. In modern times, fashion in hairstyles is constantly changing, and people naturally follow these trends.

If we think carefully, it can be said that in youth, one should take the rights that one has, but they should be taken with proper limits and self-control. Wearing flashy clothes, dressing in a striking way, piercing ears, and dyeing hair – young people tend to take as many freedoms as they can.

Look at the young girls. Some cut and part their hair in different styles. Some wear clothes so tight that they cling closely to the body. Some dress in strange and unusual ways. Some go out wearing necklaces and bracelets. These, too, may be considered forms of freedom and rights.

When I think about the rights of young people, my mind at first goes to such outward matters. Nowadays, young people also give much importance to external appearance and material things.

About six months ago, I hap-



pened to look again at some photographs taken of my friends and me at Yangon Institute of Technology. When I examined them carefully, our group of friends looked just like figures from old films. From this, it is clear that the rights of young people are not only about outward appearance.

The true rights of youth should be based on their youthful qualities, such as being young and tender; being energetic and quick, and being healthy and strong. They should be used to search for life paths and future goals.

For example, at the age of twenty, I could go around freely to find training courses and opportunities. At that time, after finishing school and entering university, I was very eager and curious to learn. I used to move quickly from one place to another, wondering which subject to study and how to study it.

Now, although I am not in my forties or fifties, I can no longer behave like those in their late teens. In everything, I have become more cautious and restrained. It is clear that I can no longer live as light-

ly and freely as a young person. In this way, some of the rights of youth are gradually lost.

What I want to say is that young people possess great potential and strength. If they use their rights not only for their appearance but also for their own lives and future, and if they express their talents and abilities through the rights of youth, they will surely gain success and achievement.

I would like to say that young people should fully express and make use of their rights during their youth, together with the oth-

By Min Min Zan

er rights they possess. Only then can a young person truly be said to be using his or her rights in a complete way.

Once, I read an essay by U Aung Thin, which was written with reference to a book by Saya Maung Sein Win (Padigon). From that essay, I understood that Maung Sein Win, as a writer, had been able to use the rights of youth well. Indeed, it is true. Excitement, love, and sorrow are felt more deeply in youth. When such feelings are transformed into art by creative people, the result becomes powerful and deeply satisfying artistic works. This is a clear example of how a young person's rights can be used positively in the field of art.

Let us think about other matters as well. The most important of all for young people is education. Although youth and their freedoms seem temporary, they are actually crucial for the future. If a student skips basic education or is absent from university classes, this leads to dropping out and failing to complete courses, and in the end, it becomes difficult to graduate successfully. This is a misuse of one's rights. Instead of skipping school, attending classes regularly and using one's youthful intelligence to study subjects seri-

ously is the correct way to use the rights of youth. Education alone is not enough; we should also consider other areas of life. If a young person thinks, "I am young, I can drink, smoke, fall in love freely, live as I like, fight whenever I want, sleep and eat as I wish, and spend all the money I earn," and uses all his rights only in this way, then sooner or later he will lose all his rights. Not only that, but he will also lose the rights that young people truly deserve.

Later, when age advances, and a person becomes weaker, he will look back with regret at his younger self and at the younger people around him who are able to act freely, lightly, quickly, and energetically. As for me, although I am no longer a young person, whenever I meet young people, I feel encouraged by their strength and energy, and I gain motivation myself.

In this sense, I believe that I made good use of the valuable rights of youth when I was young. If there are people who wasted their youth by living carelessly, then their regret during adulthood and old age will be even stronger. As I travel from place to place and observe different scenes in

daily life, I feel happy when I see young people who truly and fully use their rights in a proper way. Such young people, I regard as "real youth," and I respect and admire them. When I see young people who only use their rights for outward appearance and fashion, I feel that they are merely pretending to be young and that they are misusing the rights of youth.

I understand that today's young people are often judged only by their appearance. However, when I see young people who, without being obsessed with physical beauty or passing trends, use all the rights of youth fully and positively, I feel even more admiration and encouragement for them.

Rights do not come twice. Likewise, youth does not come twice. Therefore, in the only youth that comes to us, we should fully and properly use the valuable and meaningful rights that belong to that stage of life. Only by doing so can life move forward, new opportunities be created, and one's abilities be developed.

The right to beautify one's appearance is something that will fade with age. But if we reflect deeply on this, young people who truly understand their rights and use them fully and correctly will surely appear. This is what I strongly believe and sincerely hope.

