

## 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.

## PR System Opens Political Platform to Small Parties and Ethnic Candidates

The State expressed its appreciation to the public for voting responsibly in the interest of national dignity, and its gratitude to the Union Election Commission and election officials for the orderly and successful conduct of the polls.



Acting President and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses the meeting with the Union Election Commission Chairman, the Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman and chief ministers from states and regions yesterday.

Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said so at the meeting with the Union Election Commission chairman, the Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman and chief ministers of regions and states at the meeting hall of the National Defence and Security Council yesterday afternoon.

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General said that starting from 28 December 2025, the multiparty democratic general election was successfully held in three phases across 263 townships. The orderly manner in which the voting was conducted demonstrated the public's

support for the election and also reflected their approval of the Government's political actions.

He continued that out of over 24 million eligible voters nationwide, more than 13.14 million cast their votes, resulting in a voter turnout of 54.22 per cent, showing that the election held in the country was a successful one.

Regarding advance voting, he retold that systematic preparations were carried out to prevent any irregularities in the voting process. Measures were also taken to properly record those who might be unable to vote on election day for various reasons, enabling them to cast their votes in advance.

**SEE PAGE 3**

### Salient points of the speech delivered by the Senior General at the meeting with UEC and Chief Ministers

1. The government and regional and state authorities are making preparations to convene the Hluttaw sessions in the future.
2. Political parties can complain their doubts over the election results to the UEC under the procedures.
3. Since the election was conducted using the PR (proportional representation) system, this demonstrates that a full multiparty system can be successfully implemented.
4. Measures were also taken to properly record those who might be unable to vote on election day for various reasons, enabling them to cast their votes in advance.

# NATIONAL



## National Objectives for 79<sup>th</sup> Union Day 2026

1. To work together among all ethnic nationals to achieve the country's prosperity and food security, the national goal of the country.
2. To cooperate hand-in-hand with the government, Tatmadaw and all ethnic nationals in successfully implementing the measures for stability and rule of law.
3. To strive together with ethnic armed groups to establish a lasting peace, while propagating justice, freedom and equality within the country.
4. To build a Union based on democracy and federalism, practising a genuine and disciplined multiparty democratic system through the friendship, trust, unity and collaboration of ethnic people.
5. To cooperate, ensuring the development of education, health and socioeconomic status of ethnic nationals and the emergence of a developing country.

- 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.

## Mottos for 79<sup>th</sup> Union Day 2026

1. Unity is strength, Unity is power, Peace is beauty.
2. Let's build lasting peace for the Union's development
3. National brethren, let's unite and join hands for the Union
4. Unity boosts friendship  
Harmony brings peace

## Myanmar Daily Weather Report

Issued at 7 pm Monday, 9 February 2026

**BAY INFERENCE:** 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 10 February 2026:** Isolated light rain are likely in Taninthayi Region and Kayin, Mon, eastern Shan States. The degree of certainty is 60 per cent. The weather will be generally fair weather in Lower Sagaing Region and Chin and Rakhine States and partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States.

**STATE OF THE SEA:** The sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about 3-5 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Likelihood of a slight decrease in night temperatures in Mandalay, Magway and Lower Sagaing Regions and Shan State.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 10 February 2026:** A few Clouds.

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 10 February 2026:** Partly cloudy.

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 10 February 2026:** Generally fair weather.

— DMH

## Myanmar-Vietnam Friendship Association congratulates Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on honorary doctorate

THE Myanmar-Vietnam Friendship Association is extremely proud to learn that, on 5 February 2026, the University of Yangon conferred the Honorary Doctor of Public Administration (DPA honoris causa) upon Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission

Chairman, at a special convocation ceremony.

The conferral of this Honorary Doctor of Public Administration degree is a clear and distinguished recognition of his leadership in steadfastly confronting and overcoming the challenges currently faced by the nation. The Myanmar-Vietnam Friendship Association extends its

best wishes for the Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman, to enjoy good health, both physically and mentally, and for his continued success in carrying out the responsibilities of the State.

Myanmar-Vietnam Friendship Association

## Timetable for Buddhist Culture Exam

UNDER the supervision of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, the 40<sup>th</sup> Buddhist Culture Examination, conducted by the respective Township Sangha Nayaka Committees, will be held at township examination centres in Nay Pyi Taw and in various regions and states according to the following schedule.

Date	Time allowed	Subject
3 <sup>rd</sup> Waxing Nayon 1388 ME 18 May 2026 Monday	From 1 pm to 3 pm	Cultural Ethic
4 <sup>th</sup> Waxing Nayon 1388 ME 19 May 2026 Tuesday	From 1 pm to 3 pm	Buddhist Myanmar
5 <sup>th</sup> Waxing Nayon 1388 ME 20 May 2026 Wednesday	From 1 pm to 3 pm	Basic Abhidhamma

Department for Promotion and Propagation of Sasana

# 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)*

## PR System Opens Political Platform to Small Parties ...

### FROM PAGE 1

The Senior General expressed gratitude to the citizens who participated in voting during the election. Their genuine acceptance of the multiparty democratic system and their orderly, peaceful participation in casting their ballots, in a manner befitting the nation's dignity, was regarded as a matter of pride for the country.

In its tenure, he noted that the Government carried out preparatory work for holding elections and the enactment of election-related laws in an orderly manner. Therefore, gratitude was expressed not only to the current UEC Chairman and members but also to the previous UEC that served during this Government's term.

He recounted that the government has arranged participation of political parties in the election by practising the PR system for small parties and ethnic representatives to be able to join the political platform of the Hluttaw.

He emphasized that candidates from 31 parties of out 57 parties and one independent candidate were elected to the Hluttaw. According to the election results, the Union Solidarity and Development Party received 44.19 per cent, the

National Unity Party 13.34 per cent, the People's Party 8.85 per cent, the People's Pioneer Party 7.65 per cent, and the Shan and Nationalities Democratic Party 6.17 per cent. Similarly, candidates from other ethnic parties also won seats. Since the election was conducted using the PR (proportional representation) system, this demonstrates that a full multiparty system can be successfully implemented.

The Senior General stressed that political parties can complain their doubts over the election results to the UEC under the procedures.

He underscored that as the election has been completed, the government and regional and state authorities are making preparations to convene the Hluttaw sessions in the future.

He emphasized that as the elected government that will assume office in the future, it must ensure that it carries out the responsibilities of the State smoothly and accurately based on correct and reliable information.

The Senior General pointed out that just as efforts are needed to plant and conserve forests, it is also necessary to strive, in accordance with the respective regions and states, to keep towns and villages clean, beautiful, and green. By

creating such a good environment for the people, their mindsets will improve, and they will experience greater peace and well-being.

In the education sector, the Senior General highlighted that it is extremely important for all children of school age to attend school for the future development of the nation. Efforts should be collectively made, to the best of one's ability, to ensure that students' academic progression and performance continue to improve.

He underlined that Tatmadaw, Myanmar Police Force and officials have to join hands in taking security, peace and stability activities. The strengths of Tatmadaw, MPF and people have to be combined to combat terrorists so that people can enjoy peace and stability fully.

The UEC Chairman reported on compiling the voter lists in steps, announcement of voting results and elected representatives, systematic use of Myanmar electronic voting machine and no objection of political parties for the election which was held fairly and systematically. Chief ministers of regions and states participated in the discussions.

In his concluding remarks, the Senior General noted that regarding MSME

businesses, it is encouraging and heartening to see that, in celebration of the 79<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Union Day in 2026, MSME products from various regions and states actively participated and competed by being showcased at the Union-level MSME products exhibition and market fair.

He added that MSME businesses play a key role in the country's economic development and have made significant progress. There is a need to further enhance production beyond the current operations and to ensure the availability of substitute products for imports as well as products for export.

In terms of technology and production, he said that there is a need to make greater efforts to improve quality and standards beyond the current level. Likewise, chief ministers of regions and states should support and promote MSME businesses and work to help advance the country's economic development.

Also, present at the ceremony were Commission Vice-Chairman Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Prime Minister U Nyo Saw, Executive Chief U Aung Lin Dwe, Commission Secretary General Ye Win Oo, commission members, Union ministers and deputy ministers. — MNA/TTA

## Myanmar, India ink MoU for supply of lab equipment, apparatus to Naypyitaw State Academy

THE signing ceremony of MoU between Myanmar and India for supply of lab equipment and apparatus to the Naypyitaw State Academy was organized at the academy yesterday.

It was attended by Union Minister for Education Dr Chaw Chaw Sein, Deputy Minister Dr Zaw Myint, directors-general of the relevant departments, the rector, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Abhay Thakur and other officials.

At the event, the Indian ambassador explained the intention of MoU to promote bilateral cooperation in education sector,

strengthen bilateral relations and also underscored India's commitment to provide advanced laboratory equipment for Myanmar's education sector.

The deputy minister and Indian ambassador signed the MoU.

