

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, Thailand Armed Forces to Strengthen Ties, Boost Cooperation

Tatmadaw will remain steadfast regardless of changes in political administrations and will continue its efforts to help strengthen the multiparty democratic system aspired to by the people.

Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received a delegation led by Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Thai Air Force (RTAF) Air Chief Marshal Sakesan Kantha at Zeyathiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

At the meeting, they discussed promotion and enhancement of friendship and relations between the two countries and two armed forces, exchange of goodwill visits between the two armed forces and air forces, and continuation of cooperation.

They also exchanged views on the successful holding of the multiparty democratic general election in Myanmar, in which people enthusiastically cast ballots without objection, and on plans to convene the Hluttaw in the near future.



Acting President and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and Royal Thai Air Force Commander-in-Chief Air Chief Marshal Sakesan Kantha exchange handshakes during their meeting in Nay Pyi Taw.

Their discussions emphasized that regardless of changes in political governments, Tatmadaw remains unchanged and, as such, has been undertaking efforts to help strengthen the multiparty democratic system desired by the people.

Moreover, they cordially discussed cooperation in training between the two armed forces and plans to promote friend-

ly relations and cooperation further between the two countries.

After the meeting, the Senior General and the Thai Air Chief Marshal exchanged commemorative gifts and had documentary photos taken together with the attendees.

Also, present at the meeting were Commission Secretary General Ye Win

Oo, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Tun Aung, and senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief. The Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Thai Air Force was accompanied by senior military officers from the Royal Thai Armed Forces and the Military Attaché (Air Force) of Thailand to Myanmar. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

Tatmadaw paves firm way for multiparty democracy

- ❖ The election was held in three phases starting on 28 December last year, and in all the townships where it was conducted, the election was completed with coverage.
- ❖ Tatmadaw strives to shape a multiparty democratic country by paving a firm way for multiparty democracy.

(An excerpt from the speech delivered by State Security and Peace Commission Chairman and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to senior officer instructors and senior officer trainees at the National Defence College through videoconference on 3 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.

Condemnation statements issued on vicious attack on passenger plane at Myitkyina Airport by KIA and PDF terrorists

THE KIA and PDF terrorist groups used FPV suicide drones to attack Myitkyina Airport, a major air hub in Kachin State, at about 8:12 pm on 20 February, aiming to kill and injure passengers.

The attack was completely unacceptable not only to the residents but also to the entire public nationwide. Various organizations have also condemned it. On 24 and 25 February, the Unity and Development Party, Shan Tribes Literature and Culture Association of Kachin State, three Islamic religious organizations and mosques in Myitkyina, the Bamar Ethnic Literature and Traditional Culture Association, the Jinghpaw Culture Federation, the Lacid Literature and Culture Central Committee, the Myanmar Lisu Literature and Culture Central Committee, the Myanmar Rawan Literature and Culture Society, the Lawwaw Literature and Culture Association, and the Chin Literature and Culture Association have also issued the statements expressing strong opposition and condemnation. — MNA/MKKS

Unity and Development Party

Condemnation Statement

WE vehemently condemn the actions of the KIA and PDF groups, who, using FPV suicide drones, carried out a deliberate attack on a civilian airline at Myitkyina Airport in Kachin State at 8:12 pm on 20 February. The airport, a major hub for passenger and cargo transport used by the general public, is not related to military operations.

Central Executive Committee
Unity and Development Party

Objectives of 81st Armed Forces Day

- 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
- To cooperate with the government and people in performing measures for State stability, ethnic unity and the nation's development
- 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
- 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

Myanmar Gazette

Appointment of Head of Service Organization confirmed

THE National Defence and Security Council has confirmed the appointment of U Zaw Zaw as Director-General of the Department of Civil Aviation under the Ministry of Transport and Communications on the expiry of one-year probationary period.

MoFA Union Minister attends groundbreaking ceremony for Myanmar Diplomatic Academy

UNION Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of the Myanmar Diplomatic Academy, held yesterday at the compound of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw.

Also present at the ceremony were U Ko Ko Kyaw and U Naing Min Kyaw, Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs, the permanent secretary, directors-general, representatives of

Mother Development Co Ltd, undertaking the construction of the Academy, and the respective officials from the Ministry.

The Union minister, deputy ministers, and a representative of Mother Development Co Ltd laid stakes at the designated places and sprinkled scented water on them.

Upon completion, the Ministry will expand its training and educational programmes to systematically

develop foreign service personnel into highly qualified, next-generation diplomats, while also sharing knowledge on international and diplomatic affairs with interested individuals, including staff from various government organizations and ministries. — MNA

Union Minister U Than Swe strikes the ceremonial stake at the groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of the Myanmar Diplomatic Academy.



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)



State Security and Peace Commission Vice-Chairman, Defence Services Deputy Commander-in-Chief, and Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win meets officers, other ranks, family members, and course instructors in Bahtoo station.

President, New Government to Take Office in Early April

Vice-Senior General Soe Win underlined that all Tatmadaw members should take pride in their service and faithfully fulfil the responsibilities entrusted to them.

State Security and Peace Commission Vice-Chairman, Defence Services Deputy Commander-in-Chief, and Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win said so at the meeting with officers, other ranks and families and course instructors in Bahtoo station yesterday morning.

Speaking at the meeting, the Vice-Senior General said that the State Government held the multiparty democratic general election, which reflects the will of the people, was held starting on 28 December 2025, and the election was successfully conducted as a free, fair, and honourable process, without electoral fraud or errors in the voter lists.

Since the election was successfully conducted, preparations are underway to convene the Hluttaw session in the upcoming March. The State Government, in coordination with the regions and states, is carrying out preparations to ensure this. In early April, the President will be

The incumbent government will formally transfer the responsibilities of the State to the incoming administration upon its assumption of office.

elected, and a new government will be formed, after which the responsibilities of the State will be formally handed over.

Tatmadaw members residing in the garrison town must not only safeguard their respective units and schools but also continuously monitor and carry out necessary area security measures to ensure that residents can live and work in safety and peace. They must always maintain security awareness and vigilance. As this is a town where major training schools are located to train and conduct refresher courses for Tatmadaw members so they can effectively carry out their duties, all Tatmadaw members should take pride in their service and faithfully fulfil the responsibilities entrusted to them.

The successes in combatting PDF terrorist group and some EAOs are attributed to the capabilities of individual Tatmadaw members, and wives of Tatmadaw members. These individual capabilities

have been developed through training provided by major training schools, and instructors are therefore required to continue delivering more systematic and effective training to trainees in the future.