(Source: Translation of the article written by Hsuu Thit in The Yadanabon Newspaper on 6 February 2026)

Resilience in the City: My Dreams for a Better Tomorrow

By Kyaw Ye Aung
[BEcon(Economics)Q, PGDip; in CSM]

ICURRENTLY reside in a hostel in the bustling heart of Yangon. To be honest, city life has been a challenge to adapt to, and my daily routine often feels like a monotonous cycle between my workplace and the hostel. Living in a temporary space without the presence of close friends can make one feel deeply isolated in such a crowded city.

In my view, having a true friend – someone who shares a

similar mindset and understands one's inner world – is essential for mental well-being. However, in a fast-paced environment where financial status often dictates social circles, finding genuine companionship is difficult. This sense of loneliness, coupled with the pressure of city living, often leaves me feeling stifled.

Yet, it is this very struggle that fuels my ambition. Whenever I feel overwhelmed by the anxi-

eties of urban life, my thoughts drift back to my parents and my village in the Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory. My village faces significant hardships, most notably a severe water shortage. It pains me to think of my fellow villagers struggling to find clean water, especially as the scorching summer months approach.

I have realized that I cannot help them with my current circumstances, but I refuse to let

that discourage me. This realization drives me to work harder every single day. I am dedicated to improving my English proficiency and advancing my professional career, knowing that personal success is the bridge to helping my community.

My ultimate dream is to become successful enough to return

home and support my village in any way I can, especially in securing a reliable water supply. No matter how difficult my current life in the hostel may be, I will persevere. I am working not just for my own future, but with the hope of one day being a person who can provide a helping hand to the place and the people I love.



SCI/ENVIRON: WORLD

Ancient DNA sheds light on the biography of a shipwreck in east China

Scientists used DNA from mud in a blue-and-white vase on a 150-year-old Qing Dynasty shipwreck in China's Yangtze River estuary to reveal its full life story, including final voyage, cargo, and sinking season.



The excavation site of the Yangtze River Estuary No 2 ancient shipwreck. PHOTO: VCG/GLOBAL TIMES

VIA the sediment of a single ancient vase, a 150-year-old Chinese ship has again found its voice.

It looks like nothing more than a jar of mud. But thanks to these sediments retrieved from a blue-and-white porcelain vase aboard the No 2 shipwreck in the Yangtze River estuary, scientists have unlocked something extraordinary: the

vessel's complete "life story," written not in ink, but in DNA.

The Qing Dynasty (1644-1912) merchant ship lay silent below the estuary surface in east China for 150 years. Now, an interdisciplinary team from Fudan University, East China Normal University (ECNU) and the municipal cultural heritage conservation and research center of Shanghai, has

unlocked details concerning its final voyage, cargo packaging, and even the season in which the ship sank -- using sedimentary ancient DNA (sedaDNA) and environmental factor analysis.

This study was recently published in a leading archaeology journal titled *Antiquity*. — Xinhua

YouTube says brief outage fixed

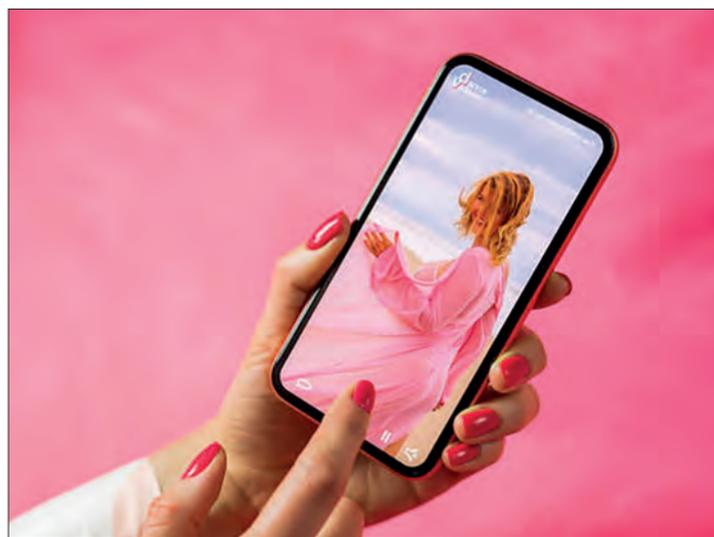
YOUTUBE said late Tuesday it had fixed a widespread outage that hit hundreds of thousands of users around the world.

Tracking website Down-detector said there were more than 300,000 reports of problems accessing the video-sharing site, though the reports seemed to be diminishing after a peak at about 0100 GMT.

During the worst of the outage, visitors to the website's homepage were greeted with an invitation to come back later.

YouTube was back up and running when AFP journalists accessed the site at 0400 GMT.

