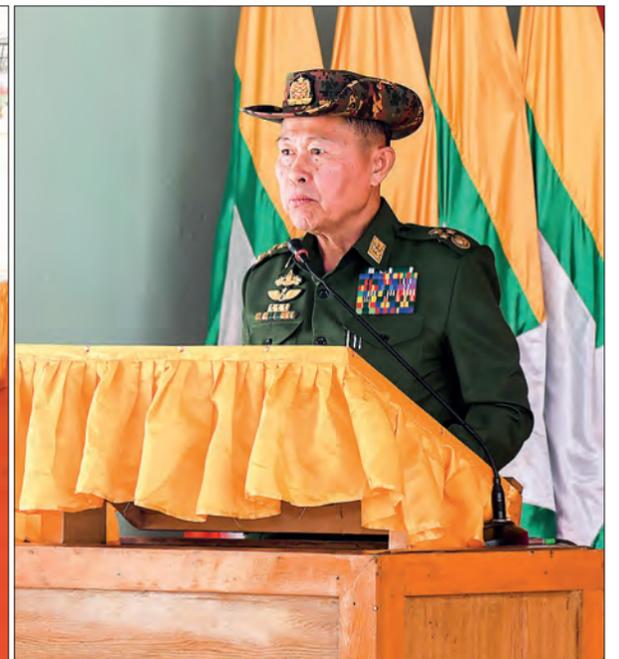


The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

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.

Presidential Election Set for Early April to Form New Government



State Security and Peace Commission Vice-Chair, Defence Services Deputy Commander-in-Chief and Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win addresses the meeting with Tatmadaw members and families from battalions in Kengkham, Shan State, yesterday.

State Security and Peace Commission Vice-Chairman, Defence Services Deputy Commander-in-Chief, and Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, together with his wife Daw Than Than Nwe, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and the commander of the Eastern Command, held separate meetings with Tatmadaw members and families at local battalions in Nawngwoe, Kengkham and Mongping stations yesterday.

Commanding officers of local battalions reported to the Vice-Senior General on security measures and four military building tasks. The Vice-Senior General fulfilled their needs.

At the meetings, the Vice-Senior General said that since assuming State responsibilities, the government has set objectives and implemented them accordingly, and upon completion of the election processes, an election will be held, and State responsibilities will be handed over

Tatmadaw must steadfastly continue to shoulder its national security and defence responsibilities, irrespective of any changes in successive political governments.

to the party that wins.

Arrangements are being made to convene the First Regular Session of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw on 16 March and the First Regular Session of the Third Amyotha Hluttaw on 18 March. The presidential election will be held in early April to form a new government, and State responsibilities will be transferred back accordingly.

Tatmadaw must continue to carry out its duties related to national security and defence, regardless of changes in political governments. As it is responsible for safeguarding the State, it is necessary to strive to build a capable and strong Tatmadaw.

Tatmadaw, in cooperation with members of the Myanmar Police Force and

members of the public who desire stability and peace, has been taking action against terrorist groups, including PDF, CRPH and NUG, in accordance with the law.

Similarly, despite various challenges, the country has successfully overcome natural disasters and other difficulties, including Cyclone Mocha that caused damage in Rakhine State in 2023, flooding in central Myanmar in 2024, and the powerful Mandalay earthquake that struck on 28 March 2025.

Out of more than 24 million eligible voters nationwide, over 13.14 million cast their votes in the 2025 multiparty democratic general election in phases in 263 townships, resulting in a voter turnout

of 54.22 per cent. The election was successfully held as a free and fair election, conducted with dignity and without voter fraud or errors in the voter lists.

It was carried out by applying both the FPTP and PR systems to enable small parties and ethnic representatives to participate in the parliamentary political arena. As a result of these measures, there is greater participation by representatives from ethnic parties and small parties in the current election.

As Tatmadaw members undertake difficult, arduous, and demanding responsibilities due to the nature of their duties, they must always maintain both physical and mental fitness. **SEE PAGE 3**

NATIONAL

Humanitarian assistance must be transitioned into a social protection system

- ❖ Humanitarian assistance should not stop merely after providing temporary relief.
- ❖ Such assistance must be transitioned into a social protection system.

(An excerpt from the speech delivered by State Administration Council Chairman, Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the opening ceremony of the Forum on Rebuilding Myanmar: Post-Earthquake Economic Recovery held on 30 May 2025)

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

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

NDSC enacts Amendment to Co-operative Society Law

THE National Defence and Security Council enacted the Amendment to the Co-operative Society Law on 24 February 2026, and it was signed by the Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Min Aung Hlaing under Section 427 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

The law introduces amendments to Sections 5, 23, and 36, as well as Chapters 9-A and 9-B, and substitutes provisions in Sections 2, 3, 5, 12, 17, 18, 22, 24, 35, and 38. — GNLM

MFVP invites dried taro exporters



This image features an invitation to dried taro exporters.

FOR exporting dried taro stems to the Republic of Korea, interested export companies are invited, said the Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producer and Exporter Association.

The Fresh Leaders Co Ltd in Incheon has imported agri-

cultural products from Vietnam, Thailand and China and then distributed their imports to local well-known companies – Ottogi Corporation and CJ Group.

The notification sent from the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization says the Korean company has offered to export dried taro stems as an ingredient of Korean spicy beef soup, MFVP said. Interested member companies can submit their company name, contact person, position and Viber phone number to the MFVP office's Viber phone number 09 43127656, MFVP announced on 24 February. — MT/ZS

MNREC designates Myinmadan protected public forest

THE Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation has announced that 72,730 acres in Taungup Township, Taungup District, Rakhine State, have been designated as the "Myinmadan Protected Public Forest" as of 18 February 2026, under Notification 9/2026, issued in exercise of the powers conferred by



Images capture aerial views of the Myinmadan protected public forest in Taungup, Rakhine State.

Subsection (e) of Section 6 of the Forest Law promulgated in 2018.

The ministry designates protected public forests and forest reserves to ensure the sustainability of mountain ecosystems, strengthen environmental management, maintain biodiversity, conserve water resources, and prevent the improper extraction of timber, poles, felspar and firewood by residents.

The Myinmadan Protected Public Forest will conserve various species of trees, including Pyinkado, Thingan, Kanyin, Kanyaung, Saga-wah, Thingadu, Taungpaina, Taungthayat, Thapyay, Kyetyo, Myaukngo, Binga and Sitt (white siris); bamboo species such as Kayin bamboo, Madae bamboo and Tayagu bamboo; and rattan species such as Nabet rattan and KyetU rattan. It will also protect rare wildlife species, including gaur, sambar deer, muntjac, mountain goat, wild boar, bear, leopard, jungle cat, reticulated python, monkeys, gibbons, tortoise and the Rakhine forest turtle.

Moreover, the designation will help conserve natural forest areas in the Inchoon Mountain region and protect water sources. It will also enable the establishment of community-owned forests to support water conservation, thereby increasing forest cover and promoting favourable climatic conditions.

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation

Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanmar Alinn, the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit www.moi.gov.mm/mal, www.moi.gov.mm/km, www.moi.gov.mm/nlm and www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper.

News and Periodicals Enterprise



NATIONAL

Residents Urged to Prioritize Public Safety Amid Armed Terrorist Threats

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

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

Military technology development guided by 'study, practise, comply' policy

State Security and Peace Commission Vice-Chairman, Defence Services Deputy Commander-in-Chief, and Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win yesterday morning met trainees of infantry commanding officer, company commander and platoon commander courses and cadets in Bahtoo station at Aung San Hall of the Tatmadaw (Army) Combat Forces Training School.

In his speech, the Vice-Senior General emphasized enhancement of combat power and combat capability of all Tatmadaw members, conducting training courses for cadets, platoon commanders, company commander and commanding officers at military training schools for all Tatmadaw members to improve their combat power and capability, urging trainees to study and practise, and applying military tactics on the battlefield.

He also highlighted needs to take lessons from the military tactics of enemies and conduct counterattack operations, efforts to improve individual capability to be able to raise the team's capability, individual intense training to have combat capability to be applied in the battle fields, and the situation to harmonize combat capability and power to achieve success.

The Vice-Senior General underlined taking physical exercises daily for healthy working in order to serve assigned duties and overcome various challenges, applying military technology in accord with the motto: Study, Practise and Comply, and needs to cultivate courage and bravery through health and fitness and skilfulness in military tactics.

All Tatmadaw members must strictly adhere to military discipline and duly comply with orders to ensure the successful accomplishment of assigned missions.



State Security and Peace Commission Vice-Chair, Defence Services Deputy Commander-in-Chief, and Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win meets trainees of infantry commanding officer, company commander and platoon commander courses and cadets in Bahtoo station yesterday.

