

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.

Myanmar Nominates Traditional Tea Culture for UNESCO Heritage Listing

Compiled from regions and states nationwide, Myanmar's inventory of intangible cultural heritage comprises 2,289 items, including 104 related to language and oral traditions, 506 to performing arts, 651 to social customs and festivals, 199 to knowledge and practices concerning nature and society, and 829 to traditional crafts, all of which have been designated for the first time as part of the National Intangible Cultural Heritage Register.

The Myanmar Cultural Heritage Trust, a conservation organization, has submitted documentation to seek the inscription of Myanmar's green tea culture on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Chairperson Daw Sandar Khin of the Myanmar Cultural Heritage Trust said that the collected information was submitted to the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, the focal point, on 25 February. The ministry then examines it and submits it to the government office. When the government office agrees, it is submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs then sends it to the Myanmar Ambassador/Permanent Delegate to UNESCO in Paris, France.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will submit the application to UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) section through the Myanmar Embassy in Paris before 31 March 2026. Currently, Myanmar's tea culture is being nominated for inscription on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. In addition, the traditional Myanmar Thanaka cultural practice was submitted to UNESCO in 2025, so a decision is likely to be made by the end of this year.

The Traditional Myanmar Ata Thingyan Festival was inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cul-



This photo showcases Myanmar tea on display at a tea festival, a beloved element of Myanmar's traditional cuisine cherished nationwide.

tural Heritage of Humanity for the first time in 2024.

The inventory of Myanmar's intangible cultural heritage, compiled from each region and state, includes 104 items

related to language, oral traditions, and expressions; 506 items related to performing arts; 651 items related to social customs and festivals; 199 items related to knowledge and practices concerning na-

ture and society; and 829 items related to traditional crafts. In total, 2,289 items have been designated as part of the National Intangible Cultural Heritage Register for the first time. — ASH/TH

NATIONAL

All Citizens Urged to Join Hands in Building Strong, Globally Respected Union

❖ Although there may be differences of opinion as we proceed along the path of a multiparty democracy, in accordance with the saying, “Unity is strength, solidarity is power, and peace is beauty,” only if all citizens join hands with mutual affection, understanding, trust, and unity will it be possible to build a Union nation that can stand shoulder to shoulder with the world.

(An excerpt from the message sent by Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing to the ceremony to mark the 79th Anniversary of the Union Day, which fell on 12 February 2026)

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

Objectives of 81st Armed Forces Day

- (a) To participate in national politics in a leadership role of the country, not to deviate from the path of democracy in accordance with the fundamental principles of the Constitution, safeguarding the national policy, the Three Main National Causes
- (b) To cooperate with the government and people in performing measures for State stability, ethnic unity and the nation’s development
- (c) To act with utmost care based on the agreements of NCA without deviating from the Three Main National Causes while serving duties for durable peace, as the resolution of armed conflicts play key role in moving towards a genuine and disciplined multiparty democratic pathway
- (d) To continuously improve three main tasks of Tatmadaw – Study, Practise, Comply – and the ability to apply modern technologies in structuring Tatmadaw into a Standard Army



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“Rights. Justice. Action. For ALL Women and Girls.”

“တရားမျှတမှုနှင့် အခွင့်အရေးများရရှိရေး အမျိုးသမီးများအားလုံးအတွက် ဆောင်ရွက်ပေး”

၂၀၂၆ ခုနှစ်၊ မတ်လ (၈)ရက်

Public Notice

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

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

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

Therefore, the public should reply to the questions of the ACC and corruption prevention units of the ministries via SMS at short code “1111”. Such doing is a supportive measure for PFP, and the people are urged to cooperate in the operations.

Anti-Corruption Commission

Submissions Invited for Special Magazine Marking 70th Anniversary of Sixth Buddhist Council

THE Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture will hold the 70th Anniversary of the Sixth Buddhist Council at the Maha Pathana Cave of the Thirimingala Kaba Aye Hill, Mayangon Township, Yangon Region, on 30 April 2026. The ministry is inviting submissions of poems, articles, stories, and papers for a special magazine to mark the 70th anniversary. The requirements are as follows: -

- (a) Any interested writers are invited to submit their poems, articles, stories and papers: page limits (A4 size), single page (poems), five to seven pages (articles), 10 pages (stories), and 15 pages (papers).
- (b) Formatting: Microsoft Word, Pyidaungsu font, size 14, line spacing of 1.5, margin of one inch round for original creation, and no copies.
- (c) It must include a sign of the authors to prove that the work is their own, together with a personal biography.
- (d) Authors must grant permission to the ministry for use; Authors whose works are not selected will not be informed.
- (e) Applicants must submit a hard copy and soft copy (Word & PDF), including full name, citizenship scrutiny card number, three coloured photos (1.5 inches by two inches), address, and contact number, either in person or by post to the Department of Historical Research and National Library, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, Office 35, Nay Pyi Taw, through 067 3408384 and 067 3408437, and email: dhrnlm23@gmail.com by 20 March (Friday).
- (f) The detailed information can be explored at websites: www.moculture.gov.mm, www.nlm.gov.mm, www.nlmnpt.gov.mm, Facebook pages of the National Library Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw. (Poems, articles, stories and papers submitted after the deadlines and that do not meet the requirements will not be considered.)

**Subcommittee on Publication of Commemorative Magazines and Souvenir Items
Department of Historical Research and National Library
Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture**

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)

Public Notice

- Due to the current global political situation, armed conflicts in the Middle East have caused obstructions and blockades along maritime traffic used for importing fuel by oil tankers.
- To save fuel and ensure the sufficiency amid such a situation, starting from 7 March 2026, the private vehicles, commercial vehicles and buses have to abide by the following regulations: -
 - On even-numbered dates of each month, only private vehicles bearing even-numbered licence plates (for example, 2A/---, 4A/---, etc.) and on odd-numbered dates, only private vehicles bearing odd-numbered licence plates (for example, 1A/---, 3A/---, etc.) may be driven. (EVs and EV motorcycles can be operated daily.)
 - The public transport buses, taxis, fuel trucks, construction vehicles, cargo trucks, ambulances, hearses and municipal garbage trucks can be operated daily.
 - Business owners and people are strictly prohibited from buying fuel to keep and reselling it at high prices.
- Therefore, the above regulations shall remain in effect until further notice is issued. Anyone who violates these regulations will be taken action against under the existing laws.

**Information Team
National Defence and Security Council**

Staff Professional Development Refresher Training Course opens



The inauguration ceremony of the Staff Professional Development Refresher Training Course is underway at Office 34 in Nay Pyi Taw, addressed by Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw.

THE opening ceremony of the Staff Professional Development Refresher Training Course was held yesterday morning at the Financial Regulatory Department, Office 34 in Nay Pyi Taw.

The opening ceremony was attended by Dr Kan Zaw, Union Minister for Finance

and Revenue, Daw Than Than Lin and U Han Win Aung, Deputy Ministers for Finance and Revenue, Heads of Departments, guests, trainers and trainees.

At the ceremony, Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw highlighted that the course will help staff better understand the

country's economic objectives and policies, reform processes, and plans of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue, and enhance their capacity in their workplaces. Moreover, he also highlighted that the course will also provide the staff with a better understanding and expertise in civil service law,

rules, financial procedures and the responsibilities of the department, such as supervising and inspecting microfinance companies, supervising private insurance companies, implementing anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing programmes, supervising the

state lottery industry and state-owned banks.

The Union minister encouraged the staff that it is the right thing to seek education at a younger age in line with the motto of the National Defence and Security Council: "Let's encourage production for the prosperity of the nation, Let's ensure the education sector for the development of the nation, and Let's protect our environment for the prosperity of the nation".

He guided that, in civil service, staff must strive to broaden their thinking by reading more books outside their routine work, so that they can develop professional skills on par with international standards.

Altogether, 38 staff members from the Financial Regulatory Department will attend the course, and it will last four weeks. — MoFR

Environmental Edu Tech to launch online environmental science programme

THE Environmental Edu Tech, a non-governmental organization, will conduct a Fundamental Course in Environmental Science through an online platform

between 18 April and 18 June. Upon completion of the Online Learning Program, trainees will receive certificates. Those who have taken the matricula-

tion exam or those holding a bachelor's degree can join the course.