"The issue with our recommendations system has been resolved and all of our platforms (YouTube.com, the YouTube app, YouTube Music, Kids, and TV) are back to normal!" YouTube posted on a help page.



YouTube fixed a brief global outage late Tuesday that hit over 300,000 users due to a recommendations system glitch, restoring full service across its platforms by early Wednesday. PHOTO: PIXABAY

The platform said earlier that "an issue with our recommendations system prevented videos from appearing across surfaces on YouTube (including the homepage, the YouTube app,

YouTube Music and YouTube Kids)." Google-owned YouTube is the world's largest video sharing platform, with more than 2.5 billion users actively using the site each month. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sri Lanka to secure SDR financing for digital transformation project

SRI Lanka has decided to secure Special Drawing Rights (SDR) financing equivalent to US\$50 million from the World Bank Group to implement the Sri Lanka Digital Transformation Project, the government's Information Department said Tuesday.

The project, under the country's Digital Economy Strategy 2025-2030, aims to deliver public services more efficiently and transparently through digital platforms, the department said.

Cabinet approval to seek support from international development partners for the project was granted at a cabinet meeting in October 2025, according to the statement. It said loan negotiations involving relevant government stakeholders and the World Bank Group have been concluded.

Under the agreements reached, the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development will serve as the borrower on behalf of the government, while GovTech Sri Lanka will be the implementing agency, the statement said. — Xinhua

Zuckerberg to testify in landmark social media addiction trial

META CEO Mark Zuckerberg is set to testify Wednesday at a groundbreaking social media addiction trial, summoned by lawyers representing a plaintiff who alleges Instagram and other platforms were deliberately designed to make young users addicted.

The 41-year-old head of Meta -- which owns Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp -- is the most anticipated witness in the California trial, the first in a series of cases that could set legal precedent for thousands of lawsuits filed by American families against major social media platforms.

The trial will mark the first time the multibillionaire will address the safety of his world-dominating platforms directly before a jury.

Zuckerberg's controversial reputation has loomed over the proceedings since jury selection, when Meta's lawyers worked to exclude California residents deemed too hostile toward the Facebook founder. — AFP

US tech giant Nvidia announces India deals at AI summit

US artificial intelligence chip titan Nvidia unveiled tie-ups with Indian computing firms on Wednesday as tech companies rushed to announce deals and investments at a global AI conference in New Delhi.

This week's AI Impact Summit is the fourth annual gathering to discuss how to govern the fast-evolving technology -- and also an opportunity to "define India's leadership in the AI decade ahead", organizers say.

Mumbai cloud and data centre provider L&T said it was teaming up with Nvidia, the world's most valuable company, to build what it touted as "India's largest gigawatt-scale AI factory".

"We are laying the foundation for world-class AI infrastructure that will power India's growth," said Nvidia boss Jensen Huang in a statement that did not put a figure on the investment.

L&T said it would use Nvidia's powerful processors, which can train and run generative AI tech, to provide data centre capacity of up to 30 megawatts in Chennai and 40 megawatts in Mumbai. — AFP

Academy pays tribute to Oscar-winning legend Robert Duvall

The Academy honoured Oscar-winning actor Robert Duvall, who died at 95, for a career that redefined screen acting with quiet power and authenticity.

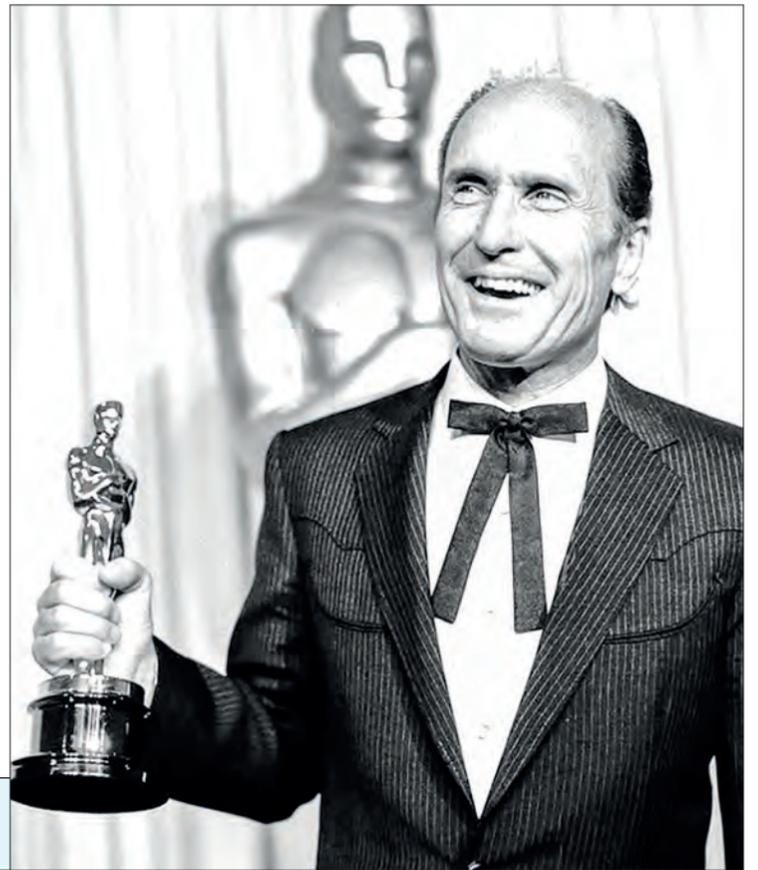
THE Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences has paid a moving tribute to legendary actor and filmmaker Robert Duvall following his death at the age of 95, celebrating a career that redefined screen acting across generations.