The Union minister also talked about the signing of MoU that showed a meaningful result of bilateral relations, and added that through the MoU, modern equipment including physics and chemistry laboratory apparatus, scientific research materials, laboratory instruments, and supporting software will be



Deputy Minister Dr Zaw Myint and Indian Ambassador Mr Abhay Thakur sign the MoU yesterday, also attended by Union Minister Dr Chaw Chaw Sein.

provided, which will contribute to the teaching, learning, and research activities of Naypyitaw State Academy. She then expressed gratitude, on behalf of the Ministry of Education, to Indian government and those who participated in the MoU signing processes.

On behalf of the Union minister, Rector Dr Nu Nu Lwin of the Naypyitaw State Academy presented a commemorative gift, which was received by the Indian ambassador, who in turn presented commemorative gifts to the Union minister and the deputy minister. — MNA/KTZH

# NATIONAL

## Military training for UTC volunteer students, faculty launched

THE University Training Corps of the Directorate of People's Militia and Frontier Forces of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) Office conducted training for volunteer students and faculty members of the University Training Corps (UTC).

The basic and advanced military training opening ceremonies for UTC of the 2025-2026 academic year were opened in Nay Pyi Taw Council, Taunggyi in Shan State (South), Mawlamyine in Mon State, Kamayut in Yangon Region, Patheingyi in Ayeyawady Region, Amarapura in Mandalay Region and Toungoo in Bago Region yesterday.

The respective region chief ministers attended the opening



The launch of the military training for the University Training Corps is underway yesterday.

ceremonies, as did commanders of respective commands, officials of the Directorate of People's Militia and Frontier Forces of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) Office, and trainees. Officials also made opening speeches respectively.

They enjoyed the performance of the trainees, and also presented the cash awards and foodstuffs to the trainees.

The first-year basic military training, second-year basic military training, and first-year and second-year advanced training will be conducted, and trainees will be trained as per the ordinary training and camping training framework. — MNA/KTZH

### Public Notice: Instructions for Depositing OWIC Fee

THE Department of Labour under the Ministry of Labour issues Overseas Worker Identification Cards (OWIC) to workers holding a Passport for Job (PJ) who are going abroad for employment, to ensure that they can enjoy the rights granted under the laws of host countries and that labour-related matters can be smoothly resolved upon their arrival in the respective foreign countries.

Workers who have been officially announced as eligible to apply for the OWIC are required to pay an OWIC card fee of K5,600, and a penalty fee of K22,400 in cases of loss or damage, starting 1 March 2026, through branches of the Myanmar Economic Bank to Account No OA-013904 of the Overseas Employment Supervisory Committee opened at the Myanmar Economic Bank, Nay Pyi Taw.

After transferring the OWIC card fee to Account No OA-013904, workers must bring the original remittance application slip together with one photocopy and submit them on the scheduled OWIC application date at the OWIC Issuance Centre, Skills Training School (North Dagon), Department of Labour.

The OWIC card will not be issued in cases of transfer to an incorrect account number, inaccurate remittance application details, or failure to present the original remittance application slip.

Ministry of Labour

## LBVD urges rabies prevention and vaccination

THE Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department notified the public of protection from rabies and vaccination is the most effective way to save human lives by stopping transmission of rabies.

Rabies is commonly transmitted to humans through the saliva of infected cats,

dogs, snakes, foxes via bites or scratches. Vaccination for dogs is an effective measure to prevent a fatal and incurable viral disease.

Thus, LBVD notified encouraging pet owners to get their dogs and cats received rabies shot every one to three year depending on products

and guideline of veterinarian, keep them away from stray animals, use the dog leash to handle dogs while walking, and make immediate action and report to the authorities concerned (ward administrator and officials of the LBVD) regarding suspected rabies. — NN/KK

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# NATIONAL

## UEC announces secured votes of political parties

THE Union Election Commission of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar issued announcement 34/2026 on 9 February on the number of secured votes obtained by political parties in the 2025 multiparty democratic general election.

The Union Election Commission conducted the multiparty democratic general election in phases

starting from 28 December 2025. These elections were held in 263 constituencies for the Pyithu Hluttaw, 99 constituencies for the Amyotha Hluttaw, 297 constituencies for regional or state Hluttaws, and 29 constituencies for ethnic groups. The Commission has announced the elected representatives for each Hluttaw, the votes and percentages obtained by each

individual candidate, and the number of seats won by each political party.

Moreover, the commission announced the constituencies contested by political parties, the number of candidates competing, the number of secured votes, the percentage of secured votes, and the number of winning Hluttaw representatives. — GNLM

### Overview of Secured Votes by Party in 2025 General Election

Sri	Political Party/Independent	Constituency	Candidate	Secured vote	Secured vote percentage	Winning candidate	Remark
1	Union Solidarity and Development Party	687	1017	5804025	44.19%	739	
2	National Unity Party	466	689	1744943	13.28%	68	
3	People's Party	363	498	1155817	8.80%	30	
4	People's Pioneer Party	466	661	1000815	7.62%	20	
5	Shan and Nationalities Democratic Party	386	575	802414	6.11%	39	
6	Myanmar Farmers' Development Party	282	421	691628	5.27%	6	
7	Pa-O National Organization (PNO)	29	50	331331	2.52%	18	
8	Mon Unity Party	24	38	145786	1.11%	17	
9	Kayin People's Party	20	29	124805	0.95%	3	
10	88 Generation Student Youths (Union of Myanmar) Party	17	24	100883	0.77%	2	
11	Danu National Democracy Party	14	26	81465	0.62%	5	
12	Federal Democratic Party	51	74	74142	0.56%	3	
13	Labour Party	5	6	56716	0.43%		
14	National Interest Development Party	30	44	48926	0.37%	2	
15	Karen National Democratic Party	15	26	48702	0.37%	7	
16	Inn National League Party	7	10	44037	0.34%	4	
17	Phalon-Sawaw Democratic Party	23	34	33772	0.26%	2	
18	Naga National Party	11	20	32386	0.25%	12	
19	Tai-Leng (Shanni) Nationalities Development Party	17	28	29375	0.22%	4	
20	Modern People Party	4	4	26121	0.20%		
21	Peace and Development Party	18	31	25457	0.19%		
22	United Nationalities Democracy Party	14	16	25249	0.19%		
23	Union Peace and Unity Party	14	20	25098	0.19%		
24	Democratic Party	9	11	25002	0.19%		
25	Social Economic Promotion Party	6	6	23114	0.18%		
26	Arakan Front Party	13	32	22567	0.17%	8	
27	Kachin State People's Party	18	25	21765	0.17%	3	
28	Democratic Forces Labour Party	8	12	20429	0.16%		
29	New Generation Wunthanu Party	22	27	19955	0.15%		
30	People's Party of Myanmar Farmers and Workers	3	3	19818	0.15%		
31	Shan-ni (Tai-Leng) Solidarity Party	14	29	19564	0.15%	5	
32	Rakhine Nationalities Party	14	25	18901	0.14%	6	
33	National Political Alliance League Party	4	4	17368	0.13%		
34	Peace and Diversity Party	7	9	16767	0.13%		
35	Unity and Development Party	14	19	14173	0.11%		
36	Akha National Development Party	9	16	13973	0.11%	1	
37	New National Democracy Party	2	2	12725	0.10%		
38	Public of Labour Party	3	3	11988	0.09%		
39	Pa-O National Unity Party	18	22	10960	0.08%	3	
40	Mon Progressive Party	3	3	9225	0.07%		
41	Union of Myanmar Federation of National Politics	6	9	9087	0.07%		
42	New Democratic Party (Kachin)	17	29	8460	0.06%	2	
43	Kayah State People's Party	15	26	8076	0.06%	3	
44	Party for the People	3	3	7278	0.06%		
45	Lisu National Development Party	15	19	6786	0.05%	2	
46	Kokang Democracy and Unity Party	2	2	6362	0.05%		

# NATIONAL

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Sri	Political Party/Independent	Constituency	Candidate	Secured vote	Secured vote percentage	Winning candidate	Remark
47	Wa National Party	4	8	6303	0.05%	1	
48	Pa-O National Development Party	8	11	6210	0.05%	1	
49	Myanmar People's Democratic Party	1	1	5696	0.04%		
50	Trustee of the Peace Party	11	14	5427	0.04%		
51	New Empowerment National Party	5	8	3186	0.02%		
52	Khami National Development Party	1	1	2289	0.02%		
53	Zomi National Party	5	17	1633	0.01%	7	
54	Rakhine State National United Party	1	1	1268	0.01%		
55	New Chinland Congress	7	20	1206	0.01%	1	
56	Mro National Development Party	3	4	555	0.004%		
57	Khumi National Party	1	1	231	0.002%		
58	Independent	86	91	303085	2.31%	1	
	<b>Total</b>		<b>4854</b>	<b>13135325</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1025</b>	

## Yangon China Cultural Centre hosts Guangxi Ethnic Costume Culture Exhibition

THE “Colourful Guangxi Land – Guangxi Ethnic Costume Culture Exhibition” was held at the Yangon China Cultural Centre on 8 February.