It offers flexibility for self-paced learning and allows

them to engage in it on their own schedule through the Asynchronous Learning System. The course fee is K22,200, and payment can be made through

mobile wallets. Interested individuals can register through <http://tiny.cc/es-apply> and enquire details through <https://m.me/esonline.mm>. — NN/KK

NATIONAL

MIFER Union Minister receives Russian delegation of Sberbank branch in India

DR Wah Wah Maung, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, received the delegation led by Mr Andrei Anisimov, Deputy Managing Director of Sberbank Branch in India, "Sberbank" PJSC of the Russian Federation, at Office 1, Nay Pyi Taw, in the afternoon of

3 March 2026.

Both sides cordially discussed and exchanged views on the payment facilitation for trade and investment between Myanmar and the Russian Federation, financial transaction methods, investment opportunity and technical matters for the develop-

ment of the financial sector.

The meeting was also attended by high-level officials from the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, and responsible officials from the Embassy of the Russian Federation to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. — MIFER



The delegation led by Mr Andrei Anisimov, Deputy Managing Director of Sberbank Branch in India, "Sberbank" PJSC of the Russian Federation, calls on Union Minister Dr Wah Wah Maung.

Indian-Rakhine historical links book launched, photo exhibition held in Yangon

A ceremony to launch a book on the historical connections between India and Rakhine, accompanied by a photo exhibition, was held on the afternoon of 2 March at the Indian Cultural Centre, situated at the corner of Merchant Road and Shwebontha Road in Pabedan Township, Yangon Region.

The event was attended by Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Daw Nu Mra Zan, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Abhay Thakur, Chairman U Than Maung of the Rakhine Literature and Culture Association (Yangon), and its members. Also in attendance were representatives from the Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, and Shan literature and culture associations in Yangon, as well as representatives from Rakhine ethnic subgroups, including the Dainet, Thet, Mro, Khumi, Maramagyi, and Kaman peoples, alongside guests.

To commence the proceedings, Deputy Minister Daw Nu Mra Zan, Ambassador Mr Abhay Thakur, former Myanmar Ambassador to Australia U Tha Aung Nyunt, Chairman U Than Maung, and Academy Award-winning Rakhine actor U Aung Lwin formally opened the photo exhibition by cutting a ceremonial rib-



Deputy Minister Daw Nu Mra Zan, Indian Ambassador Mr Abhay Thakur, and officials look around the photo exhibition at yesterday's event.

bon. They then toured the gallery to view the displayed photographs.

During the book launch segment, the deputy minister noted that the relationship between the Indian and Rakhine peoples spans several centuries. She highlighted that through historical commerce, not only did trade and coin-

age spread, but also philosophy, literature, art, and Buddhist teachings. She remarked that inscriptions, artworks, and customs found in ancient Rakhine cities such as Danyawady and Vesali serve as evidence of Indian cultural influence. Furthermore, the stone carvings and architectural designs in the

Rakhine region stand as symbols of this long-standing exchange. She also expressed particular gratitude to the Indian government for the benefits to bilateral trade brought about by the opening of Sittway port.

The Indian ambassador then spoke, stating that the exhibition and book launch, which highlight the historical ties between Rakhine and India, are immensely valuable as they allow for the study of literature, art, and ancient coinage. He added that, as India shares a long border with Myanmar, it remains a country capable of providing the swiftest assistance to its neighbour. Following this, the chairman of the Rakhine Literature and Culture Association (Yangon) gave an introductory speech regarding the newly launched book.

Officials from the Rakhine Literature and Culture Association (Yangon) presented the Indian ambassador with a commemorative gift. Subsequently, Daw Nu Mra Zan (Honorary Patron of the association), the chairman, and the vice-chairman presented copies of the book, "India-Rakhine Historical Connections", to the ambassador. — MNA/MKKS

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CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION

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

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

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

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

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

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

NATIONAL

People's Military Service Training 20: Graduations held nationwide



The graduation ceremony of the People's Military Service Training 20 is underway yesterday.

GRADUATION ceremonies for Training 20 of the People's Military Service training were held yesterday morning at regional military headquarters and training schools across the

country. Trainees took an oath of allegiance while holding the national flag, followed by award presentations for outstanding performance, including Best

Soldier, Drill Excellence, Marksman and Combat Skills. After the ceremonies, regional and state chief ministers, regional military commanders and senior officials met with the

Batch 20 graduates at the training schools, delivering remarks and personally congratulating and encouraging the new servicemen. The People's Military Ser-

vice Law came into effect on 10 February, 2024, with training programmes conducted to prepare citizens for national defence and security duties. — MNA/KZL

393 foreigners arrested over telecom fraud in Tachilek



Images show an aerial drone view of the scam-related facility in Tachilek, detained foreign nationals (top), and the confiscated materials (below left).



THE Myanmar government emphasizes the elimination process of online scams and gambling, which harm the international community as well as the entire world, as a national duty. To ensure that such activities gain no foothold within the country, the government is actively conducting suppression operations in coordination not only with domestic forces but also with the governments

of neighbouring countries. In doing so, the combined team serving security duties in Tachilek Township, Shan State (East), raided a building named "International Hotel", located on Mekong 2 Street, Mekong 2 Ward, Tachilek, which had not obtained a hotel licence, following information that illegal online scams and online gambling activities were being conducted there. During the raid, authori-

ties arrested individuals involved in online scams and gambling operations, including 289 male and eight female Chinese nationals, totalling 297 individuals, 31 male and seven female Malaysians, totalling 28, 46 male and 11 female Vietnamese, totalling 57, and one female Filipino, totalling 393 foreign nationals, together with 174 computers, 70 CPUs, nine Starlink receivers, 233 mobile phones and other materials. The seized equipment related to telecom fraud and online gambling activities will be handled in accordance with established procedures, and the arrestees will be transferred to their respective countries through legal inspection on humanitarian grounds and bilateral relationships. — MNA/KTZH

NATIONAL

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CONTINUED FROM YESTERDAY

92	Daw Nyaung Lau Nwam	Staff Officer	Union Election Commission
93	U Min Min Naing	Staff Officer	Union Election Commission
94	U Htoo Arkar Kyaw	Staff Officer	Union Election Commission
95	U Aung Ko Ko Lin	Deputy Township Administrator	Ministry of Home Affairs
96	U Zaw Myo Win	Deputy Township Administrator	Ministry of Home Affairs
97	U Chan Pyaw Aung	Deputy Township Administrator	Ministry of Home Affairs
98	U Tin Hla Maung	Deputy Township Administrator	Ministry of Home Affairs
99	U Kyaw Htin Ko Ko	Deputy Township Administrator	Ministry of Home Affairs
100	U Thant Naing Win	Deputy Township Administrator	Ministry of Home Affairs
101	U Homg Neim	Deputy Township Administrator	Ministry of Home Affairs
102	U Htet Myat Aung	Deputy Township Administrator	Ministry of Home Affairs
103	Daw Khin Sanda Soe	Staff Officer	Ministry of Home Affairs
104	Daw Zin Wai Kyu	Deputy Staff Officer	Union Election Commission
105	U Nay Phyo Shein	Deputy Staff Officer	Union Election Commission
106	Daw Win Wah Cho	Deputy Staff Officer	Union Election Commission
107	Daw Than Than Soe	Deputy Staff Officer	Union Election Commission
108	Daw Khin Thuza Kyaw	Deputy Staff Officer	Union Election Commission
109	U Awiwam Kyaw Moe Aung	Deputy Staff Officer	Union Election Commission
110	U Kyaw Lin Htaik	Junior Clerk	Union Election Commission
111	Daw Htet Htet Soe	Junior Clerk	Union Election Commission
112	Daw Tin Zar Win	Junior Clerk	Union Election Commission
113	Daw Hsu Yi Hnin	Junior Clerk	Union Election Commission
114	Daw Yin Phyu Phyu Soe	Junior Clerk	Union Election Commission
115	Daw May Reik Naing	Junior Clerk	Union Election Commission
Medal for Excellent Performance in the Social Field (First Class)			
1	U Hla Myint	Deputy Director (Retd)	Ministry of Health
2	Nay Win		Artiste
3	Aye Chan Maung		Artiste
4	May Myint Mo (aka) May Myint Mo Aung		Artiste
5	Chu Lay (aka) San Thawda		Artiste
6	Linkar Nyo (aka) Tay Za Kyaw		Script Writer
7	Tin Aung Soe (Pan Myodaw)		Director
8	U Moe Hein		Thuriya Nay Wun Media and Journal
Medal for Excellent Performance in the Social Field (Second Class)			
1	Hnget Pyaw Kyaw (aka) Maung Maung Aye		Comedian/Actor
2	Thwet Latt (aka) Thein Win Aung		Comedian
3	Super Lin (aka) Thet Aung		Comedian
4	U Wunna (aka) Online Wunna		Trend Journal
5	U Naing Win Tun (aka) Naung Taw Lay		Myanmar National Post
6	U Kyaw Soe Oo		People Media
7	U Aung Moe Kyaw		Myanma Gon News Agency
8	U Htoo Maung Maung		UNION Politics News
9	Daw Khet Hnin Hsu		Sniper Su
10	Daw Thazin Oo		Thazin Oo/ Truth Zone Online
11	U Aung Min		Myanmar Hard Talk