Tatmadaw must fulfil the State's security and defence responsibilities regardless of changes in political governments. As the institution responsible for national defence, Tatmadaw must continue to develop its capabilities and strength.

Regarding administration, effective management is essential for the success of military operations, security, and training. Tatmadaw office functions are maintained efficiently through general staff, adjutant and quartermaster measures. Routine tasks should be performed diligently by responsible personnel, as efficient administration directly enables Tatmadaw members and their families to enjoy comfort and well-being.

For the upcoming Grade-12 examinations to be held in March, those responsible have to provide necessary support and resources to help students from the garrison areas achieve outstanding success.

The Vice-Senior General heard reports of officers, other ranks and families and coordinated with officials to fulfill their needs.

After the meeting, the Vice-Senior General presented foodstuffs provided by the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and eggs by the military command headquarters for officers, other ranks and families through the station commander. Meanwhile, the wife of the Vice-Senior General gave cash assistance for the station maternal and child welfare association to officials.

The Vice-Senior General and party cordially greeted officers, other ranks and families who attended the meeting.

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NATIONAL



SSPC Vice-Chair, Defence Services Deputy C-in-C and C-in-C (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win meets the outstanding award-winning cadets alongside senior Tatmadaw officers at yesterday's passing out ceremony.

Vice-Senior General: Training key to building a fully qualified force

As Tatmadaw members are citizens who voluntarily joined Tatmadaw to defend the country, they must strictly follow not only the military laws and rules and regulations but also the existing laws, rules and regulations set by the government as a citizen, said State Security and Peace Commission Vice-Chairman, Defence Services Deputy Commander-in-Chief, and Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win.

Vice-Senior General Thiri Pyan Chi Maha Thray Sithu Soe Win delivered a speech at the passing out parade of the 129th intake of Tatmadaw (Army) Officer Training School (Bahtoo) at its parade ground yesterday morning on behalf of State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudamma Min Aung Hlaing.

Cadet companies saluted the

Vice-Senior General, who also inspected the cadet companies.

He presented a silver sword award to the best cadet award winner, Cadet Ye Htut Aung.

At the passing out parade, the Vice-Senior General delivered a speech. He said the junior leaders who are going to serve on the battle grounds and practical fields will be notified of certain matters that they should know. Tatmadaw was born together with the independence struggle, evolving successively from the BIA, to the BDA, the BNA, the PBF, and later the Burma Army, and it led the people in gaining independence and protected and safeguarded it.

After gaining independence, due to the colonial divide-and-rule system and instigation, internal armed conflicts based on ideological divisions and splits arose. Therefore, Tatmadaw, which is responsible for national defence, has safeguarded Our Three Main National

Causes and worked together with the people to resolve internal armed conflicts.

He urged the newly appointed junior leaders to exercise correct leadership over their subordinates and to build the three essential capabilities. Leadership is not an automatic skill but one gained through personal study, practice, effort, and experience. To provide proper leadership, they must maintain fairness, correct attitudes, avoid discrimination among subordinates, and uphold high moral integrity, he added.

He then encouraged the junior leaders to apply the 16 characteristics of a leader set by Tatmadaw in administering their subordinates and to treat them like their parents, a good commander and role model.

He emphasized that the success or failure of any organization depends largely on how well officers and other ranks combine their military knowledge with

combat power in a systematic manner, their effort, and their adherence to discipline. Tatmadaw has remained strong since its emergence due to the discipline and obedience of successive generations. Therefore, discipline must be strictly observed in all matters. The 60 Codes of Conduct for soldiers encourage what should be done, while the 41 offences under the Defence Services Act prohibit what should not be done. Failure to follow rules, regulations, directives and orders would gradually lead to defeat.

As Tatmadaw members are citizens who voluntarily joined Tatmadaw to defend the country, they must strictly follow not only the military laws and rules and regulations but also the existing laws, rules and regulations set by the government as citizens. Discipline is the foundation of the Tatmadaw, and all must stay in accordance with the discipline and also ensure their subordinates adhere to it.

He then highlighted the importance of physical and mental fitness to be able to perform duties anytime and anywhere, and the need to train the fellowships to improve their combat ability and to avoid alcohol, betel quid, cigarette and gambling.

He also urged the junior leaders to nurture reading for their mental strength, critical thinking and morale.

He added that training is the lifeblood of a fully qualified force, and urged the junior leaders to continue their learning in military-related subjects, be aware of military affairs and security and learn the advancing military technologies.

He continued that efforts are being made for Tatmadaw to be a Standard Army with full combat ability and combat power to defend the country in full power. Combat capability refers to the quality of an individual soldier, and combat power refers to the effective use of weapons and equipment. Both require continuous training with the use of modern weapons.

Moreover, Tatmadaw upheld Our Three Main National Causes as a national task, showing their patriotism and loyalty to the country and people while serving national defence duties, rescuing victims of disasters and conducting rehabilitation processes when the country faced serious crises such as invasions, revolution, pandemic and natural disasters and so on.

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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.

Graduation dinner held for Cadet Intake 129

The graduation dinner for 129th intake of the Tatmadaw (Army) Officer Training School (Bahtoo) Thiha Company was held yesterday evening at the Military Appointments Hall of the school in Bahtoo Township. The ceremony was attended by Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Vice-Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services, and Commander-in-Chief (Army), on behalf of the Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission and Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services.

The ceremony was attended by Daw Than Than Nwe, wife of the Vice-Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services, and Commander-in-Chief (Army), Shan State Chief Minister U Aung Aung, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, the commander of Eastern Command and his wife, senior Tatmadaw officers and their wives from the Bahtoo Station, parents and relatives of the graduating cadets, instructors and teachers from the school, and guests.

The Vice-Senior General, along



State Security and Peace Commission Vice-Chair, Defence Services Deputy Commander-in-Chief, and Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win warmly greets the graduating officers before dinner.

with his team, first warmly greeted the graduating officers before having dinner together.

After dinner, the Vice-Senior General and his team watched a performance

by the Tatmadaw (Army) Officer Training School (Bahtoo) band in honour of the occasion, before presenting cash awards.

Afterwards, the Vice-Senior General

and his team, together with the graduating officers, watched a performance by a troupe from the Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare at the concert hall. — MNA/TH

Vice-Senior General: Training key to building a fully qualified force

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He added that when the country moves towards a modern developed multiparty democratic system, Our Three Main National Causes are set as a national policy, and Section 383 in Chapter 8 of the 2008 Constitution also states that “every citizen has the duty to uphold: (a) non-disintegration of the Union; (b) non-disintegration of national solidarity; and (c) perpetuation of sovereignty,” and so all must safeguard it without fail.