Moreover, he explained that the military discipline and obedience to order are the lifeblood of Tatmadaw members. Hence, he urged all to strictly follow military disciplines and orders to accomplish the assigned missions. Depending on activities of following the military disciplines, competence, and behaviours can help win the trust and reliance of subordinates. Hence, all trainees need

to thoroughly understand the 16 characteristics of leadership. As all Tatmadaw members take the four-point oath and are faithful to the State and the people, they all need to diligently serve the assigned duties and orders round the clock by applying the military tactics obtained from the training courses.

The Vice-Senior General also clarified holding the multiparty democratic

general election 2025 in three phases, preparations by the government and regions and states to convene the Hluttaw sessions in the near future.

Also, present at the meeting were senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, the commander of Eastern Command, officer instructors, trainees and officials. — MNA/TTA

Presidential Election Set for Early April to Form...

FROM PAGE 1

As they recite the Four Oaths daily, they must remain faithful and true to those Four Oaths, upholding loyalty to their country, to their fellow citizens, and to their fellow servicemen.

He fulfilled the needs of Tatmadaw members and their families in coordination with officials. After the meetings, the Vice-Senior General presented foodstuffs provided by the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services

and eggs by the military command and cash awards to Tatmadaw members and families from relevant military stations.

Daw Than Than Nwe, the wife of the Vice-Senior General, also presented

foodstuffs and cash assistance for the maternal and child welfare association through officials. The Vice-Senior General and party cordially greeted Tatmadaw members and families of relevant military stations. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

Electricity and energy key drivers for country's socioeconomic growth

ELECTRICITY and Energy Development Commission Chairman and Union Minister at the Ministry 1 of the President's Office U Tin Aung San presided over the fifth coordination meeting of the commission yesterday.

Speaking at the occasion, the Union minister highlighted the intention of the meeting, activities of the commission within the formation period, implementation of 15 major objectives and the need to support the state economy by offering opportunities and incentives based on policies set by the government.

He continued that to fully meet the country's electricity demand, efforts must be made to generate power from all available sources. Since the formation of the commission up to the present, progress in electricity generation includes the connection of the new solar power plant, Thazi 40-megawatt, to the national grid. The Thabyaywa 40-megawatt plant will also be connected in early March. Moreover, the 500-megawatt LNG project, implemented to supply electricity within a short timeframe, began commercial power generation on 14 January 2026.

The hydropower, a clean and renewable energy source with relatively low production



Union Minister U Tin Aung San chairs the fifth coordination meeting of the Electricity and Energy Development Commission yesterday.

costs, should be further developed through the implementation of large-scale hydropower projects to meet the country's future electricity demand. In carrying out such projects, they must comply not only with laws, rules, regulations, procedures, standards, and criteria, but also with internationally recognized standards. The commission also needs to make efforts to ensure better land and water resources, improve socio-economic status, sustainable use, support the regional development, enhance water transport, reduce flooding risks and create opportunities

for environmentally based river tourism development.

In the energy sector, pilot projects using AI technology to increase natural gas production from thin sand layers have already commenced. In older oil fields, joint ventures with private entrepreneurs are being implemented under a "Well by Well Basic" system, with agreements signed and operations underway. Two-dimensional seismic surveys have been completed in Kyaiklat Township of Ayeyawady Region and in Twantay and Kungyangon townships of Yangon Region, and further processes for

exploration and production are ongoing. A Production Sharing Contract has been signed for the M-10 offshore block (Min Ye Thu Project) in the Gulf of Mottama.

He added that Phase I of the new refinery project at No 1 Refinery (Thanlyin) is expected to begin operations soon, marking the first refinery to be opened since the Thanbayakan refinery, which was last inaugurated in 1982. All are urged to implement new offshore projects, which are crucial for the future energy sector, within the designated timeframe.

Vice-Chairman 1 Union Min-

ister for Electric Power U Nyan Tun and Vice-Chairman 2 Union Minister for Energy U Ko Ko Lwin reported on ongoing electricity and energy development measures, renewable energy and ongoing work plans.

The commission secretary, joint secretary and members discussed the development of the electric power and energy sectors.

After hearing the reports, the Union minister emphasized that electricity and energy are key driving forces for national socio-economic development. To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), it is essential to ensure an adequate and reliable energy supply. For both developed and developing countries, energy security is a priority to guarantee sufficiency and long-term stability. As Myanmar is rich in renewable energy resources such as hydropower, wind, and solar energy, there should be systematic use of these sources to meet the country's electricity and energy needs. The electricity and energy sectors are the ones with huge technology and investment, and so laws, rules and regulations should be set for the interests of both the country and investors. — MNA/KTZH

MoH Union Minister receives ICRC Resident Representative

UNION Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win met Mr Arnaud de Baecque, Resident Representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to Myanmar, yesterday at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw.

They exchanged views on ongoing healthcare cooperation between the Ministry of Health and the ICRC, including the prosthet-

ics workshop at the National Rehabilitation Hospital in Yangon, technical support for the ministry's rehabilitation departments, emergency healthcare training, and plans to continue cooperation with the ministry in 2026.

The meeting was also attended by departmental officials from the Ministry of Health. — MNA/MKKS



The ICRC Resident Representative calls on Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win yesterday.

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

Chinese Ambassador calls on MoFA Union Minister

UNION Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe received Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar Ms Ma Jia at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

They held cordial discussions and exchanged views on promoting stability and peace along the Myanmar-China border, further consolidating the existing Pauk-Phaw relations and expanding cooperation between

Myanmar and China, continuing the implementation of Myanmar-China bilateral projects, sustaining Myanmar's efforts to achieve lasting peace and socioeconomic development for its people, promoting legitimate business activities and investments and jointly combatting online gambling and other illegal activities in the border areas. Both sides reaffirmed their mutual support in regional and multilateral levels. — MNA



Union Minister U Than Swe receives Chinese Ambassador Ms Ma Jia yesterday.

MNHRC inspects DaikU Central Prison



Members of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission inspect the DaikU Central Prison yesterday.

AN inspection team led by U Kyaw Myint and U Than Win, members of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, conducted an inspection visit to the DaikU Central Prison in DaikU Township, Bago Region, yesterday under Sections 43 and 44 of the Commission's Law. During the inspection, the team inspected the fundamental rights entitled to prisoners and detainees, including the matters relating to an adequate food supply, access to healthcare facilities and referral to external hospitals for treatment depending on illnesses, and provision of sufficient purified drinking water and water for domestic use, the situation of allowing family visits, the receipt of items issued

by the prison and those sent by family members, the provision of physical exercise and sports activities for health and fitness, the right to practice religion in pursuit of their faith and the provision of vocational training. In addition, the team enquired whether there were instances of human rights violations or torture by prison officials and fellow inmates. The inspection team also met family members who came to visit prisoners and asked whether they faced any difficulties in meeting their relatives or in sending items to the prisoners. Moreover, the team conducted private and confidential interviews with 31 prisoners who requested to meet separately, and recorded their submissions.

The inspection team then inspected various facilities, including the dormitories of prisoners and detainees, the prison hospital, library, kitchen, food warehouse, family visit area, water purifiers, water storage tanks for domestic use, and the cleanliness of the internal and external sewage system. The team also followed up on the implementation status of recommendations made by the inspection team during the previous visit. The Commission donated 100 knowledgeable books for prisoners to read and study.

The inspection team will send its findings and recommendations to the relevant department for necessary action under the Commission Law. — MNHRC

MoH moves to cut self-paid healthcare costs

UNION Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win stated that the ministry must make necessary arrangements over the next five years to ensure everyone has access to quality healthcare and to reduce out-of-pocket health expenditures for the public.

He made these remarks during a coordination meeting regarding health indicators to be met by 2030, held on 23 February at the Ministry of Health meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw.

The Union Minister added that, as the Law Amending the Private Health Care Services Law (2026) was recently enacted, relevant departments and regional and state authorities must prepare to implement the procedures included in the amendment

within the specified timeframe.

Furthermore, he noted that, as electronic cigarettes, similar devices, and their accessories have been designated and banned as essential goods under Section 9 of the Important Goods and Services Act, the authorities must continue to enforce this ban.

Dr Thet Khaing Win also emphasized that the next five years are critical for achieving the health-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 and for increasing the life expectancy of the population. He stressed the need to implement strategies and processes systematically, while regularly monitoring and evaluating progress. — MT/ZN



The coordination meeting regarding health indicators to be met by 2030 is being held at the Ministry of Health.