Medal for Excellent Performance in the Social Field (Second Class)			
1	U Thein Win	Deputy Director-General	Constitutional Tribunal of the Union
2	U Thet Zin	Assistant Director (Civil)	Ministry of Electric Power
3	U Nyunt Thaung	Staff Officer (Computer)	Ministry of Electric Power
4	U Aung Zin Myo	Health Assistant (2)	Ministry of Health
5	Ma-20248	Fire Sergeant Than Hlaing	Fire Services Department
6	U Kyaw Swa Lin		Sagaing Region
7	Manaw		Vocalist
8	J Fire		Vocalist
9	May Thet Htar Swe		Vocalist
10	Bibar Hein		Vocalist
11	Soe Thiha		Vocalist
12	Natkhat		Actor
13	Nay Htoo Naing		Actor
14	Banyar Ye Yint		Song Composer/ Script Writer
15	Zaw Win Naing (Mann)		Actor
16	Hsin Ma		Actor
17	Khin Hlaing		Actor
18	Waing Lamin Aung		Vocalist
19	Mae Chit Thet		Vocalist
Medals for Excellent Performances in the Economy			
Medal for Excellent Performance in Agricultural Economy (Third Class)			
1	U Htin Kyaw		Bago Region
2	U Tin Maung San		Bago Region
3	U Tin Maung Htut		Bago Region
4	U Kyaw Win Tint		Mon State
5	Daw Hla Tin		Mon State
6	U Nyan Oo		Mon State
7	U Thein Han		Mon State
8	U Aung Kyi		Mon State
9	U Tin Aung Than		Ayeyawady Region
10	U Kyaw Thura		Ayeyawady Region
11	U Kyi Khaing Soe		Ayeyawady Region
12	U Zaw Min Oo		Ayeyawady Region
Medal for Excellent Performance in Industrial Economy (Third Class)			
1	U Han Thein (aka) U Chit Phwe		Ayeyawady Region
Medal for Excellent Performance in the Service Economy (First Class)			
1	Thura U Aung Myo Myint	Managing Director	Ministry of Transport and Communications
Medal for Excellent Performance in the Service Economy (Third Class)			
1	Daw Thae Yi Hnin	Senior Female Flight Attendant	Ministry of Transport and Communications
2	Daw Su Thinza Ko	Female Flight Attendant	Ministry of Transport and Communications
3	U Kyaw Kyaw Maung	Fibre Glass Industry	Ayeyawady Region
Medals for Outstanding Performance in the Academic Field			
Medal for Outstanding Performance in the Arts Field (First Class)			
1	U Pauk Pauk	Director (Retd)	Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture
Medal for Outstanding Performance in Technological Field (Second Class)			
1	Lt-Col Thein Than Htay		Ministry of Defence
Medal for Outstanding Performance in Technological Field (Third Class)			
1	U Zaw Min Latt	Director	Ministry of Immigration and Population
2	U Win Hlaing Oo	Director	Ministry of Immigration and Population

NATIONAL

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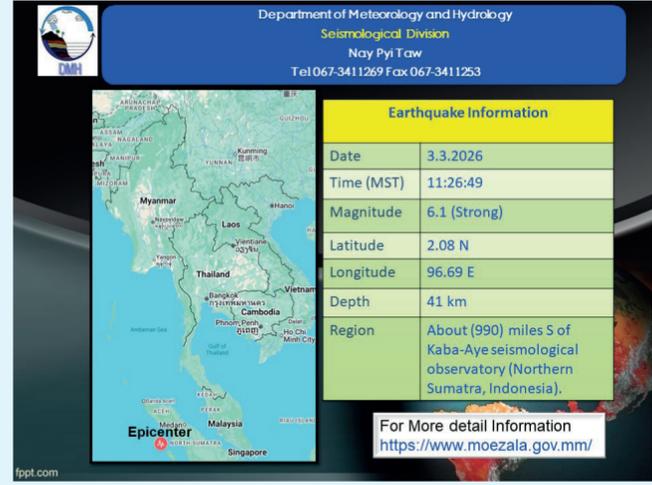
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Medal for Outstanding Performance in the Fine Arts Field (First Class)		
1	Ye Aung	Artiste
2	Myint Myat (aka) Myo Min Hein	Artiste
3	Aung Khaing	Artiste
4	Min Zaw	Song Composer
5	Zaw Oo	Artiste
Medal for Outstanding Performance in the Fine Arts Field (Second Class)		
1	L Seng Xi	Vocalist
2	Ni Ni Khin Zaw	Vocalist
3	Soe Sanda Tun	Vocalist
4	Htoo El Lin	Vocalist
Medal for Outstanding Performance in the Literary Field (Third Class)		
1	U Myo Htay (Win Nwe — Forest)	Literati

Sd/ Min Aung Hlaing
Senior General
Acting President

EARTHQUAKE

A strong earthquake of magnitude 6.1 Richter Scale with its epicentre outside Myanmar (Northern Sumatra, Indonesia), latitude 2.08°N, longitude 96.69°E, depth 41 kilometres, about 990 miles south of the Kaba Aye Seismological Observatory was recorded at 11 hours 26 minutes 49 second MST on 3 March 2026. — DMH



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CONTINUED FROM YESTERDAY

67	U Myo Myint	Social Affairs Minister	Magway Region Government
68	U Aung Thu Oo	Transport Minister	Magway Region Government
69	U Tun Khin	Ethnic Affairs Minister	Magway Region Government
70	U Tint Wai	Advocate-General	Magway Region Government
71	Colonel Nay Lin Soe	Security and Border Affairs Minister	Mandalay Region Government
72	U Thein Htay	Economic Affairs Minister	Mandalay Region Government
73	U Shwe Zin	Natural Resources Minister	Mandalay Region Government
74	U Aung Kyaw Moe	Social Affairs Minister	Mandalay Region Government
75	U Aung Zaw Oo	Transport Minister	Mandalay Region Government
76	U Sai Nwam	Ethnic Affairs Minister	Mandalay Region Government
77	U Kyaw Hsan	Development Affairs Minister	Mandalay Region Government
78	U Myint Aung	Advocate-General	Mandalay Region Government
79	Colonel Kyaw Swa Myint	Security and Border Affairs Minister	Mon State Government
80	Nai Layi Tama (aka) Nai Khin Maung Zin	Economic Affairs Minister	Mon State Government
81	Dr Aung Myat Kyaw Sein	Natural Resources Minister	Mon State Government
82	U Tin San Naing	Transport Minister	Mon State Government
83	U Khin Maung Oo	Ethnic Affairs Minister	Mon State Government
84	U Myint Aung	Advocate-General	Mon State Government
85	Colonel Kyaw Thura	Security and Border Affairs Minister	Rakhine State Government
86	U San Shwe Maung	Economic Affairs Minister	Rakhine State Government
87	U Thet Tun	Social Affairs Minister	Rakhine State Government
88	U Aung Kyaw Moe	Transport Minister	Rakhine State Government
89	U Tin Hla	Ethnic Affairs Minister	Rakhine State Governmen
90	U Hla Thein	Advocate-General	Rakhine State Governmen
91	Colonel Win Tint	Security and Border Affairs Minister	Yangon Region Government