“This event is organized by the Yangon China Cultural Centre and the Guangxi Ethnic Museum. The exhibition is being held in Yangon, to showcase traditional Chinese culture and ethnic costume traditions. It will not only help Myanmar friends better understand neighbouring China, but also enhance mutual understanding between the peoples of China and Myanmar, and further strengthen the traditional kinship bonds between the two countries. I believe that businesspeople and students in Yangon, especially those in academic fields, will also be interested in the ethnic costume exhibition, cultural seminars, and intangible cultural heritage displays. I believe that this event, like previous ones, will be an excellent platform for introducing Chinese culture,” said Mr Li Qianguo, Counsellor of the Chinese Embassy to Myanmar, in his opening remarks.

Guangxi is located in southern China and is close to Southeast Asian countries, including Myanmar. There are 12 ethnic groups living in Guangxi — Zhuang, Han, Yao, Miao, Dong, Mulao, Maonan, Hui, Jing, Yi,



This photo features the opening ceremony of the Guangxi Ethnic Costume Cultural Exhibition.

Shui, and Gelao — each with its own rich traditions and culture. Many places in Guangxi are famous tourist destinations and attract large numbers of domestic and international tourists throughout the year.

The ceremony was attended by Yangon China Culture Centre in-charge Mr Xiang Jianbo, Deputy Curator of the Guangxi Ethnic Museum Mr Liu Chuangju, Director of the National Museum (Yangon) Nang Loung Ngin, Director of the National Library

(Yangon) Dr Kathy Aye, Vice-Chair of the Myanmar-China Friendship Association U Han Lin Aung, and other invited guests.

Through today's exhibition, people will gain a deeper understanding of the social life and values behind the costumes and will be confident that the friendship between the peoples of Myanmar and China will continue to grow.

“Culture is a bridge that connects between people. With

over 130 ethnic groups living together in Myanmar, each with its own language, literature, and traditional arts, it is fascinating to observe the striking similarities in clothing, which are among the most visible expressions of ethnic culture. The costumes of ethnic groups in Guangxi Province and Myanmar are very similar in their use of blue and black as base colours, hand-woven designs, and long-dress styles. Some ethnic groups emphasize red, black, and white,

and the use of embroidery and headscarves is strikingly similar. Others favour simple striped patterns and hand-woven fabrics that are practical for everyday life. Ethnic costumes in Myanmar are a heritage passed down from mother to daughter and are based on hand-woven fabrics. A costume is more than just a piece of clothing; it represents the history, beliefs, and identity of a people. Preserving and displaying them through museums, like today's event, is very important for future generations,” said Director of the National Museum (Yangon) Daw Nan Laung Ngin.

This was followed by a speech on the culture embodied in traditional ethnic children's hats from the Guangxi Province. Students from the State High School of Fine Arts (Yangon) then performed the song “Malay Latkhat Than”, and a Chinese cultural group presented the traditional fan dance.

Afterwards, the guests took photos and enjoyed Chinese spring festival activities in the cultural centre gallery, including colouring traditional Guangxi flower patterns, stitching Guangxi Zhuang ethnic fabrics, making bookmarks by dyeing, writing New Year greetings, and studying poems about New Year. — Htun Htun/TH

## Scholars urged to strive to apply AI on a wider scale

- ❖ “With today’s technological development, artificial intelligence (AI) is being widely applied across various sectors internationally.”
  - ❖ “Myanmar universities are also being encouraged to have scholars strive to widely apply artificial intelligence (AI) alongside technology in the academic sector.”
- (Excerpt from the speech delivered by Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the ceremony to mark the centennial celebration of Mandalay University on 4 October 2024)*

## MPA seeks tender for dredging, waterway improvement of Dawei River

THE Myanma Port Authority (MPA) reinvited domestic and foreign companies to submit a tender for dredging and improvement of the riverway of the Dawei River in Taninthayi Region and for sand export.

Excessive river sediments disrupt water channels, reduce channel capacity, block navigation and reduce draft level. Therefore, MPA called for companies to operate dredging work along the riverway and exportation of sand excavated from the river

Unlike a commercial dredging, this dredging work needs to ensure no impact on the environment and ecosystem, dredging at the specific shallow-water areas designated by the MPA to reach the targeted water-depth, no disruption to the socio-economic conditions of the local people, and providing support to the development works if necessary. Therefore, the bidder must present their qualification in terms of work, technical experiences, the strength of exports and equipment and financial capability. Interested companies that meet the criteria are invited to submit the tender to MPA by 1 pm on 10 March. Tender applications will be sold between 11 February and 6 March at MPA’s Store Department in Botahtaung Township.

International companies may need to form a JV company with a local company or to have a branch office in Myanmar or to register in Myanmar if they are awarded the tender. Individuals can enquire about details of the tender process and regulation through 01 246380 and 09 444714377. — NN/KK

## Myanmar, Thailand explore Tachilek-Mae Sai corridor to boost cross-border trade

MYANMAR-THAILAND discusses designating Tachilek-Mae Sai as transit corridor to increase transport connectivity, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.

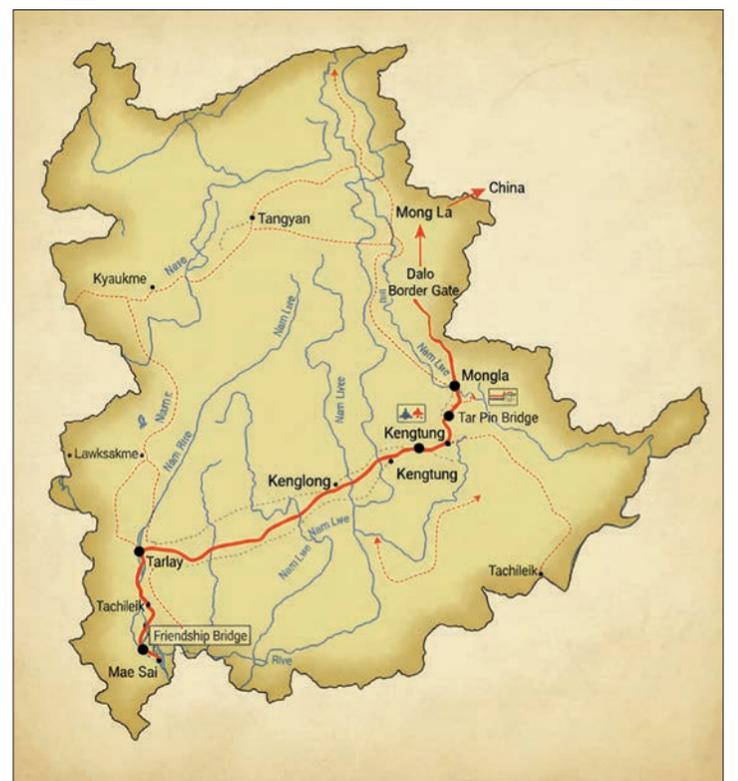
Myanmar and Thailand are under discussion to utilize the Mae Sai-Tachilek-Kengtung-Taphin-Mongla route as R3B section to facilitate the fruit export from Thailand to China through Myanmar in compliance with stipulated phytosanitary regulations.

Furthermore, the discussion highlighted ensuring smooth export of 16 main items from Myanmar to Thailand, including maize, black gram, sesame, green gram and rice, in line with International Standard for Phytosanitary Measure

and setting temporary stops for Thailand’s fruit exports through Myanmar to China.

Utilizing this crossing will likely increase international cargo volume, enhance trade, services and logistic sector along the Thailand-Myanmar border, expand logistic businesses such as transport and warehouse management and create job opportunities for residents on both sides.

The meeting was held in Tachilek, eastern Shan State, with the presence of Myanmar delegations led by the deputy director-general of the MALI and the Thai delegation comprising advisers from the National Bureau of Agricultural Commodity and Food Standards under Thailand’s Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives. — ASH/KK



A map showing the Tachilek-Mae Sai crossing that is designated to use as transit corridor.

## Over 1,840 companies, factories seek GACC certification

A total of 1,849 Myanmar food processing companies and factories have submitted 3,839 applications to the General Administration of Customs of the People’s Republic of China (GACC) until 12 December 2025, according to the Domestic Trade Division (GACC team) of Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization under the Ministry of Commerce.

According to GACC Decrees 248 and 249, GACC registration is mandatory for food exporters starting from 1 January 2022.

Those individuals executing edible oil, oilseeds, stuffed pastry products, edible bird’s nest and related products, edible grains, grains milling industrial products and malt, fresh and dehydrated vegetables, dried beans, plant species, nuts and seeds, dried fruits, un-

roasted coffee and cocoa bean, special dietary food excluding milk-based formula, functional foods, bee products, aquatic products including farm products, animal products and animal feed and livestock animal businesses need to apply for a GACC licence to place their goods in China’s markets.

The relevant authorities for the registration with GACC are the Agriculture Department, the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, the Fisheries Department and the Food and Drug Administration Department.

Exporters can directly access China International Trade Single Window through <https://cifer.singlewindow.cn> by creating accounts for those food groups which are not listed on those aforementioned 18 groups.