He continued that state stability is essential for the socioeconomic status of people. The extremist terrorist groups that do not want state stability and socioeconomic development currently explode the road and bridges, aiming to cause difficulties in public transportation and goods flows.

Due to the efforts of Tatmadaw, the terrorists retreated from their locations, and some PDF terrorists working with NUG, CRPH and ethnic armed groups now rejoin the legal

framework, and the number of returnees has reached 1,341 from 2021 to date.

The rehabilitation activities, such as resuming governance mechanisms, departmental offices, repairing houses, reopening schools and hospitals in the townships, where stability was regained, are being conducted. The needed security measures are also being made for the local ethnic people.

Tatmadaw set two political objectives: to strengthen genuine and disciplined multiparty democracy and to establish a Union based on democracy and a federal system, and also set a roadmap and objectives to be able to walk firmly on a multiparty democratic pathway that is the entire desire.

He said the 2025 multiparty general election was successfully held in three phases starting from 28 December 2025, with 13.13 million out of 24 million eligible voters participating (54.22 per cent). He stated that state responsibilities would be transferred

to the elected government by the State Security and Peace Commission in accordance with democratic standards.

He then mentioned the motto “Strength of the nation lies within,” and urged building a unity between the Tatmadaw and the people.

Regarding the attempts to defame Tatmadaw, the Vice-Senior General highlighted the need to enhance unity within and outside of the military units with the correct leadership upon the family members to have the right knowledge, belief and stances. He also highlighted the importance of unity within and outside of the military units.

After taking the salute of the cadet companies, the Vice-Senior General left the parade ground.

After the ceremony, the Vice-Senior General met the outstanding award-winning cadets together with senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and the commander of the Eastern Command. — MNA/KTZH

President, New Government to Take Office ...

FROM PAGE 3

Also present at the meeting were Daw Than Than Nwe, wife of the Vice-Senior General, senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, the commander of the Eastern Command, and officials, officers, other ranks and families and course instructors of Bahtoo station.

In the afternoon, the Vice-Senior General proceeded to the integrated farm (Bahtoosan) of the Tatmadaw (Army) Combat Forces Training School. The Vice-Senior General and party inspected raising of Novogen Brown layers, breeding of dairy cows and pigs, cultivation of seasonal crops, and growing eight acres of sunflower, eight acres of soyabean and one acre of potato on new reclaimed farmlands. The commandant of the school and officials conducted them around the farm. After asking about things, he wanted to know, the Vice-Senior General coordinated necessary measures with officials. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

SSPC Vice-Chairman Vice-Senior General Soe Win visits monastery and hospital in Yaksawk and inspects BEHS 1 in Bahtoo

State Security and Peace Commission Vice-Chairman, Defence Services Deputy Commander-in-Chief, and Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, accompanied by his wife Daw Than Than Nwe and officials, yesterday morning paid homage to the Sayadaw of Myoma Phayagyi Monastery in Yaksawk with offerings, comforted patients at the people's hospital in Yaksawk and inspected No 1 Basic Education High School (Bahtoo).

The Vice-Senior General and party paid homage to Presiding Patron of the monastery and Chairman of the Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja Bhaddanta Taraka, and members of the Sangha and offered rice and alms. The Vice-Senior General and his wife listened to the sermon delivered by the Sayadaw and shared the merits gained.

At the People's Hospital in Yaksawk, the Vice-Senior General and party comforted the patients and presented foodstuffs. They also inspected the various units of the hospital and coordinated with officials to fulfil the needs of the hospital. The Vice-Senior General presented cash awards for health staff and eggs provided by the military command headquarters to an official.

He observed teaching the students who will sit for the Grade-12 examination to be held in March 2026 at the BEHS 1 in Bahtoo. In a meeting with the school in charge and teachers, the Vice-Senior General heard reports by officials on teaching the students to raise the pass rate, and



SSPC Vice-Chair, Defence Services Deputy C-in-C, and C-in-C (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win offers comfort to patients during his inspection tour of the People's Hospital in Yaksawk.

requirements to enhance the education sector. The Vice-Senior General instructed them to strive to raise the pass rate of the Grade-12 examination results this year and increase the improvement of grade-changing measures of students with passing the examinations, supervise students of the

Grade-12 at the camp by increasing the study period and fulfil the needs.

The Vice-Senior General presented cash assistance for students and eggs and foodstuffs provided by the military command headquarters to officials and students.

The Vice-Senior General inspected damage to about 170 feet long brick wall and ceilings of classrooms, which collapsed in the impacts of the Mandalay earthquake on 28 March 2025 and coordinated officials to repair these buildings as quickly as possible. — MNA/TTA

MoFA Union Minister receives AHA Centre delegation



The AHA Centre delegation led by Executive Director Mr Lee Yam Ming calls on Union Minister U Than Swe yesterday.

UNION Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe received a delegation led by Mr Lee Yam Ming, Executive Director of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre), yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

Mr Lee Yam Ming expressed his appreciation for the support and assistance provided by the Government of Myanmar in delivering humanitarian assistance through the AHA Centre. He also briefed the AHA Centre's plans for the provision of humanitarian assistance to Myanmar.

The Union minister expressed his appreciation for the AHA Centre's efforts,

including the provision of humanitarian assistance during the Mandalay Earthquake, while encouraging for maintaining close cooperation with the Government of Myanmar to ensure that humanitarian assistance is delivered to those who are in need effectively and efficiently. The Union Minister emphasized the importance of ensuring that humanitarian aid aligns with Myanmar's prioritized needs. He also explained that the Government has facilitated the AHA Centre's initiatives in delivering humanitarian assistance to the people of Myanmar, and reaffirmed its continued commitment to support the AHA Centre's operations in Myanmar. — MNA

NATIONAL

MIC approves 17 projects, generating 2,400+ jobs

THE Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) held its second meeting 2/2026 yesterday, attended by Union Minister U Mya Tun Oo, Chairman of the Commission.

MIC approved two new foreign investments in industry, including capital expansion for certain existing businesses, and 15 new investments by Myanmar citizens in industry, services, construction for housing projects, transportation and communication, breeding, and fishing.

The total investments amounted to US\$7.644 million and K557,907.069 million, creating 2,449 job opportunities.



Union Minister U Mya Tun Oo chairs the second meeting of the Myanmar Investment Commission yesterday.