92	U Myo Myint Aung	Economic Affairs Minister	Yangon Region Government
93	U Zaw Win	Natural Resources Minister	Yangon Region Government
94	U Htay Aung	Social Affairs Minister	Yangon Region Government
95	U Kyaw Kyaw Soe	Transport Minister	Yangon Region Government
96	U Saw Jacob Htoo	Ethnic Affairs Minister	Yangon Region Government
97	U Bo Htay	Development Affairs Minister	Yangon Region Government
98	Daw Phyu Mar Wai	Advocate-General	Yangon Region Government
99	Colonel Sein Win	Security and Border Affairs Minister	Shan State Government
100	U Khun Thein Maung	Economic Affairs Minister	Shan State Government
101	U Sai Leik	Natural Resources Minister	Shan State Government
102	U Min Min Lwin	Social Affairs Minister	Shan State Government
103	U Nay Win Aung	Transport Minister	Shan State Government
104	U Aung Kyi Win	Ethnic Affairs Minister	Shan State Government
105	U Sai Kyaw Zan	Advocate-General	Shan State Government
106	U Arkar Lin	Chairman	Danu Self-Administered Zone Leading Body, Shan State Government
107	U Khun Ye Htwe	Chairman	Pa-O Self-Administered Zone Leading Body, Shan State Government
108	Tah Thein Zaw	Chairman	Palaung Self-Administered Zone Leading Body, Shan State Government
109	U Ohn Myint	Natural Resources Minister	Ayeyawady Region Government
110	U Khin Maung Kyi	Social Affairs Minister	Ayeyawady Region Government
111	U Saw Lin Khel	Ethnic Affairs Minister	Ayeyawady Region Government
112	Daw Khin Khin Nwe	Advocate-General	Ayeyawady Region Government

Sd/ Min Aung Hlaing
Senior General
Acting President

OPINION

Conserve wild fauna and flora for the survival of societies

WORLD Wildlife Day, which falls on 3 February every year, highlights the nature and danger of wild fauna and flora across the world. People everywhere rely on wild-life and biodiversity-based resources to meet their needs — from food, to fuel, medicines, housing, and clothing. For all to enjoy the benefits and the beauty that nature brings to the planet, people have been working together to make sure ecosystems are able to

thrive, and plant and animal species are able to exist for future generations.

United Nations' Secretary-General António Guterres remarked that across the Earth, flora underpin economies, support human health, and sustain almost every other form of life. This is particularly true of medicinal and aromatic plants — the theme of this year's World Wildlife Day. Therapeutic species are vital to both traditional and modern medicine, supporting the livelihoods of millions and the well-being of many times more. Plants boost biodiversity, stabilize soils, and represent centuries of knowledge and stewardship by indigenous peoples and local communities.

World Wildlife Day is an opportunity to celebrate the many beautiful and varied forms of wild fauna and flora, to raise awareness of their many benefits to remind all of the urgent need to step up

the fight against wildlife crime and human-induced reduction of species, which have wide-ranging economic, environmental and social impacts.

This 2026, the theme of the International Day, "Medicinal and Aromatic Plants: Conserving Health, Heritage and Livelihoods", highlights the vital role of these plants in sustaining human health, cultural heritage, and local livelihoods, and showcases the growing pressures they face from habitat loss, overharvesting, and climate change.

Human is the most intelligent among other living beings. Hence, they rely on wild fauna and flora for their survival. On the other hand, they are responsible for the conservation and protection of these wild fauna and flora to be able to stand safely in their relevant communities. As all living beings wish to live safely, they all have to consider survivals of others with sympathy and compassion. If so, the society combined with wild fauna and flora will be pleasant and prosperous.

That is why human beings must focus on just the extraction of medicinal and aromatic plants for their health, heritage and livelihoods, rather than the depletion of these wild fauna and flora. No one should think selfishly only about their own survival; rather, they must strive to preserve and sustain the existence of the entire world, both living and non-living, together with themselves.

1. Overview

Every year on 4 March, the global health community observes World Obesity Day (WOD) — a day dedicated to raising awareness, driving policy change, and empowering individuals to take action against one of the most pressing non-communicable diseases (NCD) challenges of our era. Established by the World Obesity Federation, WOD 2026 carries the theme "Breaking Barriers to Healthier Lives," calling on governments, healthcare professionals, communities, and individuals to dismantle the systemic, social, and behavioural obstacles that perpetuate obesity worldwide.

Obesity is no longer a problem confined to high-income countries. It is a global epidemic that transcends borders, affecting low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) with equal — and often greater — ferocity. Myanmar, like many of its Southeast Asian neighbours, is experiencing a rapid nutrition transition characterized by rising rates of overweight and obesity, particularly among urban adolescents and adults. Data from Myanmar's Global School-based Student Health Survey (GSHS 2016) provide valuable national benchmarks and underscore the urgent need for targeted intervention.

This article aims to educate communities — from individual households to healthcare providers and policymakers — about the nature of obesity, its burden in Myanmar and globally, its multifactorial causes, its serious health consequences, and the practical, evidence-based steps all of us can take to prevent and manage it.

2. Definition of Obesity

a. Clinical Definition

Obesity is defined as abnormal or excessive fat accumulation that presents a health risk. The most widely used clinical measure is the Body Mass Index (BMI), calculated as weight in kilograms divided by the square of height in metres (kg/m²).

Category	WHO BMI (kg/m ²)	Asian BMI (kg/m ²)
Underweight	< 18.5	< 18.5
Normal weight	18.5 – 24.9	18.5 – 22.9
Overweight	25.0 – 29.9	23.0 – 27.4
Obesity Class I	30.0 – 34.9	27.5 – 32.4
Category	WHO BMI (kg/m ²)	Asian BMI (kg/m ²)
Obesity Class II	35.0 – 39.9	32.5 – 37.4
Obesity Class III (Severe)	≥ 40.0	≥ 37.5

Table 1. BMI Classification — WHO Global vs. WHO Asian cut-offs.

For children and adolescents (aged 5–19 years), the WHO uses age- and sex-specific BMI-for-age z-scores: overweight is defined as > +1 SD and obesity as > +2 SD above the median of the WHO Growth Reference 2007.

Waist circumference (WC) is an important complementary measure of central (abdominal) adiposity, which is particularly associated with metabolic risk. For Asian populations, action thresholds are: ≥ 90 cm for men and ≥ 80 cm for women.

b. Beyond BMI

Obesity is now increasingly understood not merely as a numerical threshold but as a chronic, relapsing, multisystem disease with a strong biological basis. The Edmonton Obesity Staging System (EOSS) recognizes that the metabolic, mechanical, and mental health impact of excess adiposity is equally — if not more — important than BMI alone. This shift in framing is central to the World Obesity Federation's advocacy: obesity deserves the same clinical respect and resource allocation as other chronic diseases.

WORLD OBESITY DAY 2026

Breaking Barriers to Healthier Lives

4 March 2026

By Dr Aung Tun



3. Global Prevalence

Obesity has reached pandemic proportions. According to the World Obesity Federation's 2023 Atlas and WHO 2024 estimates:

- More than 1 billion people worldwide are living with obesity — exceeding one in eight of the global population for the first time in history.
- In 2022, 2.5 billion adults (aged 18+) were classified as overweight (BMI ≥ 25), of whom 890 million had obesity.
- Adult obesity has more than doubled since 1990, and adolescent obesity has quadrupled over the same period.
- If current trajectories continue, the World Obesity Federation projects that by 2035, over four billion people — roughly half the global population — will be living with overweight or obesity.
- The annual economic cost attributable to overweight and obesity is projected to reach US\$4.32 trillion by 2035, equivalent to nearly three per cent of global GDP — surpassing the economic burden of smoking.
- Low- and middle-income countries now bear a disproportionate share of the global obesity burden, with obesity rates rising fastest in South Asia, Southeast Asia, and Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Among children and adolescents aged 5–19 years, approximately 390 million were overweight in 2022, of whom at least 160 million had obesity.

The Asean Region — home to Myanmar — has seen particularly sharp increases. Rapid urbanization, nutrition transition toward energy-dense ultra-processed foods, reduced physical activity linked to sedentary lifestyles, and inadequate health literacy are driving forces across the region.

4. Prevalence in Myanmar

a. Adult Data

Nationally representative data on adult obesity in Myanmar remain limited, but available evidence points to an accelerating trend. The WHO STEPwise survey and multiple nutrition reports indicate that:

- The prevalence of adult overweight (BMI ≥ 23 using Asian cut-offs) is estimated at approximately 22–30 per cent in urban areas and lower in rural settings.
- Urban women, particularly in Yangon and Mandalay, demonstrate higher rates of overweight and obesity compared to their rural counterparts.
- Central adiposity (waist circumference ≥ 80 cm in women, ≥ 90 cm in men) is increasingly prevalent and is a recognized risk factor for cardiovascular disease and type 2 diabetes in the Myanmar population.

b. Adolescent Data — GSHS Myanmar 2016

The Myanmar Global School-based Student Health Survey (GSHS)

2016, conducted among students aged 13–17 years in government secondary schools, provides the most comprehensive nationally representative dataset on adolescent health behaviours and nutritional status in Myanmar to date. Key findings relevant to obesity include:

Indicator	Male (%)	Female (%)
Overweight (BMI-for-age > +1 SD)	9.6	9.8
Obesity (BMI-for-age > +2 SD)	3.8	2.5
Consumed carbonated soft drinks ≥ 1 time/day	27.5	22.8
Ate fast food ≥ 3 times/week	17.2	14.5
Physically inactive (<60 min moderate activity/day on 5+ days/week)	71.8	78.6
Sedentary ≥ 3 hours/day (screen time, sitting, etc.)	68.3	64.9
Ate fruits < 1 serving/day	55.6	50.3
Ate vegetables < 1 serving/day	59.0	52.7

Table 2. Selected GSHS Myanmar 2016 indicators related to overweight, obesity, and associated risk behaviours.