NATIONAL

Authorities Condemn KIA, PDF Attack on Passenger Flight at Myitkyina Airport

THE entire people and various organizations strongly condemn the brutal attack of the KIA and PDF terrorist combined groups committed at 8:12 pm on 20 February on Myitkyina Airport, which is the key airway of Kachin State for public transportation and goods flows, using FPV suicide drones with the intent to cause death and injuries among civilian passengers. Kachin State Special Region 1, the Leading Committee for Eternal Peace Federation and New Democratic Party (Kachin) issue statements strongly condemning these attacks.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Statement of Kachin State Special Region 1, Leading Committee for Eternal Peace Federation

1. The PDF terrorists under the KIO/KIA intentionally attacked the Myanmar National Airlines (MNA) ATR 72-600 passenger aircraft with FPV suicide drones at Myitkyina Airport at 8:12 pm on 20 February while the plane was preparing to depart for Mandalay after boarding passengers, aiming to cause casualties of crew members and passengers. As a result, the attack caused minor damage to the plane, and the flights were cancelled.
2. Fortunately, there are no casualties among passenger and crew members, but such a terrorist attack impose threat to the lives and properties of people and may lead to high commodity prices. Such acts of terrorist groups commit war crimes according to the Geneva Conventions and International Law, and the entire people strongly oppose and condemn them.
3. Kachin State Special Region 1, Leading Committee for Eternal Peace Federation, issues this statement strongly condemning such a terrorist attack.

Leading Committee

Statement of New Democratic Party (Kachin)

TERRORISTS attacked the Myanmar National Airlines (MNA) ATR 72-600 passenger aircraft with FPV suicide drones at Myitkyina Airport at 8:12 pm on 20 February while the plane was preparing to depart for Mandalay after boarding passengers.

The New Democratic Party (Kachin) strongly condemns such a terrorist attack on civilian airlines that plays key role in facilitating civilian travel and the swift flow of goods.

New Democratic Party (Kachin)

134 foreign nationals transferred via Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge II

AUTHORITIES transferred 134 foreign nationals, including 101 Indonesians, six Namibians, five Sri Lankans, four Kenyans, four Indians, four South Africans, three Zimbabweans, three Nigerians, two Malaysians, one Beninese and one Burundian, who were involved in telecommunications fraud and other criminal activities to their respective countries via the Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge II, in accordance with legal procedures and on humanitarian and friendly bilateral grounds.

Foreign nationals had illegally entered Myanmar through border routes after transiting neighbouring countries, including Thailand, and had engaged in illegal online gambling, online fraud and other criminal activities in the Myawady-Shwe Kokko area of Kayin State.

To ensure that the transfer process proceeded smoothly and systematically, Chairman of the Myawady District Management and Administration Committee and District Administrator U Kaung San Lin together with responsible officials, coordinated with relevant departments to verify the lists and ensure the accuracy and completeness of the records.

A formal handover ceremony



Officials oversee the deportation of undocumented foreign immigrants.

was subsequently held. It was attended by the Head of the District Immigration and Population Office, Deputy Director U Kyaw Kyaw Than; Minister Counsellor Mr Mohamad Arif Sulaksono and staff from the Indonesian Embassy in Thailand; Counsellor Ms Jarin Sijaya Abdul Hathi and staff from the Malaysian Embassy in Thailand; Second Secretary Ms Laina S Mundilo from the Namibian Embassy in Malaysia; Administrative and Technical Staff Member Mr Deepak Pathak and staff from the Indian Embassy in Thailand; representatives from the embassies of Sri Lanka, Kenya, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Benin and Burundi, led by Mr Tana Judah Hira; as

well as officials from the Tak Province Immigration Office of Thailand. Myanmar officials systematically handed over repatriation-related documents to representatives of the respective countries.

The government is actively cooperating with neighbouring and regional countries and international organizations to identify, arrest and take effective action against individuals involved in online scam centres, including foreign masterminds operating behind the scenes. At the same time, authorities are coordinating efforts to swiftly repatriate distressed foreign nationals and victims of human trafficking to their respective countries. — MNA/MKKS

Labour Attaché Office secures employment fee refunds

ACCORDING to the Labour Attaché Office in Thailand, it has received a phone call saying a job agent who received a service fee for seeking a job in Japan was found in Thailand, and the complainant said she wanted back the money as the agent failed to do by their agreement.

The complainant said she gave K6 million to a licensed overseas employment agency at the Five Star building near the Theinbyu bus stop in Botahtaung Township, in two separate payments of K3million in 2023, through a job agent, for sending her husband to Japan.

But her husband didn't get a job in Japan, and she saw the agent again on 21 February at noon in Thailand, unexpectedly. She contacted the labour attaché office by phone for help, said the office on 23 February.

The delegation led by the labour attaché met concerned persons, and following its negotiation, the agent paid K3 million, equivalent to 24,000 Thai baht, on 21 February and agreed to pay the rest K3 million by 20 March.

Myanmar migrant workers are advised to contact the following numbers of the Labour Offices during office hours if their rights are violated. More information can be obtained from its call centre: 02 0030015, Labour Attaché (Bangkok): 06 18108454, Labour Officer (Bangkok): 06 52206952, Labour Attaché (Maesot): 06 52206953, Labour Officer (Chang Mai): 09 45866607 and Labour Officer (Ranong): 06 34818121. — MT/ZS

FSSM to launch Basic Laboratory Management Online Certificate Programme on 20 Apr

THE Food Science, Safety and Management (FSSM), on-line-based education platform, will conduct the Basic Laboratory Management Online Learning & Certificate Programme from 20 April to 20 June 2026.

This course aims to cover know-hows of biological laboratory, laboratory equipment, lab safety rules, Microbiology Laboratory Safety and Rules, chemical laboratory safety rules, good laboratory practices, lab safety management, lab design, accommodation and environment, biosafety and facility design, bio-medical waste management,

sample collection, processing and storage, hazardous chemical safety, personal protective equipment, lab information management system, molecular lab techniques, procurement procedures and shipping of biological samples and materials transfer agreements. The course topics are posted on this page <https://fb.com/FoodSSMO>.

Trainees will receive a certificate upon completion of this Online Learning Program. Those interested can register for this course through this link <http://tiny.cc/lab-manage>, with an online course fee of K22,000. — NN/KK

Myanmar International Beauty Expo set for 8-10 May at YCC

MYANMAR International Beauty Expo (MIBE) will be held from 9 am to 5 pm on 8-10 May at the Yangon Convention Centre, bringing the latest trends in the industry, offering competitive prices and product choice, bridg-

ing networking with industry experts and creating business opportunities.

Interested individuals can enquire about details through Viber 09 789256271 and 09 987224373. — NN/KK

GRGI reissues tender for rice husk briquettes



This photo shows farmers at work processing rice from harvested paddy.

GRGI Co Ltd re-invited interested business entities, SMEs, companies, rice millers and rice husk briquettes processors to compete in bidding for the supply of rice husk briquettes.

Tender applications can be withdrawn at the company, 2A (1/16 G) Office Tower, 8th floor, Manaung Ward on East

Horse Race Course Road, Tamway Township, between 24 February and 9 March. The deadline for the tender submission is 5 pm on 9 March.

Interested individuals can submit a tender (GRG/OP/001-25-26) to the company along with the company registration copy, a company update extract copy, a YCDC

business licence copy, two kilogrammes of briquettes and other documents mentioning business profile, production capacity and past experiences. They can also enquire about details of the tender through the following contact numbers of the tender committee at 09 5078091 and 09 425308385 during working hours. — NN/KK

Cars & Spare Parts Expo 2026 accumulates 100 vehicle sales



This image illustrates Myanmar's Cars and Spare Parts Biggest Expo 2026.

MYANMAR'S Cars and Spare Parts Biggest Expo 2026, held for three days from 20 to 22 February at the People's Square in Yangon, achieved 100 accumulated vehicle sales, attracting 8,6699 visitors.

This expo was managed by SPEC Event Management and jointly organized by the Yangon Region Road Safety Council (MORS), the Myanmar Automobile Manufacturer and Dis-

tributor Association (MAMDA), the Yangon Region Automobile Manufacturer and Distributor Association (YRAMDA) and the Myanmar Automotive Components and Accessories Association (MYACSAA).

The expo is crucial for car brokers, traders, car lovers, industry professionals and those interested in the automotive industry to explore, validate and procure the latest in mobility

and automotive accessories.

"The expo showcased Brand New EV Cars, fuel Cars, used Cars, components, spare parts and branded automotive accessories with 60 stalls, strengthening payment security and displaying car insurance policies service. We like to express our appreciation to exhibitors, visitors and partners," said a representative of SPEC Event Management. — ASH/KK

CBM sells US\$1.1M to edible oil importers

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold US\$1.1 million, purchased from CMP companies, to edible oil-importing companies, in addition to selling 260,000 yuan in the market.

CBM announced on 20 November that it would sell US\$30 million to fuel oil importers. CBM also injected \$543,000 and 1.3 million baht into the market after selling \$1.35 million to edible oil-importing companies on the same day.

CBM pumped over 971,900 yuan and four million baht into the market, and sold over \$1.84 million to edible oil-importing companies.