The approved projects included the production and assembly of electric vehicles (EVs), construction, oil and natural gas, hotel and tourism development, livestock breeding, manufactur-

ing of agricultural input goods, and the construction of housing and garment facilities.

Out of 53 countries that had invested in Myanmar by the end of January 2026, Singapore, China, and Thailand were the most prominent investors.

Among the 12 business sectors, energy investment accounted for 28.27 per cent of the total, 24.62 per cent was in oil and natural gas, and 14.65 per cent was in the industrial sector.

MIC reviews investment proposals from local and foreign investors to grant approvals and provide services to current investors under the Myanmar Investment Law. — MNA/MKKS

IPRD's 35th anniversary marked with awards for excellence, innovation

THE ceremony marking the 35th anniversary of the Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD) under the Ministry of Information was held yesterday morning at the ministry's assembly hall.

The event was attended by Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, Deputy Minister U Ye Tint, the permanent secretary, departmental officials, regional, state, district and township heads of the Information and Public Relations Department, award recipients, officers and staff. Assistant Directors from district offices joined the ceremony online.

At the outset, a video clip entitled United in the Same Dream, Hand in Hand Towards Continued Success – IPRD, highlighting the department's achievements in 2025, was screened.

In his address, the Union minister said that the Information and Public Relations Department, as a key department of the ministry, has stood firmly and progressed steadily over the past 35 years. He noted that this strength and stability have been achieved through the unity and collective efforts of successive

leaders and staff members who have conscientiously carried out their respective duties.

He added that the department operates as a major nationwide network with 435 offices at regional, state, district, township and town levels. While implementing the ministry's three principal tasks through modern and innovative programmes, the department had successfully overcome the challenges and difficulties encountered in 2025 and achieved notable ac-

complishments. Among these, he highlighted with pride the department's effective performance of its responsibilities in the multi-party democratic general election.

The Union minister further urged all staff members to continue working in unity to overcome future challenges and to strive to earn the trust, reliance and recognition of the public for both the ministry and the department.

The permanent secretary

and departmental officials then presented awards to outstanding recipients.

Subsequently, the deputy minister presented the First Prize for District-Level Performance to the Taunggyi District Office, the Second Prize to the Kyaukse District Office, and the Third Prize to the Yangon (West) District Office. Awards of Distinguished Service were also conferred in recognition of active and dedicated participation in timely information dissemination re-

lating to operations to eradicate online fraud in Myawady and to repatriate foreign nationals who had entered the country illegally. In addition, awards were presented to those who had rendered dedicated service in maintaining departmental functions and supporting staff welfare and accommodation when departmental buildings and operations were affected by the major Mandalay earthquake.

The Union minister also presented awards for outstanding innovation in enhancing the ministry's image at state-level ceremonies and in effectively highlighting departmental activities. Awards for excellence in public awareness campaigns to ensure the successful holding of the 2025 multi-party democratic general election were presented to the Magway Region Office, Yangon Region Office, Shan State Office, Ayeyawady Region Office and Mandalay Region Office. The Magway Region Office also received an award for outstanding organizational performance.

On behalf of the award recipients, Director U Tin Ko Win from Magway Region delivered a vote of thanks. — MNA/MKKS



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn addresses the 35th anniversary of the Information and Public Relation Department yesterday.

OPINION

ARTICLE ESSAY

Implement a multiparty democratic system through public endeavours

ALL must cooperate and work together in building a Union based on democracy and a federal system, which the State is striving to establish and implement, as well as in promoting the socioeconomic development of the people. Only by personally practising, observing, and living in accordance with the democratic and federal system that everyone wishes to enjoy can they, along with all citizens, truly reap its benefits. If we desire democracy but fail to comply with and practise it themselves, they will not be able to achieve their goals.

In accordance with Myanmar's political situation, Hluttaw sessions will be convened in March 2026 based on the election results, and State responsibilities will be transferred to the government that emerges, in line with democratic standards, so that the set objectives can continue to be implemented.

Schools, universities, and colleges are being expanded and opened nationwide to ensure access to both basic and higher education. Every school-age youth must have the opportunity to attend school, avoid dropping out prematurely, and complete their education to be trained and nurtured into skilled professionals and experts. The State is enhancing healthcare services, while ethnic national people themselves need to practise healthy lifestyles to live long and healthy lives.

Therefore, all members of the public must cooperate and participate in the ongoing processes required to implement and build a genuine, disciplined multiparty democratic system. Efforts must be made to fully realize and exercise freedom and justice in accordance with laws, rules, regulations, and established procedures.

To build a Union based on democracy and a federal system and to promote the socioeconomic development of the people, all citizens must be healthy, strong, and equipped with knowledge and skills. Therefore, the State is striving to ensure balanced development across all sectors, including education and healthcare.

For national development, it is only through building the country with knowledgeable and skilled individuals that citizens will be able to fully enjoy the values and essence of democracy. In fact, democracy is a system that must be practised and observed to be experienced and enjoyed.

Hence, knowledge must be widely shared so that citizens can fully understand this.

Schools, universities, and colleges are being expanded and opened nationwide to ensure access to both basic and higher education. Every school-age youth must have the opportunity to attend school, avoid dropping out prematurely, and complete their education to be trained and nurtured into skilled professionals and experts. The State is enhancing healthcare services, while ethnic national people themselves need to practise healthy lifestyles to live long and healthy lives.

For the benefit of the State and the people, efforts are being made to end armed conflicts and to continue implementing a stable and peaceful environment. On one hand, in order to raise the socioeconomic living standards of the people, all must work together to implement and initiate a multiparty democratic system.

WORDS are never just words. They carry structure, intention, and sometimes power. In our daily conversations, we casually use the terms group, association, and organization as if they were interchangeable. But are they truly the same?

According to the Oxford English Dictionary, a group is defined as "a number of people or things that are located, gathered, or classed together". The emphasis is on togetherness – not necessarily on structure. Meanwhile, Merriam-Webster describes a group as "two or more figures forming a complete unit in a composition", again highlighting unity, but not hierarchy.

The word association, as defined by Oxford, refers to "a group of people organized for a joint purpose". Here, the word organized quietly enters the scene. Merriam-Webster further defines it as "an organization of persons having a common interest". A subtle shift appears from mere gathering to intentional connection.

Then comes organization. Oxford defines it as "an organized body of people with a particular purpose, especially a business, society, association, etc.". Merriam-Webster describes it as "a structured arrangement of relationships designed to achieve some purpose". Structure, arrangement, purpose – these are no longer casual connections. They imply design and accountability.