These data are alarming: more than 70% of adolescent boys and nearly 80 per cent of girls fail to meet the minimum recommended physical activity levels. Over half do not consume adequate fruits or vegetables. These behavioural risk factors, combined with rising consumption of calorie-dense foods and sugary beverages, are setting the stage for a significant rise in adult obesity in Myanmar in the coming decade if no action is taken.

5. Causes of Obesity

Obesity is the result of a complex interplay between genetic, physiological, behavioural, social, environmental, and economic factors. No single cause explains the epidemic; it is the product of an "obesogenic environment" that makes energy-dense food widely available while systematically reducing opportunities for physical activity.

a. Energy Imbalance

At its simplest, obesity results from a sustained positive energy balance — consuming more calories than the body expends. However, this simplification obscures the many biological and environmental drivers that influence both energy intake and energy expenditure.

b. Dietary Factors

- High consumption of ultra-processed foods (UPFs) rich in refined carbohydrates, saturated fats, and added sugars.
- Increased portion sizes and frequency of eating out at restaurants and street stalls.
- Easy availability and low cost of calorie-dense, nutrient-poor snacks and sugary beverages, including carbonated drinks and

sweetened teas.

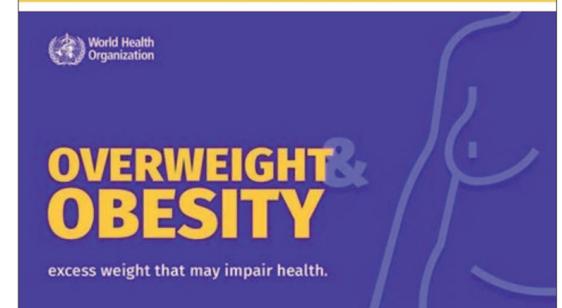
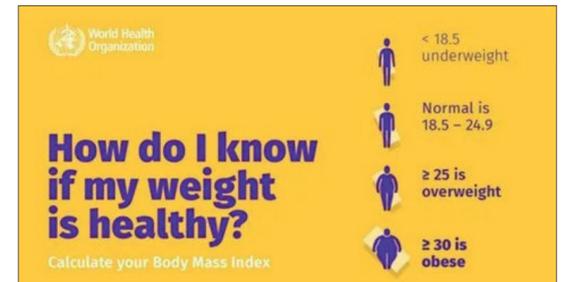
- Reduced consumption of whole grains, fruits, vegetables, and legumes.
- Marketing and advertising of unhealthy food products, particularly to children and adolescents.

c. Physical Inactivity

- Sedentary occupations and desk-based work are exacerbated by urbanization.
- Increased screen time (smartphones, television, social media) — a major concern for Myanmar's youth as smartphone penetration rises rapidly.
- Inadequate infrastructure for active transport (cycling lanes, safe walking paths).
- Lack of accessible, affordable recreational facilities and green spaces.
- Reduced physical education time in schools.

d. Biological and Genetic Factors

- Genetics account for 40–70 per cent of the variation in BMI within populations. Certain gene variants (eg, FTO, MC4R) predispose individuals to weight gain.
- Hormonal dysregulation (e.g., leptin resistance, insulin resistance) disrupts satiety signalling and fat metabolism.
- Gut microbiome composition influences energy harvest from food and inflammatory pathways.
- Epigenetic influences: prenatal exposures to maternal obesity,



gestational diabetes, and malnutrition programme offspring for later metabolic disease.

e. Social and Economic Determinants

- Poverty: calorie-dense foods are often cheaper and more filling than nutritious alternatives — the "food insecurity paradox".
- Low educational attainment limits health literacy and the ability to make informed dietary choices.
- Urbanization and rural-to-urban migration disrupt traditional diets and activity patterns.

- Cultural norms: In some Asian contexts, being slightly overweight is culturally associated with prosperity and good health, delaying help-seeking.
- Food environments in urban areas of Myanmar are dominated by street food high in oil, sugar, and refined carbohydrates.

TO BE CONTINUED

NATIONAL

Kayin State tourism figures see sharp rise in 2025



NEARLY 700,000 domestic and international visitors travelled to Kayin State in 2025, according to the state's Directorate of Hotels and Tourism.

A total of 699,250 visitors were recorded during the year, comprising 698,814 domestic travellers and 436 international visitors, marking a sharp increase compared to 2024. Domestic arrivals rose by nearly 49 per cent, while international arrivals increased by 48.8 per cent year-on-year.

Following the reopening of the Myanmar-Thai Friendship Bridge I in Myawady, a key cross-border gateway



Images showcase Zwegabin Mountain and its surrounding scenery, remarkable destinations for both domestic and international travellers.

with Thailand, 138,964 Thai nationals had entered Kayin State by the end of 2025.

Authorities stated that tourism growth has contributed to higher revenues for local hotels and guesthouses,

with management committees overseeing development across 17 key destinations within the state. — ASH/KZL

Yangon Space Museum welcomes around 140,000 visitors to date



The awards ceremony for the Space Art, Cartoon, and Poster Competition is in progress.

YANGON Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein said during the awards ceremony for the Space Art, Cartoon, and Poster Competition held on the morning of March 3 at People's Square that since its opening, the Space Museum (Yangon) has welcomed approximately 140,000 visitors to date.

The Chief Minister stated that upgrades are underway to expand the museum into a

world-class facility in Southeast Asia. "We have opened the Space Museum (Yangon) to allow Myanmar citizens to study space science, sowing the seeds for space technology. Our youth now have the opportunity to study it and bring their dreams to life," he said.

The museum is a modern upgrade of the former Planetarium and officially reopened as a space museum on 30 November. It is located at the

People's Square, Dagon Township, Yangon and open 9 am to 4 pm on weekdays except Monday and 8 am to 5 pm on holidays. Admission fees are K500 for monks, nuns and students, K1,500 for adults (over 12), K1,000 for children (under 12) and K5,000 for foreigners.

The competition ran from 27 February to 1 March, featuring over 6,000 participating students in various artistic categories. — MT/ZN

Over 11,000 tourists visit Shwethaungyan Beach in Jan 2026

A total of 11,233 domestic visitors flocked to the Shwethaungyan Beach in Patheingyi, Ayeyawady Region, in January 2026, according to an executive member of the Union of Myanmar Travel Association (Shwethaungyan Beach).

The beach receives visitors year-round. There are more than 20 hotels and guest houses providing accommodation for tourists.

"Shwethaungyan Beach attracted 8,557 visitors in December 2025. Most of them were day trippers. There is an attractive destination, the Kyauk Maungnama Elephant Camp, located near the beach. As the tourism season has now begun, we are preparing to ensure greater convenience for travellers in March and April," said Daw Cherry Myint.

Hotels along the beach are providing services such as beachfront cleaning, landscaping and ground maintenance within their compounds, keeping pathways clean, carrying out general cleaning of the beach and public areas, and serving guests with local cuisine.

Additional tourist amenities include safety and relaxation facilities, rental services like bicycles, motorboats, and horse riding, and markets selling local specialities and souvenirs.

The Shwethaungyan Beach is situated near Patheingyi Township in Ayeyawady Region, about eight miles from Chaungtha Beach. The beach stretches for four miles and forms part of a coastal habitat that supports marine life, with rich natural resources and clean water. — ASH/MKKS

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Mar rice prices for home delivery announced

TO ensure rice price stability, the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) has announced the prices for various types of rice available for home delivery in March.

In a joint effort to maintain fair market prices, the MRF and the Myanmar Rice Merchants Association are continuing this programme and the price list for March was released on 3 March.