Duvall passed away peacefully at his home in Middleburg, Virginia, on 15 February 2026. In a heartfelt social media post, the

Academy honoured his extraordinary body of work, describing his performances as a “masterclass in restraint” and authenticity that will continue to inspire artists and audiences alike.

“Robert Duvall brought a rare kind of gravity to the screen, the kind that never demanded attention yet held it completely,” the Academy wrote, adding, “across a career that spanned

generations, he inhabited his roles with precision and quiet power, whether commanding the room in *The Godfather* (1972), unraveling with aching honesty in *Tender Mercies* (1983), or leaving an indelible mark in *Apocalypse Now* (1979) and *Lonesome Dove* (1985). His work remains a masterclass in restraint, and his presence will be deeply missed.” — ANI



Robert Duvall brought a rare kind of gravity to the screen. PHOTO: ANI

Hungarian star composer Kurtag celebrates 100th birthday with new opera



Hungarian composer Gyorgy Kurtag looks on as he holds his ‘Doctor Honoris Causa’ he received from the University ‘Liszt Ferenc Academy of Music’ in Budapest in February 2026. PHOTO: AFP

AS Hungarian Gyorgy Kurtag, who is widely considered one of the greatest living classical composers, turns 100 on Thursday, he will offer a one-of-a-kind birthday gift to music lovers: a brand-new opera.

In recent weeks, people across the globe have paid tribute to the star composer, with Budapest marking his centennial with special events, concerts and documentaries.

Later this month, the world premiere of Kurtag’s second

opera “Die Stechardin” about the 18th-century love story of a German polymath and a flower girl will cap the centenary of his birth.

In a rare interview with a Hungarian weekly in 2017, Kurtag confided that composing can sometimes be “painful”.

But despite being confined to a wheelchair and suffering a loss of hearing, Kurtag has lost none of his intellectual vibrancy or passion for music, according to those close to him. — AFP

French designer threads a path in London fashion week

JUST days before her third runway show, French designer Pauline Dujancourt was riding a wave of excitement and nerves.

The 31-year-old admitted she had begun having strange, nightmarish dreams ahead of her big moment at London Fashion Week on Sunday.

The British capital will once again host its Autumn/Winter fashion week from Thursday to Monday, after New York’s bonanza and before the catwalk carousel moves to Milan and Paris.

London, known for its raw creative energy and rising talents, is where Dujancourt launched her label in

April 2022 after training at the renowned arts and design school Ecole Duperre in Paris, and fashion hub Central Saint Martins in London. She and her team began work in November on her autumn-winter 2026/27 collection to be unveiled before some 450 guests -- journalists, buyers and VIP clients. — AFP



French fashion designer Pauline Dujancourt admits to nerves and excitement as she prepares for her show at London Fashion Week. PHOTO: AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

Britain's inflation falls to 3.0% in Jan

Core inflation also eased to 3.1 per cent, strengthening expectations for a potential shift towards lower interest rates by the Bank of England

BRITAIN'S annual inflation rate fell to 3.0 per cent in January amid easing price pressures, official data showed on Wednesday.

According to the Office for National Statistics (ONS), the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) rose by 3.0 per cent in the 12 months to January 2026, down from 3.4 per cent a month earlier. On a monthly basis, CPI fell by 0.5 per cent in January, compared with a 0.1 per cent dip a year earlier.

ONS said transport, along with food and non-alcoholic bev-

erages, made the largest downward contributions to the annual inflation rate.