Turning to an English-Myanmar Dictionary, group is translated as "အစု" or "အဖွဲ့", association as "အသင်း" or "အသင်းအဖွဲ့", and

I Say What I See: Group, Association, Organization - Are They Truly the Same?

Words may gather people, but structure defines their purpose.

By @Editor

organization as "အဖွဲ့အစည်း". In Myanmar usage, however, these terms often overlap in everyday speech. We may call a loose gathering "အဖွဲ့" and a formal institution by the same word. The linguistic boundary exists, yet in practice, it sometimes fades.

So I ask myself: when does an "အစု" become an "အသင်း"? When does an "အသင်း" evolve into an "အဖွဲ့အစည်း"? And more importantly, when does responsibility begin?

I say what I see: the difference may not lie in the number of people, but in the weight of structure they are willing to carry.

If definitions live in dictionaries, realities live in society.

In Myanmar, as in many countries around the world, we see countless groups, associations, and organizations formed with noble intentions. Some emerge from shared interests. Some arise from shared grievances. Others are established in response to national needs. On paper, their objectives are admirable. In meetings, their words are inspiring. In social media statements, unity is often declared.

Yet I say what I see: unity in language does not always trans-

late into unity in labour.

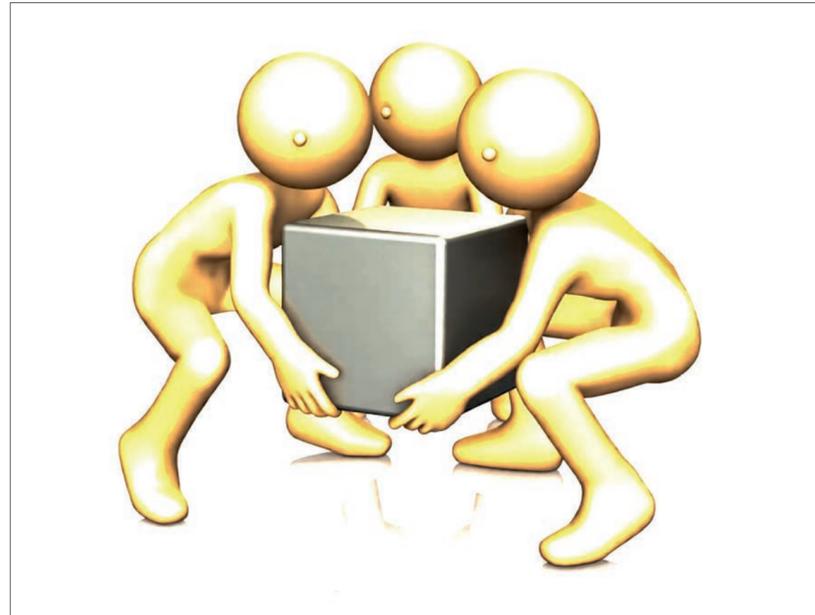
A group may gather quickly. An association may register formally. An organization may even possess a logo, letterhead, and leadership structure. But structure alone does not guarantee solidarity. Titles do not automatically produce teamwork. Regulations do not automatically create responsibility.

In Myanmar's social landscape, whether in civil institutions, professional bodies, community networks, or even informal collectives, fragmentation sometimes appears not because of a lack of intelligence, but because of a lack of coordinated effort. Individuals may be competent, even brilliant. Yet without discipline, shared accountability, and consistent action, the collective remains weaker than its potential.

This observation is not criticism; it is concern.

My true Cetana – goodwill – is simple. I wish to see any group, any association, any organization united not merely by declarations, but by dedication. Not only by resolutions, but by results. Not only by meetings, but by meaningful work.

I once had the responsibility



of leading an organization based in Bangkok, Thailand. Leadership taught me something that no dictionary could fully explain: unity is not the absence of disagreement. It is the presence of shared commitment. Members may think differently, speak differently, or come from different backgrounds. But if they work in the same direction, the institution stands firm.

Without coordinated action,

even a well-structured organization becomes a symbolic shell. With disciplined cooperation, even a small group can become a transformative force.

This is what I have seen both locally and internationally.

And this is why I reflect on the difference between gathering and governing, between association and organization, between intention and implementation.

If we look at Myanmar's own social history, we do not need to search far for an example of what true organizational continuity means.

In Mandalay stands the Malun Rice Donation Association in Myanmar, known respectfully as မလ္လုန် (ရွေး) ဆန်လှူအသင်းတော် (၇၆). It is not a newly registered entity formed for publicity. It is not a seasonal association that

appears and disappears with circumstances. It is an institution that has endured for more than a century.

Historical records show that the association was founded eleven years after King Thibaw was dethroned in 1885. It began its formation in the Myanmar Era 1258 and was granted its registration number 1253. In Mandalay, where history breathes through monasteries, markets, and memory, this rice donation association has quietly continued its philanthropic mission for over 120 years.

To survive for more than a century in Myanmar is not accidental. It requires more than noble intention. It demands structure. It demands discipline. It demands leadership succession. Most importantly, it demands collective commitment that transcends generations.

Many groups are born from enthusiasm. Few associations survive beyond their founders. Even fewer organizations remain active, adaptive, and relevant across political eras, economic transitions, and social change.

Yet this association continues its rice donation activities, not loudly, not theatrically, but steadily. What sustains such longevity?

It is not merely shared sympathy. It is a shared system.

It is not merely goodwill. It is organized goodwill.

Here, the difference between "group" and "organization" becomes visible in real life. A group may gather around charity. An association may formalize that charity. But an organization institutionalizes it, ensuring that when

one generation steps aside, another steps forward without breaking continuity.

This is what I observe in Mandalay. And this is why I believe unity must be measured not by slogans, but by sustainability.

In the end, the distinction between a group, an association, and an organization is not merely semantic. It is structural. It is moral. It is practical.

A group may gather. An association may coordinate.

An organization must endure.

From Mandalay's century-old rice donation association to institutions I have observed beyond our borders, one lesson remains constant: longevity is built on disciplined cooperation. Unity is not declared – it is demonstrated. It is measured not by how loudly we speak together, but by how consistently we work together.

My Cetana is simple and sincere. Whatever we call ourselves – group, association, or organization – may we be united not only in name, not only in meetings, not only in resolutions, but in responsibility. For when unity moves from words to work, institutions do not merely exist; they contribute. They do not merely assemble; they sustain.

I say what I see: structure gives direction, but shared commitment gives life. And in that life lies the true strength of any collective body.

Unity is not proclaimed in speech; it is proven in service.