Prices per 108-pound, 24-Pyi bag are K165,000 for Shwebo Pawsan, K140,000 for Ayeyawady Pawsan (Kyapyan), K112,000 for

Ayeyawady Pawsan (others), K75,000 for 90-day rice, and K56,000 for Aemahta.

Consumers can place orders by sending an SMS or Viber message to the MRF contact numbers: 09 400067240, 09 400067250, and 09 400067260, with the desired rice variety, delivery address, and contact number.

Upon receiving the order, the MRF will reply with an official KBZ Pay account number. Customers must only transfer funds to the provided account and

send a payment confirmation via Viber. Rice will be delivered free of charge within three business days of payment. The delivery team will contact the buyer in advance to confirm the date and time. An additional service fee will be charged for deliveries to upper floors. — MT/ZN

The Myanmar Rice Federation and the Myanmar Rice Merchants Association collaborate to deliver bags of rice directly to consumers' homes.



Rubber planters on leased forest land must pay rent by 31 Mar

THE Department of Forest in Lashio District notified that those business entities granted to operate rubber farms on leased forest land are required to pay rent by 31 March 2026. Failure to do so will result in the revocation of the permit and forfeiture proceedings according to the rules stipulated in the contract farming agreement to establish a private rubber farm on the land owned by the Department of Forest.

Those who failed to pay the lease fee from the 2024-2025 financial year to 2025-2026 FY are U Win Zaw (aka) Kyarmy-

inshin, operating 185 acres in Heitkemper Forest Reserve in Kunlong Township, U Phami, operating 45 acres, Daw Yam-inthu with 36.5 acres in Phakha, U Paukkyu with 35 acres, Daw Tin Tin Aye with 37 acres, U Lauksa (aka) U Myint Swe with 90 acres and Daw Shaukkwan with 75 acres in Phakha Forest Reserve in Hopang Township. Interested individuals can enquire about the aforementioned case through the following contact number at 09 423444699 of the Forest Department in Lashio District. — NN/KK



This photo captures the extraction of rubber sap from rubber trees.

MoTC calls for Swiss Challenge bids on Twantay Canal concrete pile project



The Twantay Canal Crossing Bridge to be built in Seikkyi Khanaungto. PHOTO: MYANMAR DIGITAL NEWS

THE Ministry of Transport and Communications has invited businesses to submit a tender through the Swiss Challenge method for manufacturing concrete piles, importation and stockpiling of industrial used concrete piles on the Twantay Canal land located at 121 E, Takalae Village-Tract, Twantay Township, Yangon Region.

Tender submission is by 4 pm on 23 March. Tender form is available at the Maritime Navigation Division (Lower Myanmar) at No 400, Lower Pazundaung Road, Yangon. Ethnic entrepreneurs will be prioritized in evaluating the tender. Interested individuals can enquire about details via 09 442009009 and 09 799760306. — NN/KK

ASG invites bids for solar power system installation

ALLIANCE Stars Group of Companies (ASG) invited pre-qualified EPC companies to submit a tender for the installation of a solar power system at 28 five-storey buildings (eight units per floor) that are being developed under the Eco Green City Project in Hlegu Township, Yangon Region.

ASG is a company focusing on sustainable urban development, renewable energy integration and developing the Eco Green City Project with the Green Infrastructure Model. The Eco Green City Project is located three miles on the Yangon-Mandalay Highway in Hlegu Township, Yangon Region. Project Requirements are engineering design, supply of solar panels, inverters, mounting structure, cable & protection system, SCADA/Monitoring system, testing & commissioning, O&M (Operation & Maintenance) period, total Installed Capacity (160 kW/building), System Type (Off-grid/Hybrid) and Battery Storage.

Tender submission will be closed at 4 pm on 6 March. Tenders can be submitted to Alliance Stars Group of Companies. Individuals can enquire about tender rules and details in conducting site surveys via ASG's mail gteoffice@alliancestars.biz or by dialling 09 453527272. — NN/KK

ECONOMY WORLD



A cameraman films in front of an electronic screen showing South Korea's benchmark stock index (KOSPI) at the Korea Exchange in Seoul on 3 March 2026. South Korea's benchmark KOSPI index of shares closed down over seven percent on 3 March and the Japanese Nikkei more than three per cent, as investors fretted about the turmoil in the Middle East. **PHOTO: AFP**

S Korean stocks tumble over 7% amid Middle East conflict

SOUTH Korean stocks tumbled over seven per cent on Tuesday after a bout of panic selling amid ongoing Middle East conflict.

The KOSPI dropped 452.22 points, or 7.24 per cent, to close at 5,791.91, and the smaller KOSDAQ dived 55.08 points, or 4.62 per cent, to finish at 1,137.70.

The KOSPI opened 1.26 per cent lower and widened

its earlier losses throughout the session.

The extreme volatility activated the sell sidecar as the KOSPI 200 futures dropped over five per cent during the trading.

The sidecar refers to a temporary halt of programme trading orders for five minutes that is triggered when the KOSPI 200 futures rise or fall by

more than five per cent for at least one minute.

The South Korean won versus the US dollar exchange rate surged by over 25 won per dollar, climbing to a mid-1,460 won range.

Foreign investors led the sell-off in the KOSPI, while retail investors prevented the deeper rout through a dip-buying in the KOSPI. — Xinhua

Vietnam endorses master plan to expand Da Nang Intl Airport through 2030

VIETNAM'S Ministry of Construction has approved a master plan to develop Da Nang International Airport through 2030, with a vision to 2050, the Vietnam News Agency reported Tuesday.

The airport, located in Hoa Cuong and An Khe wards of Da Nang City, will maintain its role as a key aviation hub in central Vietnam while continuing to operate as a dual-use civil and military facility, according to the report.

By 2030, annual capacity is set at around 20 million passengers and 100,000 tonnes of cargo, with passenger volume projected to remain stable through 2050 and cargo capacity rising to 330,000 tonnes per year.

The plan retains two runways, expands apron space to accommodate 52 aircraft parking positions, and adds new taxiways to improve operations. — Xinhua

Pakistan's inflation jumps to 7% in Feb

PAKISTAN'S consumer price index (CPI) inflation rose to seven per cent year on year in February, up from 5.8 per cent in January, official data showed on Monday.

On a month-on-month basis, CPI inflation increased by 0.3 per cent in February, compared with

0.4 per cent in January, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics said.

Urban CPI inflation rose to 6.8 per cent year on year in February from 5.8 per cent in January, while rural inflation increased to 7.3 per cent from 5.8 per cent.

— Xinhua

Finnish e-commerce parcels hit record high in 2025

FINNS ordered more from online stores than ever in 2025, with adults receiving an average of 15 parcels each during the year, according to a newly launched Parcel Index published on Monday by Digital Commerce Finland (DCF).

Finnish consumers received 69.3 million e-commerce parcels in 2025, equivalent to about 15 packages per adult aged 18 and over, DCF said in a press release. The total was up 8.4 million parcels, a year-on-year increase of 13.8 per cent. — Xinhua

Britain's manufacturing growth hits 17-month high in Feb: S&P index

BRITAIN'S manufacturing industry continued the upturn trend in February, with production growth rate reaching a 17-month high, data from the S&P Global showed on Monday.

The seasonally adjusted S&P Global UK Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) has signalled expansions in each of the past four months, and manufacturing production rose for the fifth consecutive month. S&P Global attributed the output increase to higher

intakes of new business and a modest improvement in client confidence.

It also underlined strengthened new export orders, with overseas demand rising at the fastest pace in four and a half years.

S&P Global posted the PMI for the whole manufacturing sector at 51.7 in February, little-changed from January's 17-month high of 51.8.

The outlook for the sector also remained relatively positive, with almost three-fifths

of manufacturers expecting output to rise over the next 12 months, it added.

"New product launches, rising client confidence and planned investments are all forecast to help generate growth over the next year, offsetting some of the caution companies are still exhibiting due to recent government policy changes and ongoing geopolitical uncertainty, especially in relation to US tariffs," said Rob Dobson, director at S&P Global Market Intelligence. — Xinhua



An employee monitors newly manufactured bottles being prepped for filling at a factory run by British glass containers maker and filler, Encirc, in Elton, north-west England on 4 February 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

New Zealand tourism pumps about US\$27.7 bln into economy in 1 year

NEW Zealand's tourism sector contributed a record 46.6 billion NZ dollars (US\$27.69 billion) to the economy in the year to March 2025, up 3.3 per cent from the previous year, Stats NZ reported Tuesday.

Overseas visitor expenditure climbed seven per cent to 18.1 billion NZ dollars (US\$10.75) during the period, as tourist arrivals jumped 4.3 per cent to over 3.32 million, said the statistics department.