Between 1 December 2021 and 12 December 2026, 3,839 applications by 1,849 factories have been forwarded to the GACC through the Agriculture Department (3,661 applications), the Fisheries Department (155), the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department (14) and the Food and Drug Administration Department (nine).

Regarding the registration of the importing companies, the Department of Animal and Plant Quarantine under the GACC will check quarantine access for the imported grains (unroasted coffee bean, cocoa beans, fresh and dehydrated vegetables, plant seasonings (plant spices), edible grain, dried beans, oil seeds (oil plant) and herbal animal products and plant for their origins.

The companies cannot directly proceed with registra-

tion and they need to carry out this step through competent authorities and departments concerned by sending email via [dapq@customs.gov.cn](mailto:dapq@customs.gov.cn) or submitting a letter to the Chinese Embassy to Myanmar or the Myanmar Embassy to China.

As of 6 February 2026, a total of 1,230 applications have been successful in registering with the GACC with the approval of the competent authority. Additionally, a manual registration list of overseas manufacturers of imported foods with the GACC has been uploaded on <http://dzs.customs.gov.cn/>. Individuals can enquire further information through the contact numbers of the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization at 067 3408605 and 067 3408617, and email [myantrade.domestic@gmail.com](mailto:myantrade.domestic@gmail.com). — NN/KK

# OPINION

## Serve the State's interest as good civil servants

**C**IVIL servants are those who work to ensure that the entire state machinery functions smoothly and effectively. Regardless of how political and economic systems or government administrations may change, as civil servants enter the relevant organizations to shoulder the responsibilities of the State, they must continuously work to keep the state machinery functioning without interruption in accordance with their duties and obligations.

In essence, civil servants must uphold loyalty and devotion to the State; comply with the provisions prescribed in the Constitution (2008) and existing laws; give priority to the interests of the State and its citizens; safeguard State-owned property and public finances to prevent loss, waste, and misuse; and conscientiously and diligently carry out the duties and responsibilities entrusted to them.

In order to faithfully carry out the duties assigned to them, civil servants must comply with the rules, regulations, disciplinary codes, orders, and directives issued under the Civil Service Law; adhere to workplace rules, orders, and instructions separately prescribed by their respective organizations; remain free from party politics; attend designated training courses; refrain from conduct that undermines moral character and dignity; avoid abuse of authority entrusted to them by virtue of their duties; refrain from bribery and corruption; and provide services to the public with respect and courtesy.

Civil servants must work to ensure that office duties are carried out systematically and that a spirit of patriotism and love for the nation is fostered. Relevant ministries must conduct training for them in a systematic manner. Only then will there be a greater number of disciplined civil servants with a strong sense of patriotism. All office procedures need to be standardized and consistent, and therefore must be implemented systematically. With regard to the performance of duties, each individual must be able to carry out the tasks assigned to them competently, proficiently, and successfully.

Civil servants must clearly distinguish between politics and the national cause and carry out the responsibilities of the nation accordingly. In order to remain free from corruption, civil servants must manage their spending in a way that balances income and expenditure. The government, for its part, has made efforts to the extent possible to ensure that civil servants have adequate living and subsistence conditions. Only when the country's economic sector develops can the benefits and welfare of civil servants be further enhanced. In essence, civil servants are called upon to shoulder their duties in the national interest with love and devotion to the State, and a strong sense of responsibility in faithfully performing their duties.

# Strategic Investment: Myanmar's Competitive Edge in ASEAN

By Dr Kyaw Linn Htun – Public Administration



The general façade view of the Thilawa Special Economic Zone.

**F**oreign Direct Investment, or FDI, plays a major role in economic growth across South-East Asia. In the ASEAN region, foreign investment has helped countries build industries, create jobs, and improve technology. Myanmar, as a member of ASEAN, has strong potential to benefit from strategic investment if it focuses on its competitive strengths and long-term development goals.

Although Myanmar faces economic and political challenges, it also has clear advantages that can attract investors who are looking for growth opportunities in emerging markets. Understanding and promoting these advantages is essential for Myanmar's future position within ASEAN.

### The Importance of Strategic Investment

Strategic investment means attracting investment that supports national development goals. This includes investment in manufacturing, infrastructure, energy, agriculture, and services that create long-term value. In ASEAN, countries that have successfully attracted strategic FDI have seen improvements in productivity, exports, and living standards.

According to ASEAN investment reports, total FDI inflows into ASEAN exceeded US\$220 billion in recent years, making the region one of the top investment destinations in the world. While countries like Singapore, Vietnam, and Indonesia receive large shares, frontier economies

such as Myanmar remain important for future expansion.

For Myanmar, FDI is especially important because domestic capital is limited. Foreign investors can bring not only money, but also management skills, technology, and access to global markets.

### Myanmar's Competitive Edge in ASEAN

**1. Large and Young Workforce**  
Myanmar has a population of approximately 54 million people. More than 65 per cent of the population is of working age, between 15 and 64 years old. The median age of Myanmar's population is about 29 years, which is younger than that of many ASEAN countries, such as Thailand and Singapore.

The total labour force is estimated at over 30 million people. Wages in Myanmar remain lower than in several neighbouring ASEAN economies, especially for basic manufacturing and labour-intensive industries. This gives Myanmar a cost advantage for investors in sectors such as garments, food processing, and light manufacturing.

A young workforce also means long-term labour availability, which is important for investors planning multi-year or multi-decade projects.

### 2. Strategic Geographic Location

Myanmar is located between South Asia, South-East Asia, and China. It shares borders with five countries: China, India, Thailand,

Laos, and Bangladesh. This location gives Myanmar strong potential as a regional trade and logistics link.

With improved transport corridors, ports, and border trade facilities, Myanmar can serve as a bridge between major markets. Projects such as special economic zones and cross-border highways increase the country's attractiveness to investors involved in regional supply chains.

### 3. Natural Resources and Energy Potential

Myanmar is rich in natural resources. It has significant reserves of natural gas, hydropower, minerals, and agricultural land. Natural gas exports have historically been one of the country's largest sources of foreign income.

Myanmar's hydropower potential is estimated at more than 100,000 megawatts, one of the highest levels in Southeast Asia. Responsible and well-managed investment in energy can support industrial development and improve electricity access for businesses and households.

Agriculture also remains a key strength. About 50 per cent of Myanmar's workforce is employed in agriculture, and the country has strong potential in rice, beans, pulses, fisheries, and agro-processing industries.

### 4. Access to the ASEAN Market

ASEAN has a combined population of more than 660 million

people and a total GDP exceeding US\$3 trillion. As an ASEAN member, Myanmar benefits from regional trade agreements, reduced tariffs, and investment co-operation frameworks.

For foreign investors, producing in Myanmar can provide access not only to the domestic market but also to the wider ASEAN market. This is especially attractive for companies looking to diversify production locations and reduce over-dependence on a single country.

### Comparison with Other ASEAN Economies

ASEAN countries differ in terms of development levels. Singapore is a global financial hub. Vietnam has become a manufacturing centre. Thailand and

Malaysia have strong industrial bases. Myanmar is still at an early stage of industrialization, but this also means there is room for rapid growth.

Investors who enter early can benefit from first-mover advantages, lower costs, and long-term market expansion. This is why frontier ASEAN economies continue to attract interest despite higher risks.

### Challenges That Must Be Addressed

#### 1. Infrastructure Gaps

Infrastructure remains one of Myanmar's biggest challenges. Electricity supply is limited and unreliable in many areas. Road, port, and railway networks need upgrading to support large-scale industrial activity.

Without strong infrastructure, production costs increase, and investor confidence decreases.

Infrastructure investment is therefore essential for improving competitiveness.

#### 2. Regulatory and Institutional Issues

Clear laws, transparent procedures, and consistent policy implementation are critical for attracting FDI. Investors need confidence that rules will not change suddenly and that contracts will be respected.

Research on ASEAN shows that regulatory quality and political stability are among the most important factors influencing investment decisions. Strengthening institutions and improving governance will directly support

Myanmar's investment environment.

### 3. Skills and Human Capital

While Myanmar has a large labour force, skill levels remain uneven. To attract higher-value investment in technology, engineering, and services, the country needs better education and vocational training systems.

Investment in human capital will allow Myanmar to move beyond low-cost labour and toward productivity-based competitiveness.

### Policy Directions for Strategic Investment

To strengthen its competitive edge, Myanmar should focus on the following areas:

1. Improve vocational training and technical education to match industry needs
2. Simplify investment procedures and strengthen investor protection
3. Prioritize infrastructure development, especially power and transport
4. Promote responsible investment that supports sustainable development
5. Deepen cooperation with ASEAN partners and regional investors

### Conclusion

Myanmar stands at an important crossroads. As an ASEAN member with a young population, rich resources, and a strategic location, it has clear competitive ad-

vantages for strategic investment. At the same time, challenges related to infrastructure, institutions, and skills must be addressed carefully and consistently.