It is my earnest hope that Myanmar's associations and organizations grow stronger in unity and sustainability.



Fanaticism and Self-Control

By Ms Monn

FANATICISM is a powerful emotion that often begins with simple admiration. Many young people admire singers, actors, athletes, or other public figures, finding inspiration in their talent and personality. For example, fans of some pop stars may collect albums, decorate their rooms with pictures, or eagerly wait for each new release. Such enthusiasm is natural, especially

during youth, when emotions are strong, and identity is still developing. However, admiration can sometimes grow into obsession if it is not balanced with self-control. When passion begins to affect family relationships, social behaviour, or personal responsibilities, it may become harmful. Therefore, it is important to understand the difference between healthy interest and extreme fanaticism.

By examining the causes and effects of intense devotion, we can learn why self-control and moderation are essential for a balanced and meaningful life.

I once heard about a young man from Myanmar who was crazy about the heavy rock singer Bon Jovi. He was in his teens, and Bon Jovi was his idol.

How much did he admire him? He even tried to carve a statue of Bon Jovi and keep it in his house. When the adults in his family found out, they told him he must leave the house if he insisted on keeping it. The young man felt troubled. Afterwards, he replaced what he really wanted to do with something else.

Instead of making a statue, he painted a picture of Bon Jovi and hung it on the wall. That much, it seemed, his parents allowed.

Then there was another young man who was also a great fan of Bon Jovi. He and his friends were devoted only to him. Their craze was of a different kind. Whenever a new Bon Jovi album was released, they bought it immediately. They also bought the songbooks. If some-

one did not listen to the new album right away, they called him outdated. They persuaded teashops to play the album again and again, almost like free advertising. Listening to them talk, I could only sit there with my mouth open in amazement.

I myself have liked Bon Jovi since he first appeared. Even now, I listen to every album he releases. I buy and keep his albums. I used to think I was already a big fan. But when I met the young people mentioned above, I realized that my "fanaticism" was not real fanaticism. Theirs was the real thing.

SEE PAGE 10

NATIONAL/ARTICLE

Red Cross holds communication training, visits quake-hit communities in Mandalay Region

A communication training course for field workers in Mandalay Region was held on 23 February at the Win Unity Hotel in Mandalay.

The training was jointly organized by the Myanmar Red Cross Society's Social Welfare Communication Department

and the International Committee of the Red Cross. Twenty Red Cross volunteers from townships across Mandalay Region attended the two-day training course, which ran from 23 to 24 February.

In addition, officials from the Myanmar Red Cross Society

and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, together with Red Cross volunteers from Mandalay Region, visited the Myanmar Red Cross Society's multi-purpose cash assistance distribution programme for earthquake-affected communities in TadaU and Amarapura Townships, Mandalay Region, on 28 March 2025. They inspected the prepared houses and temporary shelters and assessed the needs of the affected communities. — ASH/MKKS



Communication Training officials meet trainees and participants.



Paraquat use, import, sale banned from 1 Apr over health, environmental risks

THE use of the agricultural herbicide paraquat has been banned in Myanmar, according to an announcement by the Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board.

The board stated that paraquat will be officially designated as a banned pesticide in Myanmar with effect from 1 April. Pesticide distributors and retailers are required to withdraw and recall all remaining stocks of paraquat already distributed within the agricultural market before 1 April.

“According to the resolution adopted at the Pesticide Registration Board meeting held on 29 January, paraquat will be designated as a banned pesticide for use in Myanmar starting from 1 April. The decision to prohibit its use has been taken because it poses significant risks to human health

and the environment,” said an official from the Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board.

From 1 April onwards, paraquat will no longer be permitted to be registered, imported, sold, formulated or repackaged in Myanmar. Any continued distribution or sale found in the market will be subject to effective legal action in accordance with the Pesticide Law.

Paraquat has been classified as a banned or restricted pesticide in many countries, including member states of the European Union, the United States, the United Kingdom and most Asian countries. The Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board has reportedly prohibited the distribution, sale and use of the pesticides thiamethoxam and clothianidin with effect from 9 December 2025. — ASH/KNN

Fanaticism and Self-Control

FROM PAGE 9

Why Fanaticism Happens

Why do music-loving young people feel so intensely about a singer? It is because they deeply admire his music, his art, and his voice. From there, their admiration grows until it enters their whole being. They want to see him, hear his voice, and praise his talent. This is natural. Ordinary human beings cannot avoid such feelings. Not only here, but in foreign countries as well, people become fanatical about music. Some listen to Michael Jackson and shout wildly with excitement. Some cry when they hear Bon Jovi's ballads.

Being crazy about music has both good and bad effects. Music only becomes truly effective if it is appreciated as music. When my heart is full of sorrow, I cannot listen to soft songs. But when I listen to heavy rock, the feelings in my heart burst out, and I feel relieved. Still, expressing feelings should not mean disturbing others. We must control

ourselves with awareness.

The Role of Parents and Society

Parents often forbid extremes not because they dislike music, but because they fear obsession. Hanging a painting was acceptable; a statue was too much. This shows that young people should reflect: freedom must be balanced with respect for others. Playing music loudly near sick or elderly people is not appropriate. Passion must be tempered with consideration.

Sayagyi P Moe Nin wrote: “Human beings want to follow their desires. When they cannot do what they want, they suffer. When they follow their desires too much, they suffer even more. When they do not follow their desires at all, they also suffer. Therefore, they should follow their desires only to a proper extent.”

This is true. Satisfaction comes not from excess, but from moderation. The Buddha's Middle

Path teaches the same lesson: extremes bring suffering, balance brings peace.

Fanaticism Beyond Music

Fanaticism is not limited to music. Students obsessed with studying neglect their health. Business people obsessed with money lose their strength. Even good things, when taken to extremes, become harmful. And harmful things like gambling or drugs, when pursued fanatically, destroy lives even faster.

Therefore, young people should not feel backward if they do not follow every craze. True strength lies in self-control. If one can analyze and understand one's own strong attachment, one will be able to control oneself. Then, in the future, beneficial results will certainly increase.

The Broader Lesson

Fanaticism is a fire. It can warm, inspire, and energize, but if uncontrolled, it burns and

destroys. Admiration for the popular artistes like Lay Phyu and Myo Gyi, in Myanmar, etc., can motivate creativity, friendship, and joy. But when it becomes a blind obsession, it isolates, distorts, and harms. The same applies to study, business, or even hobbies. Balance is the key.