Core inflation, which excludes energy, food, alcohol and tobacco, also eased. Core CPI rose by 3.1 per cent in January, down from 3.2 per cent in December; while services inflation slowed to 4.4 per cent from 4.5 per cent.

The latest figures suggest inflation has fallen to its lowest level in several months, reinforcing expectations that monetary policy could soon shift toward



Britain's annual inflation rate fell to 3.0 per cent in January 2026, driven by reduced costs for food and transport. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

easing.

Earlier this month, the Bank of England held its benchmark

interest rate at 3.75 per cent, but policymakers remain divided over the timing of future cuts

amid signs of slowing economic momentum. — Xinhua

Thailand's industrial confidence inches up in Jan

THAILAND'S industrial confidence improved in January, driven by accelerated production to meet Chinese New Year demand and a surge in tourists during high season, data showed on Wednesday.

The Thai industrial sentiment index inched up to 88.7 last month from 88.2 in December 2025, as key components of the index picked up, except operating costs and turnover, according to the Federation of Thai Industries (FTI).

The reading was based on a survey of 1,300 entrepreneurs across 48 industry groups under the FTI.

The rebound was attributed to the government's tourism promotion measures, which include launching direct flights and organizing events to help distribute income to regional areas and local entrepreneurs, said FTI Vice Chairman Nava Chantanasurakon. — Xinhua



This photo shows the production line of Luencheong Dispensing Pump (Thailand) Co Ltd in the Thai-Chinese Rayong industrial zone in Rayong Province, Thailand, 8 November 2022. **PHOTO: RACHEN SAGEAMSAK/XINHUA/FILE**

New Zealand holds official cash rate at 2.25%

NEW Zealand's central bank kept its official cash rate (OCR) unchanged at 2.25 per cent on Wednesday, saying inflation is expected to return to target as the economy is "at an early stage in its recovery".

The Reserve Bank New Zealand's (RBNZ) Monetary Policy Committee said in a statement that annual consumer price inflation remained slightly above its one to three per cent target band at the end of 2025, driven mainly by higher food, electricity and local council costs.

However, inflation is forecast to fall to the two per cent midpoint within the next 12 months, due to modest wage growth and spare capacity in the economy, the committee said.

In response to previous cuts in the OCR, economic growth is broadening across manufacturing, construction and some retail, while activity in agriculture and regional New Zealand remains strong, it said. The committee said the labour market is stabilizing, though unemployment remains elevated, and house price growth remains weak, dampening household wealth and inclination to spend. — Xinhua

Trump unveils 1st set of Japan projects under trade deal



The project aims to onshore 100 per cent of US demand for synthetic diamond grit. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/PIXABAY**

US President Donald Trump's administration said Tuesday that Japan will finance the production of synthetic diamonds

and two energy projects worth about \$36 billion as the initial tranche of investments under a deal reached last year following months of tariff negotiations.

Trump's announcement that the three projects had been selected, as part of a \$550 billion package that Japan committed to in exchange for his administration reducing tariffs on Japanese cars and other goods, was confirmed hours later by Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi.

"These projects are so

large, and could not be done without one very special word, **TARIFFS**," Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform. "America is building again. America is producing again. And America is **WINNING** again."

He called it a historic time for the United States and Japan. Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick said the two countries will build the largest-ever natural gas infrastructure in Ohio, expected to produce 9.2 gigawatts of power. — Kyodo

Eros Innovation launches AI-powered creator economy app 'Eros Universe' at India AI Summit

EROS Innovation has announced the launch of 'Eros Universe' – an AI-powered creator economy app at the India AI Impact Summit in the national capital.

The app, which is built on 'Large Cultural Models' (LCMs), marks what the company describes as the first institutional deployment of culturally trained AI infrastructure originating from India.

Developed by Eros-GenAI, the company's artificial intelligence division, the Large Cultural



The Eros Universe ecosystem is built on a sovereign, compliance-first infrastructure that includes licensed training datasets, consent-based character usage, auditability and governance compliance aligned with Indian regulatory frameworks. **PHOTO: ANI**

Model framework is designed to move beyond general-purpose Large

Language Models by embedding cultural context, narrative structure, emotional nuance and regional storytelling grammar into AI systems. — ANI

Laos pushes to promote commercial livestock farming

THE Lao Ministry of Agriculture and Environment is intensifying efforts to safeguard the livestock industry, develop livestock farming into a more competitive commercial sector, and strengthen cross-border trade.

The ministry has launched a project to modernize animal disease control and strengthen livestock farming for commercial development along border corridors. The project will be implemented from 2025 to 2032 in six border provinces, including Phongsaly, Oudomxay, Luang Namtha, Xayabouly, Xieng Khuang and Savannakhet, Lao News Agency reported on Wednesday.