"Tourism contributes 7.7 per cent of GDP, and

continues to be our second highest export," Tourism and Hospitality Minister Louise Upston was quoted as saying.

Tourism now supports 327,888 jobs, or about one in nine of New Zealand's workers, spanning accommodation, food and beverage and transport services, according to Stats NZ's tourism satellite account, which provides an overview of tourism's role in the New Zealand economy in terms of expenditure and employment. — Xinhua

Oil extends gains and stocks dive as Middle East war spreads

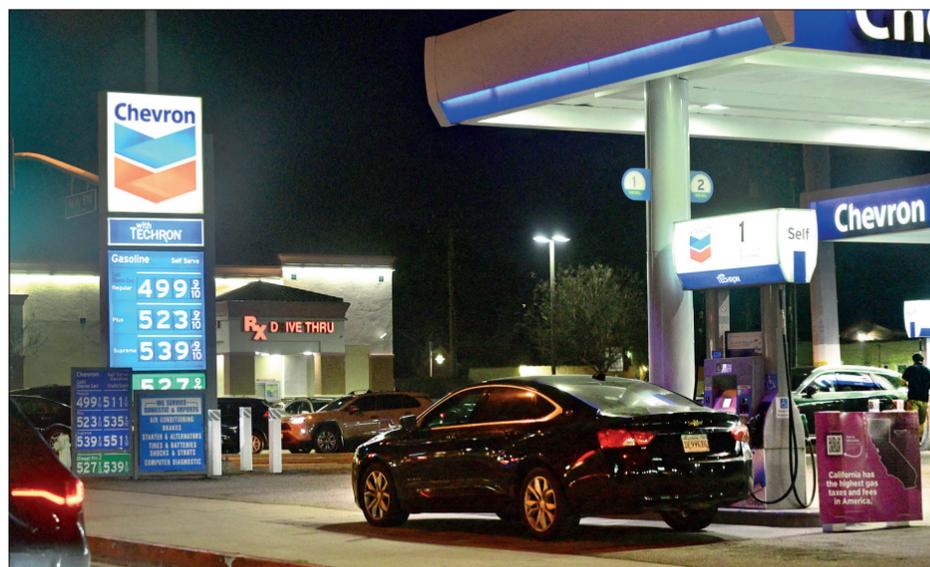
OIL prices extended gains while the dollar and equities tumbled Tuesday as investors kept tabs on the widening war in the Middle East.

The US and Israeli attacks on the Islamic republic have upended regional energy flows, with the crucial Strait of Hormuz -- through which about a fifth of global oil transits -- effectively closed off. The war has also fuelled fears of a fresh energy crisis that could ramp up inflation.

Market moves have been comparatively mild amid hopes that the crisis will be short-lived and not cause a major problem for the global economy.

But analysts warned that the longer it goes on the more painful it would be as supply chains are hit and prices surge.

US President Don-



A sign with current gas prices is displayed at a gas station in Los Angeles, California on 2 March 2026. PHOTO: AFP

ald Trump said the war, which began Saturday with a strike that killed Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, was going "substantially" ahead of schedule but warned it could go on for more than four weeks. He also for the first time laid

out objectives -- destroying Iran's missiles, navy and nuclear programme, and stopping its support for armed groups across the region -- which notably did not include toppling the Islamic republic.

The US State Department urged Americans to

leave all of the Middle East from Egypt eastward.

Iran has responded by unleashing missiles and drones across the Middle East, including at Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Dubai, while threatening explicitly to drive up global energy costs. — AFP



Tourists walk towards an Air New Zealand Boeing 787 at the Rarotonga International Airport on the main island of Rarotonga, in the Pacific Ocean state of the Cook Islands on 15 June 2025. PHOTO: AFP

India's industrial production index grows by 4.8%

INDIA'S Index of Industrial Production (IIP) recorded a 4.8 per cent year-on-year growth during January, supported by 4.8 per cent growth in the Manufacturing sector and 5.1 per cent growth in the Electricity sector, showed the official data released by the federal Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on Monday. — Xinhua

It is a same person

The son of (father) Thein Win Tun (12/La Tha Na (Naing) 0001797) residing at No. (146), Shwe War Street, Man Aung Ward, Tamwe Township although the name in the census is **Bhone Thuta Myat** and the school name is **ROL GALILEO YANG**, they are the same person.

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The daughter of (father) Thein Win Tun (12/La Tha Na (Naing) 0001797) residing at No. (146), Shwe War Street, Man Aung Ward, Tamwe Township although the name in the census is **Ei Myat Noe Oo** and the school name is **ROMECA**, they are the same person.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BEYPORE SULTAN VOY.NO. (26006)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BEYPORE SULTAN VOY.NO. (26006)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **4-3-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S CONNEXT SHIPPING PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V XO LUCKY VOY.NO. (X2605E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V XO LUCKY VOY.NO. (X2605E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **4-3-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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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.

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ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

France, Germany establish nuclear steering group to bolster deterrence cooperation



France's President Emmanuel Macron greets French Navy members upon his arrival to visit to the Nuclear Submarine Navy Base of Ile Longue in Crozon, north-western France on 2 March 2026.

PHOTO: AFP

FRANCE and Germany have established a high-ranking nuclear steering group to strengthen deterrence cooperation, French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz announced in a joint declaration issued on Monday.

According to the declaration posted by the Elysee, the two countries agreed that the nuclear steering group will facilitate bilateral consultations on a strategic mix of conventional forces, missile defence, and French nuclear

capabilities.

The two nations agreed to initiate concrete steps this year, including German conventional participation in French nuclear exercises and joint visits to strategic sites, and the development of conventional capabilities with European partners, it said.

The declaration reaffirmed that the nuclear dimension of deterrence remains a cornerstone of European security, stressing that their cooperation would complement, not replace, the nuclear deterrence and nu-

clear-sharing arrangements of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

Both leaders reaffirmed their commitment to international obligations, including the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. They pledged to maintain close coordination with the United States, Britain, other allies and NATO.

On the same day, Macron announced that he had ordered an increase in the number of France's nuclear warheads to strengthen the country's arsenal. — Xinhua

Iran's UN envoy urges Security Council to act firmly on US-Israeli strikes

THE UN Security Council "must act firmly, clearly, and without ambiguity" on the military strikes launched by the United States and Israel against Iran, Amir Saeid Iravani, Iran's permanent representative to the United Nations, said Monday. In a statement to the press, Iravani said the United States, in full coordination with Israel, launched "a second deliberate and unprovoked" military attack against Iran, which was

"a calculated act of aggression".

"Major cities and densely populated civilian areas were targeted. Hundreds of innocent civilians lost their lives, many more were wounded," he said.

"This is a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations ... which strictly prohibits the threat or use of force against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of any state," Iravani said.

"It is a direct assault on the

foundations of international law," he said. "The facts were clear. The aggression was clear. Responsibility also was clear."

Noting that the United States and Israel deliberately targeted Iran's supreme leader and many high military officials, Iravani said targeting the highest official of a sovereign UN member state is "an egregious breach of international law and a direct attack on sovereign equality". — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Philippine president says over 1,400 Filipinos seek repatriation amid Middle East tensions

PHILIPPINE President Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos said Tuesday that more than 1,400 Filipino nationals have requested repatriation from the Middle East, as tensions continue to escalate in the region.

In a press conference, Marcos said the government cannot proceed with the repatriation at this time due to airspace and airport closures.

Marcos noted that land evacuation also poses serious risks, as convoys could be mistaken for hostile movements.

Filipinos in Israel and other affected areas are advised to seek safe shelter and remain indoors. — Xinhua

4 US troops killed, 18 seriously wounded in Iran operation

FOUR US troops have been killed in action and 18 others seriously wounded during the ongoing military operation against Iran as of Monday morning, according to US Central Command spokesperson Tim Hawkins. The identities of the fallen are being withheld until 24 hours after next of kin notification, the command said in a statement.

All four died in the same attack in Kuwait, CNN reported.

Earlier on Monday, US President Donald Trump told New York Post that he is not ruling out sending US ground troops into Iran if necessary. Trump later suggested that the campaign could last beyond four to five weeks. — Xinhua

Strong quake hits off Indonesia's Sumatra island

A magnitude 6.1 earthquake struck off the Indonesian island of Sumatra on Tuesday, according to the US Geological Survey, rattling residents but causing no serious damage.