If Myanmar can focus on long-term reforms and smart investment strategies, it can strengthen its position within ASEAN and become a competitive destination for foreign investors. Strategic investment is not only about attracting capital. It is about building a stronger and more inclusive economy for the future.

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## Hunger not driving bears to populated areas in western Japan: study

**B**ears entered areas near human dwellings despite being adequately nourished, even during years when acorns were scarce in their natural habitats, likely attracted by fruit trees left on abandoned farmland, a recent study in western Japan showed.

The research team, which included the Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology and Shimane Prefecture's Mountainous Region Research Centre, examined the links between acorns, the bears' main autumn food source, and their body fat. Japan's recent rise in bear

intrusions has partly been attributed to food scarcity in their natural habitats.

The findings suggest that measures such as removing "attractants" like fallen persimmons and chestnuts and blocking bears' entry routes into settlements are essential, Shinsuke Koike, a professor at the university specializing in ecology, said.

The study examined 651 Asian black bears, one of the two species of bears in the country, that were killed as threats to human neighbourhoods or in traffic accidents in Shimane be-

tween 2003 and 2018. The team said it is unclear whether the findings can be applied to other areas with different environments.

The bears' nutritional status was measured using three indexes — subcutaneous, visceral and bone marrow fat — because when an animal is starving and its nutritional condition declines, it mobilizes fat reserves in a specific order.

Their fat levels peaked in the fall when they feed heavily on acorns ahead of winter hibernation, declining by 62 per cent for subcutaneous fat and 39 per

cent for visceral fat in the spring after hibernation. The fat levels further fell from spring to summer amid tighter food availability.

During hibernation, bears are believed to first burn subcutaneous fat, which is easy to store and metabolize. As their nutritional condition deteriorates, they use visceral fat and bone marrow fat.

Visceral and bone marrow fat levels remained low throughout the year when acorn availability was poor the previous year, while there was no nota-

ble difference in subcutaneous fat, the study showed.

At the study site, years of low acorn production by oak trees were typically preceded by years of good or moderate abundance, and bears entering settlements during those periods were "not necessarily compromised" nutritionally.

"These intrusions were likely driven not by a poor nutritional status but by the presence of attractive food sources," said the report published by the Mamal Society of Japan in its journal.

SOURCE: Kyodo



Photo shows a bear captured in a box trap in Shimane Prefecture, western Japan. PHOTO: SHIMANE PREFECTURE MOUNTAINOUS REGION RESEARCH CENTRE/KYODO

# NATIONAL

## Nay Pyi Taw's Union-level expo links MSMEs with home, overseas markets

AT the Union-Level MSME Products Exhibition and Market Fair being held at the Nay Pyi Taw Square from 8 to 13 February 2026, the Business Matching Pavilion is providing services to connect MSME products from regions and states with markets, starting from the initial stage of business establishment through to domestic sales and eventual export to international markets.

During the exhibition period, MSME entrepreneurs are being assisted through coordination with relevant departments, including the Department of Trade for exporter/importer registration certificates; the Food and Drug Administration De-

partment for FDA certification; the Department of Intellectual Property for trademark registration; and other departments for matters relating to import and export endorsements. These services are delivered through the Ministry Coordination and Facilitation Team.

Additionally, the Domestic Market Linkage Team is supporting MSME entrepreneurs in marketing regional products through local retail and wholesale outlets such as Makro, City Mart, One Stop Mart and Aeon.

For entrepreneurs seeking financial resources and access to loans for starting new businesses or expanding existing ones,



Business matching continues at the Union-Level MSME Products Exhibition and Market Fair in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

the Investment Linkage Team is facilitating connections with domestic banks, including Kanbawza Bank, CB Bank, AYA Bank

and SME Development Bank. Furthermore, to enable MSME products to enter overseas markets, services are also being

provided through the Overseas Market Linkage Team, which coordinates with 16 commercial attachés assigned to 12 countries.

On the second day of the exhibition, it was reported that the Ministry Coordination and Facilitation Team connected with 87 MSME entrepreneurs; the Domestic Market Linkage Team facilitated meetings between 41 entrepreneurs and 11 retail and wholesale outlets; the Investment Linkage Team arranged meetings between 40 entrepreneurs and 13 banks; and the Overseas Market Linkage Team connected with 21 entrepreneurs. — MNA/MKKS

## CQI launches Arabica post-harvest professional course in PyinOoLwin

THE six-day Post-Harvest Processing Arabica Professional Course, which awards the CQI Processing Arabica Professional licence, will be held in PyinOoLwin from 18 to 23 February, according to the Myanmar Coffee Association.

The course will utilize the world-class curriculum of the Coffee Quality Institute (CQI), and it will be instructed by CQI experts at the Mandalay Coffee Group Factory in PyinOoLwin. Students who pass the examinations will be awarded the CQI Certified Arabica Processing Professional licence.

This is an opportunity for those aiming to become experts in the post-harvest processing technology. It is noted that the CQI Processing Arabica Professional licence, issued directly by the Coffee Quality Institute, will be granted to those who pass both the theoretical and practical examinations.

The association stated that this six-day programme offers a direct learning within a coffee-producing region during the harvest season. The course includes: detailed theory and practice, in-depth study of various coffee processing methods, practical use of Post-Harvest Quality Control (QC) systems, flavour profiles, lectures, group activities, practical workshops, and cupping (tasting).

**COFFEE QUALITY INSTITUTE**

**Post Harvest Processing Arabica Professional Course**

**February 18-23, 2026**  
**Mandalay Coffee Group Factory, Pyin Oo Lwin**

**Q Instructor**  
**Bryce Castleton**  
**Myo Aye**

**Contact - Viber +959 784888808**

An announcement for the opening of the Post-Harvest Processing Arabica Professional Course.

This course is highly recommended for individuals currently working in post-harvest processing or those seeking deeper technical knowledge of coffee production and interested applicants can contact Viber 09 784888808 for more information. — MT/ZN

## Yangon-Dala Bridge now equipped with water pipes for Dala

INSTALLATION of water pipes with one feet and six inches diameter are equipped at each side of the Yangon-Dala Bridge opened on 6 February 2026, for conveying water to Dala from Yangon.

It is a steel cable-stayed bridge enables large vessels crossing. The main bridge has a gradient of 5.95 per cent and a length of 6,127 feet, with a total width of 79 feet. It comprises four traffic lanes, each 11 feet and six inches wide, and pedestrian walkways on both sides, each 6.5 feet wide. The bridge can withstand 75 tonnes of load.

Governments of Myanmar and Korea launched discussion in 2012 for the bridge project and the construction was started in 2019, with US\$157.833 million

from the Economic Development Cooperation Fund of Korea and the government budget worth \$30.341million.

The government funded more than K23 billion for the bridge construction and now a direct road transportation is connected to Dala as well as Twantay, Kawhmu and Kungyangon townships from Yangon downtown so the urban development will stretch to these townships, said Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

He added that the public is happy as they can go easily to Dala, Twantay, Kawhmu and Kungyangon townships as well as Ayeyawady Region from Yangon after the bridge completed. — Htun Htun/ZS



Vehicles as well as pedestrians pass the newly-opened Yangon-Dala bridge.

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## Construction Sector Development Law

### (National Defence and Security Council Law 5/2026)

#### CONTINUED FROM YESTERDAY

- (c) If the department receives notice of rejection under subsection (a), it shall inform the applicant accordingly.
- (d) The department shall systematically record all applications that are approved or rejected.
44. The Third-Party Organization shall obey the following: -
- (a) Rules, regulations, procedures, orders, and directives issued under this Law.
- (b) Professional ethics relevant to the respective disciplines.
- (c) Myanmar building standards, relevant sectoral standards, guidelines, and manuals.
45. The Third-Party Organization has the right to:
- (a) make contracts and receive prescribed fees from project owners or authorized entities to conduct quality inspections on architectural building designs during and after construction.
- (b) order suspension or rectification of works where substandard quality, improper procedures, or non-compliance with standards are found.
46. (a) Those wishing to continue operations of Third-Party Organization after expiry shall apply for renewal to the department at least 60 days before expiry.
- (b) Failure to apply within the prescribed period mentioned in subsection (a) renders the certificate void on the expiry date.
- (c) Renewal may be approved or rejected by the department with the approval of the working committee on scrutinizing and issuance of the registration certificate in accordance with subsection (a).

#### Chapter XI

##### Application for and Issuance of a Quality Certification Certificate

47. Any individual, company, or organization wishing to apply for a Quality Certification Certificate in respect of construction materials imported from abroad or construction materials produced domestically shall submit an application, in accordance with the prescribed requirements, to the Department or the relevant Department or organization, together with the following supporting documents: -
- (a) Standards and complete documentary evidence relating to the construction materials to be tested and inspected;
- (b) Samples of the materials to be tested, in the required type and quantity;
- (c) Proof of payment of the prescribed testing and inspection fees.
48. Upon receipt of an application, the Department or the relevant department/organization shall send material samples to an accredited laboratory to verify whether they comply with the prescribed standards and requirements.
49. Based on its review of the accredited laboratory's conformity/quality compliance report, the Department or the relevant department/organization may issue a Quality Certification Certificate or refuse the application.