Young people must learn that passion is not wrong, but passion without discipline is dangerous. Respecting others, respecting health, and respecting limits are what transform passion into growth. Without that, fanaticism becomes a prison.

If today's youth continue to chase extremes – whether in music, study, or pleasure – the future will bring exhaustion, broken health, and disappointment. But if they learn to balance enthusiasm with awareness, tomorrow they will not only enjoy their passions but also grow healthier, wiser, and more successful. The prediction is clear: those who walk the Middle Path will find lasting happiness, while

those who chase extremes will face inevitable suffering.

In conclusion, fanaticism is not limited to music; it can appear in study, business, hobbies, or even harmful habits. Passion itself is not wrong – it can motivate, inspire, and bring happiness. However, when it becomes extreme, it may lead to imbalance, conflict, and suffering. The admiration that young people feel for certain popular artistes, like shows how easily enthusiasm can grow into obsession. The key lesson is moderation. As taught in the Middle Path, true satisfaction comes from balance rather than excess. Young people who learn to control their desires and respect limits will enjoy their interests without harming themselves or others. Those who chase extremes may eventually face disappointment and regret. Therefore, lasting happiness depends on self-awareness, discipline, and the ability to guide passion wisely rather than being controlled by it.

NATIONAL



This image reveals the damage location in the second blast.

Thanlwin Bridge (Pasawng) hit in second bombing

ARMED groups named KNPP, KNDF, and PDF carried out a second bombing attack on the Thanlwin Bridge (Pasawng) at 10 am on 25 February 2026. The bridge links Pasawng and Mese townships in Kayah State.

Reports said the explosion caused the collapse of a section 300 feet long and 24 feet wide between piers P 5 and P 7 on the western side of the bridge. Authorities confirmed there were no civilian casualties.

The Thanlwin Bridge (Pasawng), a reinforced concrete bridge completed in 2015, is 1,260 feet long and 24 feet wide, with pedestrian walkways on both sides. The damage has halted vehicle traffic and disrupted regional transport and goods flow.

Officials said relevant departments will conduct urgent repairs, while security measures in the area are reinforced. — MNA/KZL

YRTC launches probe into Dala-Yangon YBS buses after child's fatal fall

AFTER a five-year-old child died after falling off the floor of YBS near the Myanmar-Korea Friendship Bridge (Dala Bridge) tollgate, the Yangon Region Public Transport Committee carried out a comprehensive inspection of all YBS buses running to Dala from Yangon on 24 February, YRTC joint secretary U Lyan Cing Manh told The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

The tragic incident occurred on 23 February at around 5 pm, and the child fell off the bus floor and was crushed under the rear tyre to death at the scene when the bus was driving on a slope.

"There are two YBS bus lines from Dala to Sule and from Dala to Botahtaung. Now the Regional chief minister has instructed us to check all the

buses. The inspection started the other day to avoid similar incidents. The inspection will cover all 30 Dala buses," he said.

Following the inspection, buses which have defects will be replaced with better ones which can guarantee safety. The respective YBPC company will also give compensation for the child, and the driver has been under detention for investigation.

"The YBPC gave K1 million for the victim's family. YRTC will also provide K3 million as compensation. And we will also help them to gain access to other insurance claims," he added.

The Kyi Lay Kyi Social and Rescue Association carried the body of the child to the cemetery from the Dala Township Hospital. — MT/ZS



This image shows a social and rescue association carrying the body of the child. PHOTO: THE KYI LAY KYI SOCIAL AND RESCUE ASSOCIATION

Drugs and production materials seized near Wanlone Village



This image illustrates the crackdown location and seized drug production-related

SECURITY forces seized a large quantity of drugs and narcotics-related production materials near Wanlone Village, Monghsat Township, Monghsat District, Eastern Shan State, on 24 February.

Acting on intelligence reports of suspected drug production approximately 30 kilometres northwest of Tachilek, a joint team including security personnel conducted a clearance operation. At around 2 pm, authorities discovered and confiscated narcotics and related equipment at a site about 19 kilometres southeast

of Mongkhet Town.

Seized items included Promethazine-branded cough syrup, food colouring materials, hundreds of small bottles containing unidentified liquid, sacks of unidentified white powder, opium, a heroin block, white crystalline substances, and a significant number of WY stimulant tablets. Authorities also confiscated suspected WY production powder, weighing scales, a generator, mixers, drying trays, and other related materials.

Officials said experts will conduct detailed examina-

tions of the seized substances.

The items will be handed over to relevant departments in accordance with procedures, and destruction will follow according to established regulations. Authorities also stated that investigations are underway to identify and take effective legal action against those involved.

Myanmar continues to cooperate with international and regional partners, including the United Nations and neighbouring countries, in combating drug production and trafficking. — MNA/ KZL

NATIONAL BUSINESS

YRIC approves foreign manufacturing project

THE Yangon Region Investment Committee (YRIC) endorsed one foreign enterprise to put capital investment of US\$3.025 million in the manufacturing sector, at the meeting held on 24 February 2026.

That enterprise will manufacture polyester and synthetic fabrics and lining materials used in garment factories, designated for 100 per cent local sales. It

created 225 jobs for locals.

The meeting also delivered capital expansion of two existing businesses and general reports of 13 companies. The regional investment committee has been endorsing investment projects in accordance with rules and regulations under the Myanmar Investment Law to spur investments and create more job opportunities. — NN/KK



The office building of the One-Stop Service for Investment.

YCDC calls for open tender to procure 50,000 gallons of diesel



The City Hall – Yangon's prominent landmark – which accommodates the offices of the Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC).

THE Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) invited interested business entities to compete in bidding for the supply of 50,000 gallons of diesel.

Those 50,000 gallons of diesel will be utilized in the projects of the YCDC in the 2025-2026 financial year. The tender form is available at the Procurement Division in the

City Hall (first floor) starting from 25 February 2026. The tender closing date is noon on 4 March. Individuals can enquire details by dialling 01 388732 during office hours. — NN/KK

CBM continues US\$2.5M injection into edible oil sector



Greenbacks are seen at the money changer counter.

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) injected 2.1 million baht and US\$180,000 into the market on 24 February, in addition to selling over \$2.5 million to edible oil-importing companies.

CBM sold \$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 \$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 4 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

NMDC to conduct DTSM, DPP online diploma course

THE National Management Degree College (NMDC) under the Ministry of Education will offer one-year diploma courses – Diploma in Tourism Studies and Management (DTSM) and Diploma in Public Policy (DPP) – starting from 26 March.