CBM sold \$900,000 to edible oil importing companies and \$2 million to fuel oil-importing companies on 18 February, along with an injection of \$2 million, 130,000 yuan and over 679,540 baht on that day.

CBM sold over \$43 million, 65 million baht and over four million yuan in January 2026.

CBM aims to curb the instability in the foreign exchange market and currency devaluation. According to CBM's notification on 15 March 2024, it has been collaborating with law enforcement agencies to combat and prosecute those who attempt to manipulate the currency market under the existing laws. CBM allowed authorized dealers (private banks) to operate online foreign exchange trading freely as per the market rate, depending on supply and demand, starting from 5 December 2023. — NN/KK

OPINION

Uplift honour and reputation for all

As a community is constituted with diverse societies and individuals who hold different attitudes and concepts, relevant authorities of the community need to underline administration, management and reconciliation among different groups, not to cause disintegration based on unintentional disparities, discrimination and dissatisfaction.

Practically, it is easy to disintegrate any societies or communities for unexpected reasons. But it is very difficult to constitute a society or community among the different groups and individuals. Rather than the efforts to reunify society or community, which have been cracked down on once, is the most difficult.

Hence, it is important for members within the society to address and resolve some disorders of process or problems that need attention or correction promptly before they escalate. Resolving problems and difficulties in time can crush the uneven thoughts and irregular occurrences, leading to the disintegration of unity among participants of societies and communities. Such an act can maintain the honour and reputation of those who intend to disintegrate the societies.

As prestige and integrity are the most essential for individuals, a person who has been protected from having their honour or reputation damaged due to a mistake will always feel gratitude. They will never forget the kindness of the responsible members of society who rescued them. Because of this, they will refrain from repeating the same wrong action and will even help prevent others from going astray. Such unassuming acts of social protection continuously contribute to the well-being of the wider community.

Everyone inevitably makes mistakes in the course of their lives. Mistakes made without intent can be forgiven, and even mistakes made deliberately should be forgiven as much as possible, while guiding the wrongdoer back onto the right path. This act serves to prevent their life from being ruined. In human society, if there is no social protection, even those who have not committed any mistakes may suffer harm to their community's image and reputation because of the wrongdoings of others, and the lives of the innocent can also be disrupted. Therefore, protecting another person's social life is equivalent to cultivating and safeguarding one's own future.

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Therefore, everyone should strive, during the short span of human life they are given, to live together with mutual love and understanding and to build a peaceful and harmonious society. When one person helps another overcome difficulties and protects the dignity of others, the honour and future of the entire community are preserved – not only for the individual but also for the benefit of all who are involved.

SAFEGUARDING THE FUTURE

Myanmar's Comprehensive Ban on E-Cigarettes for Public Health

By Dr Aung Tun

CONTINUED FROM YESTERDAY

The Ministry of Health of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar issued Order 8/2026 on 18 February 2026 (3rd Waxing Day of Taboung, 1387 ME) to impose a comprehensive ban on electronic cigarettes. Exercising the authority conferred under Section 4 (a) of the Essential Supplies and Services Law, the Ministry enacted this notification in accordance with Section 9 of the said Act. The order strictly prohibits the importation, exportation, sale, possession, storage, distribution, and consumption of e-cigarettes, e-shisha, and related accessories to protect public health and prevent toxic substance addiction among young people.

The order 8/2026 now completes the architecture of Myanmar's ENDS prohibition, adding a clear, enforceable import and export ban that gives customs officers unambiguous authority to seize prohibited products at borders and ports of entry.

Essential Contents of Myanmar's Order 8/2026

The scope and technical precision of the order No. 8/2026 distinguish it from many earlier bans globally. Rather than a broad definitional prohibition susceptible to definitional loopholes, the Order enumerates in granular detail every product category and component part subject to the ban:

Category (a) — Electronic Cigarettes and ENDS: Mouthpieces; e-liquid containers (reservoirs, cartridges, tanks, pods); atomizers; microprocessors; batteries; chargers; charging cables; pre-filled and refillable e-liquids, including natural organic substitutes; carrying cases; cleaning tools; and all related accessories.

Category (b) — Heated Tobacco/Smoking Devices (HTPs): Holders containing heating elements and their casings; batteries; microprocessors; heating blades; heating coils; heating ovens; e-liquids and natural organic substitutes; carrying cases; cleaning tools; chargers; charging cables; and all related accessories.

Category (c) — Electronic Shisha: Mouthpieces; hoses; vases; grommets; e-liquid containers; pre-filled and refillable e-liquids, molasses, and natural organic substitutes; atomizers; microprocessors; flow sensors; batteries; chargers; charging cables; carrying cases; cleaning tools; and all related accessories.

The Order prohibits all listed items from: importation, exportation, transit, transshipment, re-exportation, storage, display, and sale — encompassing the full range of customs-related commercial activities at all border entry points throughout Myanmar.

Benefits for Myanmar's Youth and General Public Protecting Brain Development and Preventing Addiction

The most profound benefit of Myanmar's e-cigarette ban is the protection it offers to the developing brains of adolescents and young adults. Nicotine is acutely neurotoxic during the critical period of brain development that extends into the mid-twenties. Nicotine exposure during adolescence permanently alters the architecture of the prefrontal cortex — the region governing decision-making, impulse control, and executive function — through its action on nicotinic acetylcholine receptors. Studies have demonstrated measurable reductions in attention, learning capacity, working memory, and impulse regulation among adolescent nicotine users. These are not temporary effects; they are permanent structural changes that disadvantage affected individuals throughout their lives.

By removing the primary supply channel of affordable, appealing nicotine products from the market, the ban directly reduces the probability that Myanmar's young people will initiate nicotine use — and therefore protects the cognitive development and academic potential of the next generation of Myanmar's citizens.

Preventing the Gateway to Conventional Smoking

The gateway effect of e-cigarettes is among the most robustly evidenced phenomena in tobacco research. Young people who use e-cigarettes are approximately three times more likely to transition to regular cigarette smoking than non-users. For Myanmar — already carrying a conventional tobacco burden that kills nearly 57,000 people annually — this pipeline effect

would compound an existing crisis. The ban interrupts this pathway at the point of initiation, protecting Myanmar from a future in which the brief e-cigarette epidemic creates a new generation of long-term conventional smokers.

Respiratory and Cardiovascular Health Protection

The aerosol produced by e-cigarettes causes measurable respiratory and cardiovascular harm even in the short term. Ultrafine particles in the aerosol penetrate to the deepest airways, triggering inflammatory responses that, with repeated exposure, can lead to chronic bronchitis, decreased lung function, and increased susceptibility to respiratory infections, including influenza and COVID-19. Nicotine's acute cardiovascular effects — elevated heart rate, increased blood pressure, endothelial dysfunction — elevate cardiovascular risk with every puff. The removal of these products from Myanmar's market will prevent a cohort of respiratory and cardiovascular diseases that would otherwise have materialized in the coming decades.

Economic and Social Benefits

The economic burden of tobacco-related disease on Myanmar's healthcare system and economy is already substantial. Every person who never initiates nicotine use through e-cigarettes represents savings in future healthcare expenditure, preserved workforce productivity, and reduced family suffering. For a health system with limited resources, prevention through supply restriction is among the most cost-effective public health interventions available. The social benefits of denormalizing vaping — reversing the re-glamorization of nicotine use that the industry engineered — are equally significant, as social norms powerfully shape youth behaviour.

Making the Ban Effective: What Must Follow

The issuance of Order 8/2026 is a necessary but not sufficient condition for effective e-cigarette prohibition. The experiences of Thailand, Singapore, and India — countries that have operated comprehensive bans for a decade or more — provide clear lessons on what transforms a policy declaration into an on-the-ground reality.

Comprehensive Legislation

The order governs border entry and exit but does not explicitly address domestic manufacture, internal trade, possession, or use. Myanmar needs dedicated ENDS legislation — ideally as an amendment to the existing Control of Smoking and Consumption of Tobacco Products Law — that covers the complete product lifecycle within the country. This legislation should specify criminal penalties, establish clear enforcement responsibilities across multiple agencies (customs, police, health inspectors, local authorities), and include provisions for asset forfeiture in large-scale trafficking cases.

Enforcement Capacity Building

Myanmar's borders — particularly informal crossing points with China, Thailand, and India — represent the most vulnerable points for contraband vaping product entry. Investment in customs officer training, detection equipment, and intelligence-sharing arrangements with neighbouring countries' enforcement agencies is essential. The Ministry of Commerce and the Customs Department should establish dedicated ENDS enforcement units with clear key performance indicators. Market surveillance in urban retail and online environments must be systematic, not reactive.