#### Chapter XII

##### Application for, approval of, or refusal of construction works

50. (a) Any person wishing to construct, under a private scheme, a building of 9 to 12 storeys or with a height of 100 feet to 140 feet, or a religious building with a height of 40 feet to 68 feet, or a public-use building with an area of 10,000 to 12,000 square feet, shall apply to the relevant department or organization in accordance with the procedures prescribed under the relevant laws.
- (b) The relevant department or organization that receives an application under Subsection (a) shall scrutinize it in accordance with the laws applicable to it and, if it intends to approve, shall submit the application together with its opinion and remarks to the Regional Committee.
- (c) The relevant department or organization that receives an application under Subsection (a) shall scrutinize it in accordance with the laws applicable to it and, if it intends to refuse the application, shall notify the applicant of the refusal.
- (d) Upon receipt of a submission under Subsection (b), the Regional Committee shall scrutinize it and, if approval is granted, shall transmit its decision to the relevant department or organization and keep the application on record. If the application is refused, the Committee shall transmit its decision together with the application to the relevant department or organization.
- (e) In accordance with Subsection (d), the relevant department or organization shall keep a copy of the Regional Committee's approval on record and send the original approval to the applicant; or, in the case of refusal, shall keep a copy of the decision on record and send the original decision

to the applicant.

51. (a) Any person wishing to construct, under a private scheme, a building of more than 12 storeys or with a height of over 140 feet; a religious building with a height of over 68 feet; a 12-storey building including a basement; a public-use building with an area exceeding 12,000 square feet to accommodate 500 persons or more, even if it is below 12 storeys; a building that may pose a danger to public safety; or a storage facility for toxic or explosive substances, shall apply to the relevant department or organization in accordance with the procedures prescribed under the relevant laws.
- (b) The relevant department or organization that receives an application under sub-paragraph (a) shall scrutinize it in accordance with the laws applicable to it and, if it intends to grant approval, shall submit the application together with its opinion and remarks to the Regional Committee.
- (c) The relevant department or organization that receives an application under sub-paragraph (a) shall scrutinize it in accordance with the laws applicable to it and, if it intends to refuse the application, shall notify the applicant of the refusal.
- (d) Upon receipt of a submission under sub-paragraph (b), the Regional Committee shall scrutinize it and submit the application, together with its opinion and remarks, to the Central Committee.
- (e) Upon receipt of a submission under Subsection (d), the Central Committee shall assign the Leading Committee the duty of scrutinizing the application and submitting whether it is appropriate to approve.
- (f) When assigned the duty under Subsection (e), the Leading Committee shall scrutinize the application and submit its opinion and remarks, together with the application, as to whether approval should be granted.
- (g) If, under Subsection (f), the Leading Committee submits that the application should be approved, the Central Committee shall keep the application on record and transmit its approval, through the Regional Committee, to the relevant department or organization. If the application is refused, the Central Committee shall transmit its decision of refusal, together with the application, through the Regional Committee, to the relevant department or organization.
- (h) In accordance with Subsection (g), the relevant department or organization shall keep a copy of the Central Committee's approval on record and send the original approval to the applicant; or, in the case of refusal, shall keep a copy of the decision on record and send the original decision to the applicant.
52. Any person wishing to construct, under a private scheme, a building of fewer than nine storeys or with a height of less than 100 feet, or a public building with an area of less than 10,000 square feet, may apply and proceed in accordance with the relevant municipal law.

#### Chapter XIII

##### Inspection and Supervision for Construction Projects

53. In order to verify whether construction works comply with prescribed standards and specifications, the Central Committee and the Regional Committee shall, as required by the nature of the work, assign the relevant supervisory inspection teams formed for this purpose to inspect construction works as follows:-
- (a) To examine whether architectural and design drawings have been prepared in accordance with the prescribed standards and guidelines relevant to each sector.
- (b) To examine whether construction has been carried out using construction materials that have obtained Quality Certification Certificates and whether the works have been executed in accordance with the prescribed construction procedures.
- (c) To periodically inspect whether infrastructure facilities or public buildings under construction or already completed are safe and free from hazards and meet the prescribed quality standards.
- (d) To supervise whether service providers related to construction, contracted constructors, architectural and engineering service firms, consultants or consulting firms, project management teams, quality inspection teams, and third-party entities are complying with the rules and regulations required to be observed.
54. Construction works funded by the State budget, including major national-level infrastructure projects, and construction of buildings under private schemes such as buildings over 12 storeys or taller than 140 feet, religious buildings over 68 feet, 12-storey buildings including basements, public buildings under 12 storeys but with an area exceeding 12,000 square feet used by 500 persons or more, buildings that may pose public hazards, or storage facilities for toxic or explosive substances, shall be entrusted to a third-party organization for inspection and verification.

TO BE CONTINUED

# ECONOMY WORLD

## Stocks track Wall St rally as Tokyo hits record on Takaichi win

JAPANESE stocks surged to a record high Monday following Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's election win, while healthy gains across the rest of Asia and Europe tracked a rally on Wall Street.

After last week's broad-based volatility, investors appeared to be enjoying a return to calm, with the news out of Tokyo providing hope for political stability in the world's number-four economy.

Takaichi's resounding victory saw her ruling Liberal Democratic Party take around a two-thirds majority of the lower house, paving the way for increased fiscal stimulus and massive tax cuts.

"We will prioritise the sustainability of fiscal policy. We will ensure necessary investments. Public and private sectors must invest. We will build a strong and resilient economy,"



A worker cleans up in front an electronic quotation board displaying numbers of the Nikkei Stock Average on the Tokyo Stock Exchange in Tokyo on 9 February 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

she said Sunday as the results rolled in.

Analyst Kyle Rodda of Capital.com said the ruling Liberal

Democratic Party's victory had handed Takaichi "the mandate

she was looking for for her big-spending agenda".

Equities are "poised to benefit from higher fiscal spending but interest rates that remain accommodative and negative in real terms", he said.

"A decisive victory is typically a near-term positive for markets because it reduces political uncertainty and can add a 'certainty premium' — investors can price policy direction with more confidence, rather than worrying about fragile coalitions and legislative gridlock," said Charu Chanana at Saxo Markets.

But she said the medium-term was a little more nuanced.

"A landslide can embolden a bigger fiscal and security agenda — more spending ambitions, more active defence posture, and potentially more geopolitical friction. — AFP

### UAE's G42 says joining \$1 bln AI project in Vietnam

The UAE's G42 will take part in a project worth up to \$1 billion to build data centres in Vietnam, it said on Monday, underlining the Gulf state's AI ambitions.

G42, chaired by the UAE president's brother, joins Vietnam's FPT Corp and Viet Thai Group in the consortium to develop three data centres.

The agreement, signed in Ho Chi Minh City, is "backed by consumption commitments of up to \$1 billion", a G42 statement said, without specifying the data centres' size. The oil-rich United Arab Emirates has invested heavily in artificial intelligence infrastructure and expertise as it attempts to become a leading player in the field.

G42, founded in 2018 in the capital Abu Dhabi, has been tasked with developing a one megawatt data centre in the desert as part of the Stargate UAE project. — AFP

### Moody's foresees Malaysia's economy to grow 4-4.5% in 2026

MOODY'S Ratings said Monday that it expects Malaysia's real gross domestic product (GDP) to expand by 4 to 4.5 per cent in 2026, on the back of resilient household consumption and fixed capital formation, amid risks from global trade and geopolitical uncertainties.

The rating agency said in a note that Malaysia's domestic consumption will be supported by a low unemployment rate (2.9 per cent in November 2025), rising real wages partly due to income-related policy support, and low inflation.

Moody's also expects Malaysia's inflation to average 1.8 per cent in 2026. "Investment demand outlook remains robust due to implementation of multiyear projects, both in the public and private sectors," said the rating agency. — Xinhua

## Annual high-level economic policy conference opens in Saudi Arabia's AlUla

THE second edition of AlUla Conference for Emerging Market Economies opened here on Sunday, centring on the opportunities and challenges facing emerging market economies amid profound global economic changes.

Under the theme "Policies Amid a Reset of the International Trade and Financial Systems", the two-day conference is co-hosted by Saudi Finance Ministry and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), with the participation of finance ministers, central bank governors and economic experts around the world, as well as heads of international financial institutions.

During the annual event, participants are set to hold in-depth discussions aimed at contributing to policymaking for emerging market econo-

mies, supporting their growth and prosperity, and enhancing global economic stability.

In his opening remarks, Saudi Finance Minister Mohammed Aljadaan said the global economy is undergoing profound transition, noting that

emerging markets and developing economies have become an increasingly important driver of global growth, accounting for about 60 per cent of global GDP in purchasing-power terms and for over 70 per cent of global growth. — Xinhua



International Monetary Fund Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva addresses the opening ceremony of the second edition of AlUla Conference for Emerging Market Economies in AlUla, Saudi Arabia, 8 February 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

# Tokyo stocks end higher following Japan's general election results

TOKYO stocks ended higher on Monday, with the benchmark Nikkei index closing at a record high on hopes for the gov-

ernment's expansionary fiscal policy after Japan's ruling coalition won a lower house majority in Sunday's election.