The quake originated offshore from Sumatra's northeastern tip, authorities said, prompting people to flee outdoors in a region that frequently experiences devastating tremors. "I was at home when it happened... the shaking was really strong," 50-year-old Ahmadi, who, like many Indonesians, uses only one name, told AFP by telephone from the small coastal town of Sinabang in the northernmost Aceh province. "I panicked. We fled the house, but because the jolt was pretty short, things went back to normal," he added, adding he could see "families running around here on the street". — AFP



United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Antonio Guterres (C front) speaks at an emergency meeting of the Security Council regarding the US-Israeli attack on Iran at the UN headquarters in New York, 28 February 2026.

PHOTO: XINHUA

SPORTS

Shan United eye sixth straight crown

SHAN United FC roared back to the top of the Myanmar National League table with a ruthless 6-0 demolition of Rakhine United FC on 2 March at Thuwunna Stadium.

The rescheduled Matchday 15 clash saw the reigning champions flex their full strength, delivering a statement victory to edge past title rivals Yangon United FC by a single point. Shan now sits on 49 points, one clear at the summit, with three matches separating them from history.

After a tight first half led 1-0,

Shan exploded after the break. Khun Kyaw Zin Hein, Bakayoko (brace), Sa Aung Pyae Ko and Thurein Tun joined Yuki Hirota on the scoresheet in a second-half masterclass that underlined their championship pedigree.

Victory keeps Shan firmly on course for a record-extending seventh league title and a remarkable sixth consecutive crown. Even more impressively, their unbeaten league run now stretches to 97 matches. Avoid defeat in their final three fix-



Players from Shan United celebrate victory in the match on 2 March. PHOTO: MNL

tures, and the champions will raise both the trophy and a century of invincibility.

With momentum surging and destiny in their own hands, Shan United stand on the brink

of another golden chapter in Myanmar's football history. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Myong's hat-trick leads DPRK past Uzbekistan in AFC Women's Asian Cup

MYONG Yu Jong scored a first-half hat-trick as the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) returned to the AFC Women's Asian Cup with a 3-0 win over Uzbekistan in Sydney on Tuesday.

Rated as a title contender, DPRK dominated its first match in the tournament since finishing runner-up at the 2010 edition in China.

Myong scored twice from the penalty spot as Uzbekistan made a difficult return after a 23-year absence.

DPRK made a flying start when Myong fired a volley from the centre of the box into the top left corner in the sixth minute.

The first half witnessed Uzbekistan's goalkeeper Maftuna Jonimqulova being carried off on a stretcher with a neck brace. Zarina Saidova, who replaced Jonimqulova, was tested almost immediately



North Korea's Myong Yu Jong (R) celebrates her opening goal with teammates during the AFC Women's Asian Cup Australia 2026 match between Uzbekistan and North Korea in Sydney on 3 March 2026. PHOTO: DAVID GRAY / AFP

after Chae Un Yong was fouled in the penalty area. She got a hand to the shot but could not stop Myong's penalty as DPRK doubled its lead.

Uzbekistan conceded another penalty just before halftime when Madina Khikmatova was penalized for handball in the box.

Myong completed her hat-trick from the spot and was substituted shortly before halftime.

DPRK will play its next Group B match on Friday against Bangladesh, while Uzbekistan faces defending champion China. — Xinhua

China begins Women's Asian Cup with win over Bangladesh

DEFENDING champion China began its 2026 AFC Women's Asian Cup campaign with a comfortable 2-0 win over Bangladesh here on Tuesday night.

China's Steel Roses scored twice at the end of the first half to take control of the match at Western Sydney Stadium after being denied earlier breakthroughs by a resolute Bangladesh defence.

Wang Shuang, who was on Monday named the Chinese Women's Footballer of the Year for the fifth time, was the China's most threatening player throughout the first half and provided the opening goal in the 44th minute when she placed a long range strike into the top left corner of the goal.

The advantage was doubled two minutes later when Zhang Rui's strike from the edge of the penalty area was deflected into the bottom left corner.

The Chinese women continued to create clear goal scoring opportunities through the second half, but could not find a third goal, with Bangladesh goalkeeper Mile Akter making several critical saves.

Bangladesh, who are playing at the Women's Asian Cup for the first time, had their own best opportunity of the night in the 14th minute when Ritu Porna Chakma's long range shot from the left wing forced Chinese goalkeeper Chen Chen to make a one-handed save while tracking back towards goal. — Xinhua

Myanmar drawn in Group A for 2026 AFF Futsal Championship

AT the AFF Futsal Championship 2026 to be held in Thailand, the Myanmar national futsal team has been grouped into A, according to the Myanmar Football Federation.

The group draw was held on 1 March at noon, and the Myanmar team has been placed in Group A along with Thailand, Vietnam and East Timor, while Indonesia, Australia, Malaysia, Cambodia and Brunei have been placed in Group B.

AFF Futsal Championship 2026 will take place at the Nonthaburi Provincial Administrative Organization Gymnasium in Nonthaburi, Thailand, from 5 to 11 April.

The Myanmar team will start training as of 13 March, said MFF. — MT/ZS



The Myanmar national futsal team.

France, Germany establish nuclear steering group to bolster deterrence cooperation
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WORLD

Warming El Nino may return later this year: UN

The warming El Nino weather phenomenon could return later this year as its cooling opposite La Nina fades away, the United Nations said Tuesday.

The UN's World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said the recent, weak La Nina was expected to give way to neutral conditions, which could then swing into El Nino before the end of 2026.

La Nina is a naturally occurring climate phenomenon that cools surface temperatures in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean. It brings changes in winds, pressure and rainfall patterns.

The WMO said there was a 60-per-cent chance of neutral conditions during the three-month window from March to May, with a 30-per-cent chance of La Nina conditions, and El Nino at a 10-per-cent probability.

There is a 70-per-cent chance of neutral conditions during April-June.

In May-July, the chance of neutral conditions drops back to 60 per cent, with the chances of El Nino at 40 per cent.

"The WMO community will be carefully monitoring conditions in the coming months to inform decision-making," said Celeste Saulo, who heads the UN's weather and climate agency.

"The most recent El Nino, in 2023-24, was one of the five strongest on record and it played a role in the record global temperatures we saw in 2024," the WMO secretary-general said.

El Nino contributed to making 2023 the second-hottest year on record and 2024 the all-time high.



This aerial view shows the damages of a main road and houses submerged in water following heavy floods in Garissa, on 8 May 2024.

PHOTO: AFP

Above-average temperatures

The WMO underlined that naturally occurring climate events such as La Nina and El Nino take place against the backdrop of human-induced climate change, which is "increasing global temperatures in the long-term, exacerbating extreme weather and climate events, and impact-

ing seasonal rainfall and temperature patterns". The US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration says there is a 50- to 60-per-cent chance of El Nino developing during the July-September period and beyond. "Seasonal forecasts for El Nino and La Nina help us avert millions of dollars in economic losses and are es-

essential planning tools for climate-sensitive sectors like agriculture, health, energy and water management," said Saulo.

"They are also a key part of the climate intelligence provided by WMO to support humanitarian operations and disaster risk management, and thus save lives," she said.
— AFP

Putin holds phone call with Hungarian PM Orban

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin had a phone conversation with Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, ac-

ording to the Kremlin press service.

Vladimir Putin and Viktor Orban discussed the sharply deteriorating situation around Iran and in the Middle East region, including the consequences for the energy market, during a phone conversation, according to the Kremlin press service.

Additionally, Putin noted the principled position of the Hungarian leadership in support of the political and diplomatic settlement of the conflict in Ukraine, the statement said.
— SPUTNIK



Russian President Vladimir Putin and Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, left, attend a meeting at the Kremlin, in Moscow, Russia.

PHOTO: SPUTNIK

Global talks on plastic pollution treaty were 'constructive': source

TALKS in Japan aimed at salvaging efforts towards a landmark global treaty on plastic pollution were "constructive", a source involved in the negotiations told AFP Tuesday, with another meeting scheduled for May. Supposedly final talks in South Korea in 2024 towards an agreement failed, and a renewed effort in Geneva last August likewise collapsed in overtime.

Delegates from dozens of countries held three days of "informal" discussions in

Japan ending Tuesday, which were not expected to result in any official announcement.

However, a source involved in the talks said they had gone better than feared.

"Given the context of the more or less collapse of the negotiations in August, I think this is a restart of the conversation," the source said.

The talks were "constructive" and "could provide... a pathway towards agreement", they added. "It could have been a lot worse." — AFP