Online Platform Regulation

The primary marketplace for e-cigarettes in Myanmar is not the physical shop but Facebook, TikTok, Telegram, and other social media platforms. A ban that does not address online sales and promotion will be substantially undermined. Regulatory authority must be extended to require platform operators to remove ENDS listings and advertising, with penalties for non-compliance. This requires both legal authority and the technical capacity to monitor and enforce.

Public Education and Demand Reduction

Supply restriction through border control addresses availability but not demand. A comprehensive public health communication campaign — designed specifically for adolescents



and healthcare providers all have roles to play in this communication effort.

Cessation Support for Existing Users

An unknown but significant number of Myanmar residents are already nicotine-dependent through e-cigarette use. A ban without parallel investment in cessation services will either drive these individuals towards conventional cigarettes or towards the contraband market — outcomes that undermine the public health rationale for the ban. Evidence-based cessation support — nicotine replacement therapy, brief behavioural counselling, and telephone quitlines — must be made accessible through the existing township health system.

Monitoring and Accountability

The effectiveness of the ban must be measured, not assumed. A national surveillance system — building on the existing STEPS and Global Youth Tobacco Survey frameworks — should be established to track ENDS prevalence annually among youth and adults, monitor contraband market activity, and evaluate the impact of enforcement and education interventions. This evidence base will be essential for adaptive management and for reporting to the WHO FCTC Secretariat.

Conclusion

Myanmar's Order 8/2026 is a landmark public health measure — a decisive, comprehensive, and technically thorough prohibition on the importation, exportation, and trade in all forms of electronic smoking devices and their components. It places Myanmar firmly alongside India, Thailand, Singapore, Cambodia, and Laos in the most protective tier of global e-cigarette regulation, fulfilling Myanmar's obligations under the WHO FCTC and acting on the urgent call of COP11.

The order arrives after years in which Myanmar's young people were exposed to an unregulated flood of nicotine products, and after a period in which Myanmar's robust achievements on conventional tobacco control — its globally-ranked pictorial health warning requirements and its progression towards plain packaging — were undermined by the absence of ENDS-specific measures. The ban corrects this inconsistency and restores the integrity of Myanmar's comprehensive tobacco control framework.

But as this article has argued, the order is the beginning of a journey, not its destination. Thailand, Singapore, and India demonstrate that comprehensive bans are most effective when supported by strong domestic legislation, well-resourced enforcement, targeted public education, and accessible cessation services. Myanmar now has the policy declaration. The measure of success will be whether the institutions, resources, and political will are marshalled to make that declaration real.

E-cigarettes are not an escape from nicotine addiction. They are its newest and most seductive gateway. Myanmar has taken the right step in closing that gateway. Let us ensure the door remains firmly shut — for the health, the futures, and the freedom of Myanmar's next generation.

The author is a public health specialist and WHO Guest Adviser who attended the WHO FCTC COP11 Conference in Geneva, November 2025.

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NATIONAL

YR possesses over 490,000 acres of various winter crops, over 16,000 acres of edible oil crops

YANGON Region sees over 490,000 acres of various winter crops and over 16,000 acres of edible oil crops cultivation this year, according to the region's Department of Agriculture.

After harvesting monsoon paddy, winter crops have been grown as a double crop: 60,451 acres of black gram, 421,045 acres of mung bean and 9,009 acres of other pulses, totalling 490,505 acres. There are also 4,441 acres of peanut, 3,833 acres of sesame and 8,001 acres of sunflower plantations, totalling 16,279 acres.

The staff also conduct educating programmes for the farmers regarding the farming techniques, successful plantation of winter crops and explanation of plantation rates.



A planter is seen tending to a sunflower field.

“We are conducting awareness programmes for farmers so they can expand the cultivation of oil crops and pulses year by year and achieve target yields. We are also assisting with technical support, irrigation water, and other needs. For example, sun-

flower cultivation has increased from over 4,500 acres last year to more than 8,000 acres this year. We have arranged the seeds for the farmers at affordable prices, and we believe farmers are satisfied with these high-yielding and successful results,” said Daw

Hla Kyi, assistant director of the department.

With funding from the State Economic Promotion Fund, 8,945.20 tonnes of urea fertilizer and 7,000 tonnes of compound fertilizer were distributed in a timely manner to ensure ade-

quate inputs for winter crops. Pulses are being cultivated in 14 townships of seven districts, while oil crops such as peanut, sesame, and sunflower are being grown in 16 townships in the same seven districts. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/KTZH



This image captures the flourishing mung bean field.

Dala property prices surge after bridge opening, sales slow

REAL estate prices have risen significantly in Dala Township, Yangon Region, since the opening of the Myanmar-Korea Friendship Bridge (Dala), while sales have slowed, according to real estate agents based in Dala Township, Yangon Region.

Even if there are a lot of enquiries at the market, 40-by-60-foot plots of property close to the bridge are currently selling for tens of thousands of kyats, and there are still not many real purchasers. Near the bridge on Bo Min Yaung Road, practically every plot on the left and right sides of the road is for sale at the moment. A 40-by-60-foot plot can cost up to K5,500 million, while a 40-by-120-foot plot can cost K7,500 million or more.

“Land plots that are properly priced and situated in the neighbourhood are selling, while those that are being sold at outrageous amounts are not, depending on the market. Following the Dala Bridge's opening, buyers included real estate buyers, sellers, and investors in addition to people who were drawn to the area by the easy access to transit. said U Ye Aung, a real estate agent at Shwe Oh Eain.

Furthermore, the cost of land and farmland is known to be at an all-time high, and the cost of ancestral land and homes in Dala town is rising in accordance with the neighbourhood and road conditions. Additionally, the cost of real es-



This photo captures the Dala Bridge from the Dala bank.

tate in townships like Twantay, Kawhmu, and Kunchangon has also gone up.

“In terms of the current market situation, in Dala, in addition to land in and outside the township, there are also land, farmland, and garden plots in the neighbouring townships of Twantay, Kawhmu, and Kungyangon. In fact, the land along the Dala-Twantay road has been traded since the bridge was built. The buyers have now raised the prices since the bridge was opened. Some properties in Dala have not been put up for sale but are waiting for the situation to change and are closed for sale,” said a P2 real estate agent.

Along with the property sales prices, property rental prices have also in-

creased, and the rental prices for properties in Dala and outside the city, which used to be priced at K80,000 to K120,000 per month, are now priced at K150,000 to K180,000 per month.

The current prices of land plots in the most popular neighborhoods in Dala Township are around K1,000 million for a narrow street 20 by 60 feet in Tabin Shwe Htee, around K2,200 million for a narrow street 20 by 60 feet in Bayintnaung, around K1,800 million for a main road 40 by 60 feet in Hmawsat, around K1,350 million for a main road 40 by 60 feet in Banyadala, around K1,500 million for a main road 50 by 50 feet in Kyansit, around K1,500 million for a main road 50 by 50 feet along the Dala-Dhanu Road. — ASH/MKKS

191 fire incidents logged nationwide in early 2026, leaving 12 dead

A total of 191 fire incidents were reported nationwide between January and the third week of February 2026, resulting in 12 deaths and 16 injuries, with total losses estimated at K1,422 million, according to the Myanmar Fire Services Department.

During this period, Yangon Region recorded the highest number of fires, followed by Mandalay Region.

Of the total, 74 fires were attributed to electrical faults, while 63 were linked to negligence.

An official from the department stated that 100 fires occurred in January alone, causing four deaths and 11 injuries. From 1 to 20 February, 91 fires were recorded, resulting in eight deaths and five injuries.

The department also reported that fire safety awareness campaigns are being conducted at factories, workplaces, markets, villages, wards and densely populated areas, as fire outbreaks are more common during the summer months. — ASH/KZL

Ride with films: Year of the Horse sees movie-inspired tourism surge in China

BLOCKBUSTERS are doing more than leading the holiday box office at the beginning of the Year of the Horse in China – they are reshaping holiday travel patterns, fuelling a nationwide boom in movie-inspired tourism.

According to online ticketing platforms, the total Spring Festival box office revenue (including pre-sales) has surpassed four billion yuan (about US\$576 million) by Saturday, with the racing-comedy “Pegasus 3” topping the charts.

Notably, the momentum of “Pegasus 3” extends well beyond cinemas. Data from travel platform Qunar showed that hotel bookings in Garze, southwest China’s Sichuan Province – one of the film’s primary shooting locations – surged 40 per cent compared to last year’s Spring Festival holiday, while bookings in another shooting site, Delingha, Qinghai Province, jumped 71 per cent.

“As soon as I finished watching ‘Pegasus 3,’ I rushed to plan a family spring trip to Garze to check in the racetrack featured in the film,” said Shanghai car



People line up as they wait to watch a film at a cinema in Xiqing District of north China’s Tianjin, 20 February 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA

enthusiast Xia Lin. She has been a devoted fan since the “Pegasus” franchise was launched in 2019.