Key objectives include strengthening animal health systems, reducing the risks of infectious diseases and antimicrobial resistance, and improving overall livestock productivity. The initiative will enhance disease surveillance, veterinary services and cross-border cooperation to safeguard food security and improve food safety standards in rural communities. — Xinhua

Sri Lanka airports record highest monthly passenger traffic in Jan



Tourism arrivals have continued to increase in early 2026, according to data released by the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (SLTDA). **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

AIRPORT and Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) (Private) Limited (AASL), Sri Lanka's state-owned civil airport management company, recorded the highest-ever monthly passenger traffic in January 2026, handling 1,045,097 passenger movements across Sri Lanka's airports, the company said.

The figure surpassed the previous monthly record of 1,034,687 passengers registered in January 2018.

Tourism arrivals have also continued to increase

in early 2026, according to data released by the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (SLTDA). A total of 159,339 tourists arrived in the country during the first 15 days of February. In February 2025, Sri Lanka recorded a total of 240,217 tourist arrivals.

With the latest February figures, total tourist arrivals for 2026 have reached 436,666, the SLTDA said. Of that number, 78,157 visitors were from India, 47,347 from the United Kingdom and 39,741 from Russia. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC QIUMING VOY.NO. (2602S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC QIUMING VOY.NO. (2602S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **18-2-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** 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 CAPE FELTON VOY.NO. (0UVI6S1NC)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CAPE FELTON VOY.NO. (0UVI6S1NC)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **19-2-2026** 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 CMA-CGM SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BAL XIAMEN VOY.NO. (098W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BAL XIAMEN VOY.NO. (098W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **19-2-2026** 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 XO LUCKY VOY.NO. (X2604E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V XO LUCKY VOY.NO. (X2604E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **19-2-2026** 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

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Canada launches huge defence plan to curb reliance on US

Carney warned that relying too much on geography and external protection has left the nation with dangerous vulnerabilities and unsustainable dependencies.



Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney makes an announcement on new measures to strengthen security, create prosperity, and reinforce strategic autonomy at Canadian Aviation Electronics, a flight simulation company, in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, on 17 February 2026. **PHOTO BY ANDREJ IVANOV / AFP**

PRIME Minister Mark Carney on Tuesday launched a multi-billion-dollar plan to strengthen the Canadian military and

rely less on the United States.

Carney's announcement of Canada's first defence industrial strategy built on

themes he has emphasized during his 11-month tenure as President Donald Trump rips through traditional US alliances.

The prime minister says Canada has not done nearly enough to defend itself in an increasingly dangerous world and counting on US protection is no longer viable.

"We've relied too heavily on our geography and others to protect us," Carney said.

"This has created vulnerabilities that we can no longer afford and dependencies that we can no longer sustain," he added.

Carney has become one of the most prominent global voices criticizing Trump's administration, notably after his speech at the World Economic Forum last month where he said Trump had triggered a "rupture" in the rules-based global order. — AFP

Medinsky: Ukraine Geneva talks tough yet businesslike

THE trilateral negotiations in Geneva were difficult, but businesslike, head of the Russian delegation and Russian presidential aide Vladimir Medinsky said on Wednesday.

"As you know, the negotiations went on for two days — for a very long time yesterday in different formats, and today for about two hours. They were difficult, but businesslike," Medinsky said.

A new round of negotiations will be held in the near future, Medinsky added. This round of negotiations between Russia, the United States and Ukraine on the Ukrainian settlement took place in Geneva on 17-18 February at the InterContinental Geneva Hotel. — SPUTNIK



Vladimir Medinsky said that trilateral negotiations were difficult but conducted in a businesslike manner, with another round expected soon. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

Chinese premier congratulates Bangladesh's new PM on assuming office

CHINESE Premier Li Qiang on Tuesday sent a congratulatory message to Tarique Rahman on his assuming office as the prime minister of Bangladesh.

In his message, Li said that China and Bangladesh are traditional friendly neighbors and comprehensive strategic cooperative partners sharing a long history of friendly exchanges.

Over the past 51 years since the establishment of diplomatic ties, the two countries have always respected each other, treated each other as equals and pursued win-win cooperation, serving as a model of exchanges between countries, said Li.