The 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average ended up 2,110.26 points, or 3.89 per cent, from Friday at 56,363.94.

The broader Topix index, meanwhile, finished 84.57 points, or 2.29 per cent, higher at 3,783.57. Meanwhile, the US

dollar briefly rose to the upper 157 yen range early Monday as the Japanese currency was sold on concerns that Japan's fiscal

health could worsen due to the expansionary fiscal policies expected to be promoted by Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi. — Xinhua

## S Korea's jobless claims rebound in Jan

SOUTH Korea's jobless claims rebounded in January mainly due to higher demand in the business service and the health and welfare industries, government data showed Monday.

The number of new applicants for job-seeking benefits gained 8.0 per cent over the year to 201,000 in January after falling for the past three months, according to the Ministry of Employment and Labour.

The number of benefit applicants grew in the business service, the health and welfare, the wholesale and retail, and the public administration sectors, but the figure decreased in the construction and the information and communication industries.

The number of benefit recipients totalled 621,000 in January, up 3.6 per cent from a year earlier. — Xinhua

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BINTAN VOY.NO. (918N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR BINTAN VOY.NO. (918N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **10-2-2026** 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE**

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CAPE FELTON VOY.NO. (0UVHLE1NC)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CAPE FELTON VOY.NO. (0UVHLE1NC)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **10-2-2026** 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 CMA-CGM SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD**

#### Ministry of Transport and Communications

##### Myanma Port Authority

#### Invitation to Open Tender (Retender) for Dredging and Waterway Improvement of Dawei River

1. The Myanma Port Authority (MPA) is planning to award the contract for **dredging** across the waterway of the Dawei River (Tavoy River) in Tanintharyi Region and for **sand export**, in order to improve the waterway and navigation channel as the sedimentation causes shallow water depth and disrupts the port operation. MPA, in this regard, would like to reinvite both international and local companies to submit.

2. Unlike a commercial dredging, this dredging work needs to ensure a) not to incur any damage to the environment and ecosystem, by dredging at the specific shallow-water areas designated by the MPA to reach the targeted water-depth, b) not to disrupt the socio-economic conditions of the local people, and c) to assist and support to local development works and local needs if necessary. And thus, the potential bidders must present their qualification in the terms of work- and technical experience, and the strength of expert team and equipment as well as strong financial capability. (International companies may need to form a JV company with a local company or to have a branch office in Myanmar or to register in Myanmar if awarded.)

3. Therefore, any interested companies (both local and international) that meet the above mentioned technical and financial requirements are invited to enter the tender. The detailed tender information are as follow:

- (a) Address to purchase Tender Forms - Myanma Port Authority, Store Department, Near by Botataung Pagoda, Botataung, Yangon.
- (b) Date & Time to purchase - 11-2-2026 to 6-3-2026, Office Hour
- (c) Tender submission address and Date & Time - Myanma Port Authority Head Office - 10-3-2026 by 1300 hours

4. For further details, please contact the following numbers:  
- 01-246380, 09-444714377

**Myanma Port Authority  
Tender Committee**

#### Ministry of Transport and Communications

##### Myanma Port Authority

#### Invitation to Open Tender (Retender) for Dredging and Waterway Improvement of Thanlwin River (Darebauk)

1. The Myanma Port Authority (MPA) is planning to award the contract for **dredging** across the waterway of Bilu Island North Channel, Thanlwin River (Darebauk) in the Mon State, and for **sand export**, in order to improve the waterway and navigation channel as the sedimentation causes shallow water depth and disrupts the port operation. MPA, in this regard, would like to reinvite both international and local companies to submit.

2. Unlike a commercial dredging, this dredging work needs to ensure a) not to incur any damage to the environment and ecosystem, by dredging at the specific shallow-water areas designated by the MPA to reach the targeted water-depth, b) not to disrupt the socio-economic conditions of the local people, and c) to assist and support to local development works and local needs if necessary. And thus, the potential bidders must present their qualification in the terms of work- and technical experience, and the strength of expert team and equipment as well as strong financial capability. (International companies may need to form a JV company with a local company or to have a branch office in Myanmar or to register in Myanmar if awarded.)

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**Myanma Port Authority  
Tender Committee**

# ROLLING UPDATES WORLD

## Bhumjaithai Party emerges as largest party in Thailand's House of Representatives: election commission



This photo taken on 9 February 2026 shows a screen displaying live broadcast of Thailand's Election Commission announcing preliminary results of the country's House of Representatives election, in Bangkok, Thailand. The Bhumjaithai Party has emerged as the largest party in Thailand's House of Representatives, according to preliminary results released by the country's Election Commission on Monday. As of 94 per cent vote counting, which is completed so far, the Bhumjaithai Party captured 193 seats, while the People's Party and the Pheu Thai Party ranked second and third, respectively, with 118 and 74 seats. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

THE Bhumjaithai Party has emerged as the largest party in Thailand's House of Representatives, according to preliminary results released by the country's Election Commission on Monday.

As of 94 per cent vote counting, which is completed so far, the Bhumjaithai Party captured 193 seats, while the People's Party and the Pheu Thai Party ranked second and third, respectively, with 118 and 74 seats.

The Kla Tham Party and the Democratic Party each got 58 and 22 seats, taking fourth and fifth positions.

Since the Bhumjaithai Party failed to secure more than half of the seats in the lower house, it has to form a coalition government with other political

parties. However, Bhumjaithai Party leader Anutin Charnvirakul declined to answer questions regarding the cabinet formation during a press conference on Sunday evening.

Final official vote counts are required to be released no later than 9 April. The new parliament must convene a session within 15 days to elect a speaker, after which the House of Representatives will vote to select the new prime minister.

A constitutional referendum was also held on Sunday in Thailand alongside the election. The vote-counting results indicated that 60 per cent of Thai voters were in favour of initiating the constitutional amendment process, 32 per cent opposed it, and 8.66 per cent abstained. — Xinhua

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Seguro declares victory in Portugal's presidential run-off

CENTRE-LEFT Socialist Party candidate Antonio Jose Seguro declared victory in Portugal's second-round presidential election on Sunday.

According to data from the interior ministry, 99.2 per cent of the ballots have been counted so far, with Seguro winning 66.8 per cent of the vote and far-right Chega leader Andre Ventura securing 33.2 per cent. Ventura has conceded defeat.

Seguro secured the highest number of votes ever in a Portuguese presidential election since 1976, garnering 3,477,717 votes, with results from 21 parishes and eight consulates still to be counted. In his victory speech on Sunday night, Seguro said that he would govern with independence, treat all political parties and social partners impartially, and foster collaboration with both parliament and the government. — Xinhua

#### TEPCO restarts nuclear reactor after determining cause of alarm trouble

TOKYO Electric Power Company Holdings Inc restarted a reactor at its seven-unit nuclear power plant in Niigata Prefecture, northwest of Tokyo, on Monday after determining the cause of an alarm that halted the facility last month.

An alarm sounded during control rod withdrawal from the No 6 reactor at the Kashiwazaki-Kariwa plant in the early hours of 22 January, about five hours after the utility brought its first nuclear unit back online since the 2011 Fukushima disaster.

The alarm signalled abnormalities in an inverter that controls the speed of a motor that moves the control rods, prompting the utility to shut down the reactor the following day and investigate the problem further. According to the investigation, the inverter itself was not broken, but the alarm was set to be too sensitive in detecting changes in electric current. — Kyodo

## Ruling party's election victory gave mandate for policy shifts: Japan PM



Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, who heads the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, speaks during a media interview at the party headquarters in Tokyo on 8 February 2026, following a general election. **PHOTO: KYODO**

JAPANESE Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi said Monday that the ruling bloc's victory in the House of Representatives election gave her government a public mandate for "important policy shifts".

Takaichi told a press conference a day after the election that Japan needs to depart from its "excessive fiscal austerity" by implementing her "responsible yet aggressive" fiscal policies, and that the ruling camp led by her Lib-

eral Democratic Party would continue to seek cooperation from opposition parties as it remains in a minority in the House of Councillors.

She also expressed her readiness to work towards amending the pacifist Constitution, the LDP's long-held goal, as the election's delivery of a two-thirds majority to the ruling camp put it closer to having the power to initiate the process of constitutional revision.

Proposals to amend the Constitution need the backing of at least two thirds of legislators in both chambers of parliament to be put to a national referendum. The next upper house election is scheduled for 2028.

The LDP and its junior coalition partner, the Japan Innovation Party, are eyeing introducing an emergency clause into the Constitution that would give the government more power in the event of a major disaster or armed attack. The LDP has also been calling for clarifying the legal status of the Self-Defence Forces to put an end to arguments that they are unconstitutional.