The film has also sparked a new wave of themed city tours in Shanghai, where the metro line, bridge, park and city land-

marks appearing in the film have become fan-favourite check-in spots.

“During this year’s Spring Festival season, the driving effect of films on culture and tourism has come earlier than usual,” said Yang Han, a researcher

at Qunar’s Big Data Research Institute.

Thanks to the popularity of the previous two instalments, fans of the “Pegasus” franchise have held high expectations for its storyline and visuals. A considerable number of them

planned their trips before the release of the latest instalment, he said.

The comic-adapted film “Blades of the Guardians,” directed by renowned action choreographer Yuen Woo-ping and featuring martial arts stars Jet Li and Wu Jing, has also sparked strong interest in the dramatic but less-travelled desert landscapes of northwest China’s Xinjiang. Data from Qunar showed that searches for desert sightseeing and desert highway tours climbed 60 per cent ahead of the film’s release.

Beyond the appeal of creativity in the film industry, the convergence of film and tourism during this Spring Festival holiday appears more systematic and policy-driven. The China Film Administration has launched a series of initiatives in 2026, including campaigns such as “Travel with Films”, “Taste Cuisine with Films”, and “Shopping with Films”. Local governments also responded with consumption vouchers, themed routes and cross-sector promotions. — Xinhua

AI-powered virtual technologies elevate Chinese filmmaking via grand realism, efficiency

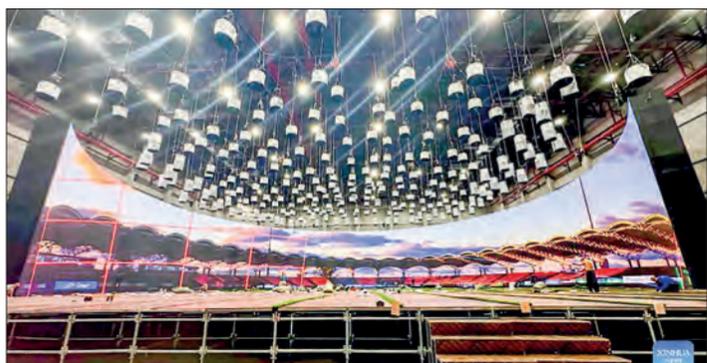
INSIDE a studio featuring the world’s largest single-structure LED at an AI virtual film base in Deqing, east China’s Zhejiang Province, a Hong Kong football-themed film was being

made. A 50-metre-diameter curved screen rendered the main stadium of Hong Kong’s Kai Tak Sports Park in real-time, with tens of thousands of digital spectators cheering as

goals were scored, creating an immersive experience akin to being in the real stadium.

Using advanced artificial intelligence (AI) and virtual production technologies, this film base enables crews to retrieve different scenes on screen and blend virtual and physical elements to recreate such iconic landscapes digitally, according to the facility owner Versatile Media, a virtual production company based in Hangzhou, capital of Zhejiang Province.

“Shooting on location is difficult and expensive, especially for long periods,” noted Niu Cong, a project coordinator with Versatile Media. — Xinhua



This photo taken on 26 November 2025 shows a virtual scene of the main stadium of Hong Kong’s Kai Tak Sports Park at Versatile Media’s AI virtual film base in Deqing, east China’s Zhejiang Province. PHOTO: VERSATILE MEDIA/HANDOUT VIA XINHUA

“GOAT” battles to No 1 at North American box office

SONY Pictures’ animated sports comedy “GOAT” knocked Warner Bros Pictures’ period romance “Wuthering Heights” off the top of the North American box office in a close battle this weekend, according to figures released by Comscore on Sunday.

The family-friendly film took in an estimated three-day cume of US\$17 million in its second weekend, pushing its North American total to \$58.3 million.

The story follows a small goat with big dreams who gets a once-in-a-lifetime shot to join the pros and play “roarball” – a high-intensity, co-ed, full-con-

tact sport dominated by the fastest, fiercest animals in the world.

The film holds an approval rating of 81 per cent on review aggregator Rotten Tomatoes currently.

In a close second, “Wuthering Heights” generated \$14.2 million in its second weekend. The film, adapted from Emily Bronte’s 1847 novel, has grossed \$60 million in North America through Sunday.

Rounding out the top three, Lionsgate’s biographical drama “I Can Only Imagine 2” opened with \$8 million. — Xinhua

ECONOMY

WORLD/AD

Japan startup's "flying car" makes demo flight in Tokyo for 1st time

JAPANESE startup SkyDrive Inc conducted the first demonstration flight of its "flying car" in Tokyo on Tuesday, as the company aims to launch commercial operations in 2028 in parts of Japan.

During the demo flight, jointly conducted by Mitsubishi Estate Co and Kanematsu Corp, the remotely operated unmanned aircraft flew over Tokyo Bay for approximately three and a half minutes, covering a distance of roughly 150

metres. The battery-powered SD-05 aircraft, equipped with 12 rotors and seating for three, is capable of flying 15 to 40 kilometres.

Due to its compact size and light weight, the aircraft can land at many more locations than conventional helicopters and other aircraft that require large spaces, according to the developer.

A terminal, where flying car operators control and monitor takeoffs and landings, and passengers go through check-in and security screening, was also unveiled, featuring an automatic check-in system based on facial recognition.

— Kyodo



Photo taken on 31 July 2025 shows a demonstration flight of the "flying car" developed by SkyDrive Inc at the World Exposition in Osaka. PHOTO: KYODO



Customers view a new energy vehicle at a shopping mall in Wuhan, central China's Hubei Province, 21 February 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA

China's consumer market sees a strong start to the Year of the Horse

CHINA'S consumer market saw a strong start during the country's nine-day Spring Festival holiday, which ended on 23 February, with spending surging mainly across six key areas -- dining, accommodation, transport, tourism, shopping and entertainment, signalling a vibrant beginning to the Year of the

Horse. Chinese authorities rolled out a series of policy measures to unlock consumption potential during the festival holiday, as domestic demand remains a key engine for economic growth. Local governments allocated 2.05 billion yuan (about US\$295.23 million) in funds to directly benefit

the public through consumption vouchers, subsidies and cash handouts during the holiday.

The Spring Festival, China's most important traditional holiday, is typically a peak season for consumer spending, driven by family reunions, travel, dining, entertainment and gift purchases. — Xinhua

Notice for Change of Distributor

Notice is hereby given that official distributor has been changed for the following pesticides produced by Lier Chemical Co., Ltd., China from Taw Win Dar Co.,Ltd. to Heyoza Co.Ltd. Taw Win Dar Co., Ltd. invites objections to Co-secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon from all parties within a period of (14) days from the publication of this notice.

No.	Trade Name	Active ingredient	Registration Type	Registration No.
1	Hmo Way	Difenoconazole 15%+ Propiconazole 15% EC	Full	F2025-3560

Taw Win Dar Co.,Ltd. Tel: (+95)9 955006789

Notice for Change of Distributor

Notice is hereby given that official distributor has been changed for the following pesticides produced by Anhui Guangxin Agrochemical Co.,Ltd, China from Aung Linn Animal Health. Ltd. to Heyoza Co.Ltd. Aung Linn Animal Health Ltd. invite objections to Co-secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon from all parties within a period of (14) days from the publication of this notice.

No.	Trade Name	Active ingredient	Registration Type	Registration No.
1	Alpha Star	Alpha-Cypermethrin 100g/l EC	Provisional	P2021-5245

Aung Linn Animal Health Ltd. Tel: (+95)9 955006789

Notice for Change of Distributor

Notice is hereby given that official distributor has been changed for the following pesticides produced by Foison SciTech Co.,Ltd, Hong Kong from Aung Linn Animal Health.Ltd. to Heyoza Co.Ltd. Aung Linn Animal Health Ltd. invite objections to Co-secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon from all parties within a period of (14) days from the publication of this notice.

No.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Type	Registration No.
1	Ngwe Yaung	Emamectin Benzoate 5% EC	Full	F2023-4256

Aung Linn Animal Health Ltd. Tel: (+95)9 955006789

Notice for Change of Distributor

Notice is hereby given that official distributor has been changed for the following pesticides produced by Hailir Pesticides and Chemicals Group Co.Ltd, China from Agri Leading Biotech Co.,Ltd. to Heyoza Co.Ltd. Agri Leading Biotech Co., Ltd. invites objections to Co-secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon from all parties within a period of (14) days from the publication of this notice.