The Chinese government supports the smooth administration of the new Bangladeshi government, said Li,

noting that he stands ready to work with the Bangladeshi prime minister to carry forward the traditional friendship, advance the high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, and push forward exchanges and cooperation in all sectors, so as to promote the China-Bangladesh comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership to a new level and bring more benefit to the people of both countries. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Philippine VP Sara Duterte announces 2028 presidential bid

PHILIPPINE Vice-President Sara Duterte announced on Wednesday that she will bid for the presidency in 2028.

Duterte formally confirmed her plans to seek the country's highest post at a press conference, the first to make public plans to run for president of the Philippines.

Duterte, daughter of former Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, said her prospective campaign would focus on strengthening families, promoting faith-based values and ensuring responsive governance. — Xinhua

Neither Russia, nor China conducted alleged nuclear tests in 2020

NEITHER Russia, nor China allegedly conducted any nuclear tests in 2020, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Wednesday.

Last week, US Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security Thomas DiNanno said that Washington has evidence that China allegedly conducted nuclear explosive tests in violation of moratorium and tried to hide it.

"We have heard many references to certain tests, and both Russia and China have been mentioned in this regard. Neither Russia, nor China have conducted any nuclear tests. And we also know that these confirmations were strongly rejected by representatives of the People's Republic of China, so the situation is like this," Peskov told reporters, answering the question whether Russia has its own data on this topic. — SPUTNIK

SPORTS



An MGF official is seen striking the ball to open the golf tournament.

Junior golf tournament kicks off

THE junior golf tournament started on 18 February, aiming to polish the quality of junior players to be international-level players, according to the Myanmar Golf Federation.

The opening was held on 18 February morning at the Yangon Golf Club (Danyingon).

It is a three-day event from 18 to 20 February, and 32 players will play.

It is organized by MGF and mainly sponsored by Sae Paing Development Ltd and Phyo Si

Thu Teak Plantation (Myanmar). MGF's patron, U Aung Kyi, chairman U Ko Ko Aye, joint general secretary and Junior Golf Myanmar chair U Aung Ko Zaw, MGF joint general secretary and JGM secretary U Tin Maung Maung Win and JGM joint secretary, U Chit Swe, opened it by striking the ball in turn.

Officials from sponsor companies, the golf club officials, players and guests attended the opening event, said MGF. — MT/ZS

Norway's Klaebo extends all-time Winter Olympics golds record to 10



Johannes Klaebo won a record-extending 10th Winter Olympics gold medal of his career. **PHOTO: AFP**

NORWEGIAN cross-country skier Johannes Klaebo won his 10th Winter Olympics gold medal on Wednesday, extending the record he set earlier in the Milan-Cortina Games.

Klaebo and his Norwegian teammate Einar Hedegart comfortably won the team sprint free event, with Klaebo slowing before the finish line to soak up the applause of the crowd.

The USA took the silver medal and Italy won bronze.

It was 29-year-old Klaebo's fifth gold medal of these Games alone, meaning he has won every event he has entered — and he has one more event to go.

The only athlete in Winter or Summer Games history with more Olympic titles is American swimmer Michael Phelps, who won 23 golds.

Klaebo won three golds at the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Games, and another two in Beijing in 2022. — AFP

Shiffrin primed for Olympic gold after rapid first slalom run

MIKAELA Shiffrin is firm favourite to end her Olympic medal drought with gold glory after topping the times in the first run of Wednesday's slalom at the Milan-Cortina Games.

The most successful World Cup ski racer of all time, Shiffrin glided down a fiendish course in Cortina d'Ampezzo to establish a handy lead of 0.82 seconds over Germany's Lena Duerr.

Shiffrin's rapid time of 47.13sec puts her in pole position to win her first Olympic title since the giant slalom in Pyeongchang in 2018, which is

also her most recent medal at a Winter Games.

That would banish memories of both Shiffrin's last Olympics in Beijing — where she failed to pick up a single medal from six races and didn't even finish three — and her disappointing displays in the team combined and giant slalom in northern Italy.

"It felt very good, it was really good skiing. I was super active, I felt very clean," said Shiffrin. "I felt like I nailed it, with some question marks, but the time is good so I'll take it and



Mikaela Shiffrin was fastest in the first run of the women's slalom event during the 2026 Milan-Cortina Winter Olympics. **PHOTO: AFP**

just give it a go on the second. "There were some butterflies and nervous energy, but I

have big energy today so just focusing on the gates between the start and the finish". — AFP

Racism allegations overshadow Real Madrid victory

VINICIUS Junior scored and then alleged he had been racially abused during Real Madrid's 1-0 win away to Benfica in the first leg of their Champions League play-off tie on Tuesday, while

Paris Saint-Germain came from two goals down to beat Monaco 3-2.