On the LDP's campaign pledge to suspend the eight per cent consumption tax on food products for two years, Takaichi said that her government will advance discussions on its schedule and ways to fund it at a cross-party national council, aiming to reach an interim conclusion by summer. — Kyodo

# SPORTS

## Dimarco helps Inter to eight-point lead in Serie A, Juve stumble

FEDERICO Dimarco provided three assists as Inter Milan thumped Sassuolo 5-0 on Sunday to take their unbeaten Serie A run to 12 matches, while Pierre Kalulu scored deep into added-on time to rescue a 2-2 draw for Juventus against Lazio.

Dimarco, who took his season's tally to nine assists, also hit the woodwork and cleared a certain goal off the line as Inter moved eight points clear of city rivals AC Milan.

They have won 11 and drawn one of those 12 matches unbeaten. Centre-backs Yann Bisseck and Manuel Akanji both scored, alongside forwards Marcus Thuram, Lautaro Martinez and Luis Henrique.

Dimarco was in the thick of things right from the first minute when he managed to get back to clear a shot from Canadian Ismael Kone off the line.

Ten minutes later, Inter took the lead when German centre-back Bisseck headed home Dimarco's 11<sup>th</sup>-minute corner at the back post.

Dimarco almost scored himself on 18 minutes but his free-kick cannoned back off the crossbar. He turned provider again, crossing from the left for France forward Thuram to flick the ball home right-footed at the near post.

Sassuolo thought they had got back into the match four minutes from half-time when Norwegian midfielder Kristian Thorstvedt bundled home from close range, but that was ruled out for offside after a VAR review.

Inter killed off the game within 10 minutes of the restart as Argentina star Martinez fired home from close to the penalty spot after a long throw into the box. — AFP



Inter Milan's Brazilian forward (11) Luis Henrique (C) celebrates after scoring his team fifth goal during the Italian Serie A football match between Sassuolo and Inter Milan at the Mapei Stadium in Reggio Emilia, Italy on 8 February 2026. PHOTO: AFP

## MGF President Cup set for Mandalay's Yetagun Taung Golf Course

ORGANIZED by the Myanmar Golf Federation, the President Cup's Mandalay event tour pro, senior pro and amateur matches (men and women) — will take place at Yetagun Taung golf course from 24 to 27 February in Mandalay.

The event will be held in compliance with R&A and

USGA Rules of Golf 2013 as well as local golf rules.

Interested amateur players must have a handicap of 1-12 for men and 0-16 for women. Registration for amateur players (men and women) is open until 2 pm on 22 February through U Min Naing at 09 2015467 or U Thant Zin at

09 2026566. The admission fee is K30,000 per person.

Players competing at the Tour Pro and Senior Pro levels can register via 09 421002259 by 2 pm on 22 February, with the same admission fee of K30,000 per person, the Myanmar Golf Federation (MGF) announced. — MT/ZS



This image displays the schedule for the Myanmar Golf Federation President Cup's events.

## Real Madrid wins in Valencia, Betis takes Copa revenge in La Liga

SECOND-HALF goals from left back Alvaro Carreras and Kylian Mbappe gave Real Madrid a 2-0 win away to Valencia on Sunday night, keeping the defending champion one point behind FC Barcelona in the La Liga title race.

Carreras opened the scoring in the 65<sup>th</sup> minute with an individual effort, riding a pair of weak challenges before finish-

ing. Mbappe sealed the victory in injury time as Madrid, largely subdued before the break, steadily forced Valencia deeper in the second half.

While Madrid stayed on Barcelona's heels, Valencia slipped closer to the relegation zone in a difficult week that also saw the club eliminated from the Copa del Rey.

Antony scored in the 29<sup>th</sup>

minute as Real Betis avenged its recent Copa del Rey quarterfinal loss to Atletico Madrid with a 1-0 league win at the Metropolitan Stadium.

Betis, beaten 5-0 at home by Atletico just three days earlier, tightened defensively and was fortunate when a potential second-half equalizer for the hosts was ruled out for offside. — Xinhua

## Gu Ailing takes silver in women's slopestyle at Milan-Cortina

CHINA'S freestyle skiing star Gu Ailing settled for silver in the women's slopestyle on Monday at the Milan-Cortina 2026 Winter Olympics, once again finishing behind Switzerland's Mathilde Gremaud.

Competing second to last, Gu led after the opening run with a field-high 86.58

points, while Gremaud posted 83.60. The pair opened a commanding double-digit gap over the rest of the field.

The head-to-head intensified in the second run as errors spread through the competition. Gu faltered and scored just 23 points, while Gremaud delivered

the only near-flawless run of the round to move into first with 86.96.

Gu was unable to mount a comeback in the final run, making an early mistake on the rail section — similar to her error in the qualifying — and failed to improve her score. — Xinhua



Gu Ailing of China competes during the freestyle skiing women's freeski slopestyle final at the Milan-Cortina 2026 Olympic Winter Games in Livigno, Italy, 9 February 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA

Bhumjaithai Party emerges as largest party in Thailand's House of Representatives: election commission

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# WORLD

**T**HE newly released files on the late US financier Jeffrey Epstein have sparked scrutiny across the Atlantic, prompting the resignation of several political figures over their ties to the convicted sex offender.

The Norwegian Foreign Ministry said on Sunday that Mona Juul has stepped down as Norway's ambassador to Jordan, also accredited to Iraq, after revelations about her contact with Epstein.

Norwegian Foreign Minister Espen Barth Eide called the resignation "right and necessary", saying Juul's contact with the convicted sex offender showed a "serious failure of judgement" and made it difficult to restore the level of trust required for the post.

Juul had previously been relieved of her duties while the ministry reviewed her knowledge of and contact with Epstein. The ministry said its internal fact-finding will continue even after Juul's resignation, with particular attention to the rules that apply to state employees and officials both in and outside service.

In Britain, Morgan McSweeney has resigned as chief of staff to Prime Minister Keir Starmer amid allegations that he was responsible for the appointment of Peter Mandelson to the position of ambassador to the United States, Sky News reported Sunday.

Mandelson, 72, was appointed ambassador to Washington in early 2025. Starmer later dismissed him after just seven months in the post amid fallout from an earlier release of Epstein-related files.

Mandelson's name has reappeared in media coverage of the latest disclosures. British police have opened a criminal

## Newly released Epstein files fuel political fallout in multiple countries



The photo taken from atop the Washington Monument on 17 November 2025 shows US Capitol building in Washington, DC, the United States. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

investigation into him over alleged misconduct in public office, including questions related to the handling of sensitive information.

"The decision to appoint Peter Mandelson was wrong," McSweeney said in

a resignation letter published by local media. "He has damaged our party, our country and trust in politics itself. When asked, I advised the prime minister to make that appointment and I take full responsibility for that advice."

Starmer on Thursday also apologized for his previous decision to appoint Mandelson as the ambassador, saying that he had underestimated the seriousness of Mandelson's past association with Epstein. — Xinhua

## Board of Peace should consider root causes of Palestinian-Israeli conflict – Lavrov

RUSSIAN Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said on Monday that he would like the Board of Peace to address the underlying causes of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

"I would really like this collective body, which was



Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov attends a meeting during the 15th Middle East Conference of the Valdai Discussion Club in Moscow, Russia. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

created on the initiative of [US] President Trump, to really consider the underlying causes of the [Palestinian-Israeli] conflict," Lavrov said at the 15th Middle East Conference on the sidelines of the Valdai International Discussion Club. Lavrov also said that although the Board of Peace had been formed and subordinate structures established, its actual authority remained unclear.

In January, US President Donald Trump announced the formation of the Board of Peace and invited heads of about 50 states to join. Russia still has no clarity on international stabilization forces in Gaza, Lavrov said.

The situation in the Middle East is not expected to not ease in the near future, Lavrov also said.

All of this has happened and continues to happen, and now there are Yemen, Sudan, and the echoes in the Middle East, of course, are being caused by what's happening around Somalia, against the backdrop of the main trend, the minister said. And the trend is to drive the Palestinian issue into a dead-end, hopeless impasse, he added. — SPUTNIK

## Iran ready to dilute highly enriched uranium if all sanctions lifted: nuclear chief

IRAN is prepared to dilute its highly enriched uranium if the United States lifts all sanctions on the country, the head of its atomic energy agency said Monday after talks resumed with Washington.

"In conclusion, in response to a question about the possibility of diluting 60 per cent enriched uranium... the head of the Atomic Energy Organization said that this depends on whether all sanctions would be lifted in return," the official IRNA news agency reported, referring to agency chief Mohammad Eslami, without specifying whether this included all sanctions on Iran or only those imposed by the United States.

Diluting uranium means mixing it with blend material to reduce the enrichment level, so that the final product does not exceed a given enrichment threshold.

Before US and Israeli strikes on its nuclear facilities in June last year, Iran had been enriching uranium to 60 per cent, far exceeding the 3.67 per cent limit allowed under a now-defunct nuclear agreement reached with world powers in 2015. — AFP