No.	Trade Name	Active ingredient	Registration Type	Registration No.
1	ALB Ema Indo	Emamectin Benzoate 5% + Indoxacarb 10% SC	Provisional	P2024-5852

Agri Leading Biotech Co.,Ltd. Tel: (+95)9 955006789

Notice for Change of Distributor

Notice is hereby given that official distributor has been changed for the following pesticides produced by Hebei Veyong Biochemical Co.Ltd, China from Agri Leading Biotech Co.,Ltd. to Heyoza Co.Ltd. Agri Leading Biotech Co., Ltd. invites objections to Co-secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon from all parties within a period of (14) days from the publication of this notice.

No.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Type	Registration No.
1	ALB Dino	Dinotefuran 20% SG	Provisional	P2022-5518

Agri Leading Biotech Co.,Ltd. Tel: (+95)9 955006789

Kyrgyzstan's national bank raises key interest rate to 12%

THE National Bank of Kyrgyzstan has raised its key interest rate by 100 basis points to 12 per cent, according to a statement published on Tuesday on the bank's website.

Inflation in Kyrgyzstan has reached 1.8 per cent since the beginning of 2026 as of 13 February, while the annual rate stood at 9.6 per cent.

In January 2026, the country's real GDP expanded by nine per cent, driven by accelerating activity in the services and

construction sectors. At the same time, rising real incomes and expanding consumer lending have supported domestic demand. Together, these factors have created an additional inflationary impetus, the statement said.

Given inflationary factors in the economy, the widening GDP gap and rising consumer demand, a tightening monetary policy is now necessary to create sustainable conditions for slowing inflation, it added. — Xinhua

Laos eyes more foreign tourists amid improved regional connectivity

LAOS is targeting between five and six million international tourist arrivals in 2026, driven by improved regional connectivity and rising global interest in cross-border rail travel, local media said.

Authorities expect robust inflows of visitors from China, boosted by the 65th anniversary of Laos-China diplomatic relations and the expanding role of the China-Laos Railway in connecting ASEAN with

China and wider global markets, Lao News Agency reported on Tuesday.

Tourism remains a key economic pillar for Laos, generating revenue and supporting jobs at both national and community levels. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, Laos welcomed nearly five million international visitor arrivals annually, earning close to US\$700 million in revenue.

Since reopening

in 2022, alongside the launch of the China-Laos Railway in 2021, visitor numbers have steadily recovered. Officials say Laos is strengthening its reputation not only as a destination rich in heritage, natural beauty, and culture, but also as an emerging regional transport hub backed by modern infrastructure and social stability.

The Lao government also plans to enhance regional integration through future rail

links with Thailand and Vietnam, while advancing broader development strategies focused on green growth, industrial modernization, and digital transformation.

Laos welcomed more than 4.5 million foreign visitors in 2025, marking an 11 per cent increase from 2024. The number of foreign arrivals exceeded the government's target of 4.3 million visitors for the year. — Xinhua

Notice for Change of Pesticide Trade Name

The foreign manufacturer Chrysalis Crop Pte., Ltd. will import and distribute the following insecticide registered in Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board Changing trading name.

No.	Old Trade Name	New Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Reg: Type	Reg: No.
1	Evo Biso 10 SC	Lone Chaw 10 SC	Bispyribac Sodium 10% SC	Full	F2020-2686

It is therefore announced to come and reject within 14 days to joint Secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein in wishing to make any objection in respect of the said changing trading name of pesticide.

Address- Evogro Co., Ltd.

No. 95-A, Kyaik Wine Pagoda Road, 8th Mile, Mayangone Township, Yangon Region, Myanmar.

Notice for Change of Registration Distributor

Notice is hereby given that the official registration distributor has been changed for the following pesticides distributed by Asian Crops Global Co., Ltd. to Pyinsa Crop Science Co., Ltd.

No.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration		Registration distributors	
			Type	Number	Old	New
1	Glykill 48 SL	Glyphosate 480g/l SL	Full	F2022-4039	Asian Crops Global Co., Ltd.	Pyinsa Crop Science Co., Ltd.

Pyinsa Crop Science Co., Ltd. invites objections to Co-secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon from all parties within a period of fourteen (14) days from the publication of this notice. If no objections are received within the period prescribed, parties mentioned above shall proceed with the completion of formalities recorded with the Pesticide Registration Board.

Address- Pyinsa Crop Science Co., Ltd. No. 95-A, Kyaik Wine Pagoda Road, 8th Miles, Mayangone Township, Yangon Region, The Republic of Union of Myanmar.

Changing Trade Name For Registered Pesticide

The pesticide manufactured Ningbo Cycle Chemical Co., Ltd. and distributed by Uni Crop Co., Ltd. is changing trade Name as follow,

No	Previous Name	New Name	Active Ingredient	Registration No.
1	Fun Hymex	Hy	Hymexazol 70% WP	F2025-4253
2	Fun Ipro	Ipro	Iprodione 50% WP	F2025-5138

Any objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon within (14) days.

Uni Crop Co.,Ltd Ph:09765665462

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V TRADER VOY.NO. (SB607A)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V TRADER VOY. NO. (SB607A) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **25-2-2026** 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 MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY S.A

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (278W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (278W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **25-2-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

**Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority**

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Canada PM to push trade, rebuild fractured ties in India trip

CANADIAN Prime Minister Mark Carney heads to India this week pushing to double trade and mend fractured ties, his first stop on an Asia-Pacific tour that also includes Australia and Japan as he seeks to reduce reliance on the United States.

Carney has said that the US-led global order is fading and that Canada should not expect the old system to return once President Donald Trump leaves office.

Hedging against the mercurial resident of the White House he has sought to rebuild previously testy relations with major Asian economies, last month visiting Beijing to meet Chinese leader Xi Jinping after years of frozen ties.

Carney will leave on Thursday for India, on a visit that will be closely watched as he and Prime Minister Narendra Modi



(L/R) Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney greets Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi before a group photo during the Group of Seven (G7) Summit at the Pomeroy Kananaskis Mountain Lodge in Kananaskis, Alberta, Canada on 17 June 2025. **PHOTO: AFP**

try to repair ties that effectively ruptured in 2024.

“In a more uncertain world, Canada is focused on what we can control,” Carney said in a statement announcing the trip.

“We are forging new partnerships abroad to create greater certainty, security and prosperity at home.”

Trump’s tariffs on autos, aluminium, lumber and steel are hurting the Canadian economy.

The impacts of the levies have been muted by the president’s broad adherence to an existing North American free trade agreement. Negotiations on revising that deal are set for the start of this year and Trump has repeatedly insisted the United States doesn’t need access to any Canadian products — which would have sweeping consequences for its northern neighbour. — AFP

Seven killed in India medical plane crash

SEVEN people were killed when a chartered air ambulance crashed in the eastern Indian state of Jharkhand, officials said Tuesday.

The Directorate-General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said the Beechcraft C90 operating a “medical evacuation (Air Ambulance) flight” crashed Monday in the Kasaria area of the eastern state of Jharkhand.

Rescue and medical teams rushed to the site of the crash, which local media said was deep inside a difficult-to-access forest.

“The team of doctors found them, and declared them dead,” local administrative official Keerthishree G told reporters, adding that two of the seven people killed were crew members.

The DGCA said late Monday night that the aircraft, operated by Redbird Airways, had “requested for deviation due to weather” and lost contact with air traffic radar after 23 minutes. — AFP

Sri Lankan health officials urge tuberculosis control in Colombo

SRI Lankan health officials said on Tuesday that nearly 45 per cent of the country’s tuberculosis (TB) patients are in the Western Province, the most populous region, and that Colombo is the main driver of transmission nationwide.

Officials from the National Programme for Tuberculosis Control and Chest Diseases made the remarks at a training programme in Colombo.

They said many people contract TB in Colombo and then spread the disease to other parts of the country, making TB control in the capital an urgent priority. According to the officials, Colombo records 82 TB patients per 100,000 people.

They said adult men face a higher risk of TB than women. However, in areas under the Colombo Municipal Council, women and children also show a high rate of TB transmission, requiring special attention in control efforts. — Xinhua

Cambodia clears 3,541 square km of landmine, ERW contaminated land in 33 years

CAMBODIA has cleared about 3,541 square kilometres of landmine and explosive remnants of war (ERW) contaminated land in the last 33 years, from 1992 to 2025, Prime Minister Hun Manet said.

In a message to mark the National Mine Awareness Day on Tuesday, the prime minister said more than 1.2 million anti-personnel mines, 26,700 anti-tank mines and over 3.24 million ERWs were found and destroyed.

“Seventy-eight per cent of the cleared land has been used for agricultural purposes, five per cent for social infrastructure and 17 per cent for housing, villages, schools and health centres, among others,” Hun Manet said.

“The number of landmine and ERW casualties had declined from 4,320 in 1996 to only 39 in 2025,” he added.

Hun Manet said, despite this remarkable achievement, many square kilometres of land

affected by mines and ERWs have not yet been cleared.

He added that the threat from mines and ERWs remained “significant”, which would require stronger efforts to achieve a mine-free Cambodia.