Elsewhere, Galatasaray stunned Juventus, beating the Italians 5-2 in Istanbul, and Borussia Dortmund

seized the upper hand in their tie against Atalanta with a 2-0 first-leg victory.

Madrid headed to Lisbon to play Benfica less than three weeks after a dramatic 4-2 defeat away to the same opponents, when goalkeeper Anatoliy Trubin scored a stunning late goal to take the Portuguese side through to the knock-out stages and force Real to drop into the play-offs.

Benfica coach Jose Mourinho was hoping to again inspire his current side to victory against the club he coached from 2010 to 2013, but the night was instead overshadowed by the alleged racist abuse reported by Vinicius. — AFP



Real Madrid's Vinicius Junior (L) accused Benfica's Gianluca Prestianni (C) of calling him a 'monkey'. **PHOTO: AFP**

Birthday boy Su Yiming wins China's first gold

SU Yiming captured gold in the men's snowboard slopestyle final at the Milan-Cortina Winter Olympics here on Wednesday, delivering China's first gold medal of the Games.

The victory, secured on his 22nd birthday, made his Olympic triumph all the more memorable.

Livigno had endured days of heavy snowfall and strong winds, disrupting the competition schedule. The slopestyle qualification rounds had been moved forward from Monday to Sunday due to worsening forecasts, while several events originally planned for Tuesday were postponed.

However, by Wednesday, the weather improved with clear skies and calm air, creating stable conditions for the final event. — Xinhua



Merz rules out nuclear weapons for Germany

Germany is open to discussing European nuclear deterrence but is not seeking independent possession of the weapons, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz said.

“I don’t want Germany to consider independent nuclear armament,” German Chancellor Friedrich Merz said on the Machtwechsel podcast, commenting on a 2020 French proposal to create a European nuclear deterrent.

However, “in these times, one cannot leave such an offer from the French government unexamined,” the politician added.

He emphasized that Germany is bound by the 2+4 Treaty and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and it is uncertain whether it is possible for Germany to leave them or not.

Merz said he had discussed with France — and possibly with the UK — ways to strengthen the European component of NATO alongside the American nuclear umbrella.

“We have nuclear-capable aircraft in the Bundeswehr... We are able to carry American nuclear weapons. In theory, this could also apply to British and French nuclear weapons,” the German chancellor said, adding that many technical, international legal, and practical issues would need to be resolved before such steps could be taken. — SPUTNIK

Instead, Berlin is exploring a collaborative “Euro-deterrent” framework involving French and British capabilities to complement the existing NATO/US nuclear umbrella.



German Chancellor Friedrich Merz speaks during the Munich Security Conference (MSC) in Munich, Germany, 13 February 2026. PHOTO: ALEXANDRA BEIER/AFP

Takaichi reelected as Japan PM at Diet after LDP’s huge election win



Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi enters the prime minister’s office in Tokyo on 18 February 2026. PHOTO: KYODO

SANAE Takaichi was reelected as Japan’s prime minister in parliament on Wednesday as the Diet convened a special session following her Liberal Democratic Party’s historic landslide victory in the 8 February House of Representatives election.

Before the start of the 150-day session, Takaichi’s Cabinet resigned en masse, as required by the Constitution. She is set to formally launch a new Cabinet later in the day, with no major changes to the lineup of ministers for the sake of continuity.

Takaichi, known for her hawkish views on defense and security, received overwhelming majority support with 354 votes in the lower

house, controlled by her ruling coalition.

In the House of Councilors, where the ruling camp remains in a minority, she was elected prime minister in a runoff by winning 125 votes against 65 for Junya Ogawa, head of the main opposition party.

All her ministers, including Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi, Finance Minister Satsuki Katayama and Defence Minister Shinjiro Koizumi, will remain in their posts, Chief Cabinet Secretary Minoru Kihara said at a press conference.

Takaichi formed her first Cabinet in October after becoming LDP leader and subsequently prime minister. — Kyodo

Maldives moves to merge key elections to cut costs

THE Maldives will hold a nationwide referendum in April to decide whether the presidential and parliamentary elections can be held on the same day to cut costs, an official said Wednesday.

President Mohamed Muizzu has set the plebiscite for 4 April, which if approved, would bring forward the next parliamentary vote and shorten the current legislature’s term by about five months.

Parliamentary elections are scheduled for early 2029, while the presidential poll is due in September 2028.

Muizzu’s spokesman said the president issued the decree on referendum on Monday night.

The referendum will take place alongside local council elections.

Muizzu has argued that holding both the national elections together would save the Indian Ocean archipelago about \$8 million. — AFP