Cambodia is one of the countries worst-affected by landmines and ERWs. An estimated four million to six million

landmines and other munitions had been left over from three decades of war and internal conflicts that ended in 1998.

Cambodia’s official report showed that from 1979 to 2025, landmine and ERW explosions had claimed 19,845 human lives and either injured or amputated 45,280 others in the Southeast Asian country. — Xinhua



A deminer searches for mines and unexploded ordnance at a minefield in Siem Reap province, Cambodia, 16 January 2024. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

SPORTS

Yadanabon and Dagon Star United win on Matchday 19 opening

MATCHDAY 19 first-day fixtures of the 2025-2026 Myanmar National League were held on 24 February.

At the Thuwunna Youth Training Centre, Yadanabon FC defeated Hanthawady United 1-0. The victory marked a return to winning form for Yadanabon FC, who had struggled in the second round, while Hanthawady United's hopes of securing third place diminished.

Yadanabon FC fielded most of their key players, including Pyay Moe and Soe Min Oo. Hanthawady United also started a near full-strength line-up featuring Yan Naing Aung, Maung Maung Soe, Than Toe Aung, Win Moe Kyaw, and Bo Bo Aung. Both sides, composed of domestic players, pressed hard for the win. The decisive goal came in 36 minutes when defender Hein Zaw Naing scored the only goal of

the match. Hanthawady United pushed for an equalizer but were unable to break through.

At the Thihadipa Stadium, Dagon Star United edged Rakhine United 1-0. The winning goal was scored by Swam Hlaman in 76 minutes, strengthening Dagon Star United's position in the race for third place.

Matchday 19 second-day fixtures will continue on 25 February, with ISPE taking on Shan United at the Thuwun-



Players from Yadanabon FC and Hanthawady United are in action in their match. PHOTO: MNL

na Youth Training Centre, and United at Thihadipa Stadium. Maha United facing Yangon — Shine Htet Zaw/KZL

Chairman's Cup golf tournament tees off in Mandalay



The launch of the 2026 MGF Chairman's Cup in progress yesterday. PHOTO: MGF

THE Myanmar Golf Federation, with Mandalay Business Capital City Development Ltd and Bago Yoma Eco Resort as major sponsors, held the opening ceremony and first day of the Mandalay leg of the 2026 MGF Chairman's Cup on 24 February at Yedagon Taung Golf Course in Mandalay.

Officials from the Myanmar Golf Federation, Mandalay Business Capital City Development Limited, Phyo Si Thu Teak Plantation (Myanmar), Bago Yoma Eco Resort, and Yedagon Taung Golf Course, along with players and guests, attended the ceremony.

During the opening event, Myan-

mar Golf Federation Chairman U Ko Ko Aye, Vice Chairman and Upper Myanmar Golf Federation Sub-Committee Chairman U Tin Ko Ko, Joint General Secretary U Tin Maung Maung Win, Central Executive Member U Soe, Upper Myanmar Golf Federation Sub-Committee Vice Chairman U Hla Soe Oo, and Yedagon Taung Golf Course General Manager U Thant Zin Oo officially inaugurated the tournament with ceremonial tee shots. The first round of 18 holes then commenced.

A total of 232 players are competing in the tournament: 23 professionals, 23 senior professionals, 140 male amateurs, and 46 female amateurs.

The Mandalay leg of the competition will run for four days from 24 to 27 February at Yedagon Taung Golf Course. Alpine bottled water and Burmese Golf (BG) are also supporting the event. — Shine Htet Zaw/KZL

Carrick hails 'ruthless' Man Utd match-winner Sesko

MANCHESTER United boss Michael Carrick praised the impact of super-sub Benjamin Sesko after the Slovenian's cool finish earned a 1-0 win at Everton on Monday night.

Sesko is yet to start in Carrick's six matches in charge but has come off the bench to net in three of his last four appearances with vital goals.

The 22-year-old also scored a late winner against Fulham and rescued a point against West Ham deep into stoppage time in United's previous outing.

Sesko started the move that led to the winning goal as all of United's £200 million (\$270 million) trio of attacking signings last summer combined to great effect.

Matheus Cunha picked out the run of Bryan Mbeumo, who squared for Sesko to slot home his sixth goal in seven appearances since Ruben Amorim was sacked in January.

Victory lifted United into the Premier League's top four, three points clear of Liverpool and Chelsea in the battle for a place in next season's Champions League.

"It was a ruthless finish, I like the way he put it away with real confidence," said Carrick, who has five wins and one draw since taking charge at Old Trafford.

"Great play from Matheus and Bryan to set it up. Delighted for Ben again, coming on and making the difference."

United did not hit the height of sparkling performances to beat title challengers Arsenal and Manchester City in Carrick's first two matches in charge during an uninspired clash at the Hill Dickinson Stadium. — AFP

Myanmar lose opener at ASEAN Women's Futsal Championship

THAILAND hosted the 2026 ASEAN Women's Futsal Championship, with the group-stage matches kicking off on 24 February. Myanmar opened their campaign with a narrow defeat against the Philippines, going down one goal to nil.

Myanmar pressed for an early advantage and created several attacking moves, but could not find the break-

through. The Philippines capitalised in 14 minutes of the first half, scoring the only goal of the match. Myanmar increased their tempo after the interval and searched for an equaliser, yet the Philippines defence held firm to secure the win.

In other group fixtures, Australia beat defending champions Vietnam two goals to nil, while host nation



Myanmar and the Philippines compete during the group-stage match. PHOTO: MFF

Thailand defeated Indonesia three goals to nil.

The tournament features two groups. Group A includes Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia, while Group B comprises Vietnam, Myanmar, the Philippines and Australia.

Group matches will continue on 25 February. The Philippines will face Vietnam at 1 pm Myanmar Standard Time, Myanmar will take on Australia at 3:30 pm, and Indonesia will meet Malaysia at 6 pm. — Chit Ko Ko/KZL



China records over 17.7 mln cross-border trips during Spring Festival holiday

China saw a total of 17.796 million cross-border trips during the Spring Festival holiday period ending on Monday, official data showed.

During the period, the average daily number of cross-border trips rose 10.1 per cent year on year to 1.977 million, the National Immigration Administration said on Tuesday.

Among them, the average daily number of cross-border trips made by mainland residents and residents from Hong Kong, Macao and Chinese Taipei both rose year on year, by 10.2 per cent and eight per cent, respectively.

International visitors made 1.313 million crossings, with the daily average rising 21.8 per cent year on year. Among inbound international travellers, 460,000 entered under visa-free policies, up 28.5 per cent from the daily average during last year's holiday.

Amidst rising trends such as "becoming Chinese" on social media, travelling to China for the Spring Festival has become a new trend among international tourists, boosted by the expanding circle of visa-free countries, improved tax refund policies, and upgraded inbound tourism services.

China has expanded its unilateral visa-free access to 50 countries, extending



Immigration officers process cross-border procedures for passengers at Sanya Phoenix International Airport in Sanya, south China's Hainan Province, 13 February 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA

the policy to ordinary passport holders from Canada and Britain, which started 17 February, the first day of the Chinese

New Year.

Last year, the total number of entry ports covered under the 240-hour visa-free

transit policy reached 65, significantly streamlining travel for international visitors. — Xinhua

Russia will have to use any weapons if Ukraine obtains nuclear technologies – Medvedev



In this handout video grab released by the Russian Defence Ministry, a view shows a Yars mobile ground-based missile system during a strategic nuclear forces exercise at the Plesetsk State Test Cosmodrome, Russia. PHOTO: SPUTNIK

RUSSIA will have to use any weapons, including non-strategic nuclear arms, against targets in Ukraine in case of the transfer of nuclear technologies to Kiev, Russian Security Council Deputy Chairman Dmitry Medvedev said on Tuesday.

"There can be no shadow of a doubt that in such a scenario, Russia will have to use any type of weapon, including non-strategic nuclear weapons, against targets in Ukraine that pose a threat to our country," Medvedev told a Russian media.

Earlier in the day, the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR) said that the UK and France are preparing to transfer nuclear weapons to Kiev. — SPUTNIK

World facing severe global governance challenges: Xinhua think tank report

THE world is confronted with severe global governance challenges, said a Xinhua think tank report released on Tuesday.

At present, global changes of a magnitude not seen in a century are accelerating, and the international balance of power is undergoing deep adjustment, said the report titled "Upholding International Justice and Jointly Addressing World Turbulence — Focusing on China's Solution to Global Governance," released by Xinhua Institute, a think tank affiliated with Xinhua News Agency.

Noting that the world has entered a new period of turbulence and transformation, it said unilateralism, protectionism and hegemonism are on the rise, while deficits in peace, development, security and governance continue to grow rather than recede. — Xinhua