Those holding a bachelor's degree from an accredited university are eligible to join the course. The course fee is K200,000. It will be open from 6:30 pm to 8 pm every Monday to Saturday and 4:30 pm to

8 pm on Sundays. Interested individuals can apply for it at the NMDC on the 6th floor of the main building on Merchant Street, Botahtaung Township, Yangon, by 25 March, along with three licence-sized photos, a copy of a bachelor's, and the citizenship scrutiny card. For enquiries, they can be contacted with the following numbers: 01 8292566, 09 5047519, and 09 5026972, according to the Academic Affairs Department of the NMDC. — NN/KK



The National Management Degree College of the Ministry of Education.



A Vietnam Airlines jet lands at Noi Bai International Airport in Hanoi. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Vietnam's aviation serves nearly 2.6 mln passengers during Lunar New Year travel rush

VIETNAM'S aviation sector handled nearly 2.6 million passengers during the Lunar New Year peak period, Vietnam News Agency reported on Tuesday, citing the Civil Aviation Authority of Vietnam.

The figure represented a year-on-year increase

of 15.9 per cent, the report said.

During the period, more than 1.1 million passengers travelled on domestic routes while nearly 1.5 million passengers flew on international routes.

Noi Bai International Airport in the capital Hanoi

recorded a single-day high of over 137,700 passengers on 22 February.

Meanwhile, Tan Son Nhat International Airport in southern Ho Chi Minh City also set a record on the same day, serving more than 182,900 passengers. — Xinhua

HSBC earnings top forecasts thanks to strong wealth business

BANKING giant HSBC posted better-than-expected 2025 earnings on Wednesday thanks to a strong performance in its wealth business while it pressed ahead with sweeping overhauls to streamline its structure and cut costs.

Chief executive Georges Elhedery hailed "a year of decisive action and swift execution, which is reflected in our strong performance. Each of our four businesses performed well and we have strong momentum across the bank".

The firm saw pre-tax

profit fall US\$2.4 billion to US\$29.9 billion last year, it said in a filing with the Hong Kong Stock Exchange. That beat an estimate of US\$28.9 billion, according to Bloomberg News.

Profit attributable to shareholders came in at US\$21.1 billion last year, from US\$22.9 billion in 2024.

Elhedery added that the bank was "raising our ambition and targeting a 17 per cent (return on tangible equity) or better, excluding notable items, in each year from 2026 to 2028". — AFP

Novo Nordisk to slash prices of weightloss drugs in US

DANISH drugmaker Novo Nordisk, which is struggling with competition

for its anti-obesity treatments, said Tuesday that it will sharply cut prices

for its flagship drugs in the US, announcing a 50 per cent cut for Wegovy

and 35 per cent for Ozempic.

"This decision applies to all doses of these medicines and reflects Novo Nordisk's commitment to enhancing affordability for patients and both public and private payers dealing with the complexities of the evolving US healthcare system," the company said in a statement.

Effective January 1, 2027, the list price will be \$675 for a month's worth of Wegovy, which currently costs around \$1,350 a month.

Ozempic and Rybelsus, treatments that each currently come to about \$1,000, will also be priced \$675. — AFP



Novo Nordisk said the price reduction is meant to make it possible to reach more patients. PHOTO: AFP

Aston Martin slashes staff as US tariffs hit carmakers

BRITISH luxury carmaker Aston Martin Lagonda on Wednesday announced plans to cut up to 20 per cent of its workforce after widening annual losses on US tariffs and weak Chi-

nese demand.

The job losses total around 600, with Aston Martin employing some 3,000 people, mostly in the UK.

The carmaker, which

has struggled for several years, added in a statement that its net loss jumped 52 per cent last year to £493.2 million (\$667 million), compared with 2024.

Group annual revenue dropped 21 per cent to £1.258 billion as car sales for the brand beloved by fictional British spy James Bond fell 10 per cent to 5,448. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V RANONG MOE VOY.NO. (015)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V RANONG MOE VOY.NO. (015)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **26-2-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY HOLIDAY NOTICE

IT is hereby announced that the bridges, warehouses and docks at Yangon Port will be closed on 2nd March 2026 (Peasant's Day, Full Moon Day of Taboung) and 27th March 2026 (Armed Forces Day). If you wish to load/unload or unload goods, you will have to pay a holiday Fees.

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

‘Look forward to strengthening India-Israel friendship’: PM Modi

India values Israel as a strategic partner in defence, technology, innovation, agriculture, and science.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday arrived in Israel for a two-day state visit. **PHOTO: ANI**

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday arrived in Israel for a two-day state visit, where he was warmly received by his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu and his wife Sara Netanyahu.

In a post on X, PM Modi expressed optimism about his visit and said he looked forward to engaging in bilateral discussions and fruitful outcomes that strengthen the India-Israel friendship.

"Landed in Israel. I am ex-

tremely honoured to be received by Prime Minister Netanyahu and Mrs Netanyahu at the airport. I look forward to engaging in bilateral discussions and fruitful outcomes that strengthen the India-Israel friendship," he wrote.

On PM's arrival, MEA Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said in a post on X that this is PM Modi's second visit to Israel in nine years, and he was accorded a special guard of honour.

"Israel is an important part-

ner of India across strategic and technological domains, with deep cooperation in science and technology, innovation, defence and agriculture. The relationship is anchored in mutual trust, shared priorities and a growing convergence in futuristic technologies", the post further added.

Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu welcomed PM Modi and in a post on X, said, "It's a great honor to welcome you to Israel, Prime Minister Modi." — ANI

Hong Kong targets city-wide AI use

HONG Kong will promote industrial use of artificial intelligence (AI) so that all of its residents will ultimately adopt and be conversant with the technology, said Paul Chan, financial secretary of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) government, while delivering the 2026-27 budget on Wednesday.

Chan said he will establish and chair the Committee on AI+ and Industry Development Strategy to formulate strategies and create favorable conditions for AI to empower the transformation and development of industries.

The committee will comprise experts, academics, enterprises and industry park companies with an initial focus on life and health technology as well as embodied AI, Chan said.

In respect of basic research and development (R&D), the InnoHK Research Cluster has so far funded 16 laboratories specializing in AI and robotics technologies that can be adopted by industries such as healthcare, logistics, smart manufacturing and construction, said Chan. — Xinhua

Indonesia sentences two men to 18 years for tourist's murder

AN Indonesian court sentenced two men to 18 years in prison on Wednesday for the murder of a Spanish tourist last year on the resort island of Lombok.

The remains of 72-year-old Maria Matilde Munoz Cazorla were found at a beach on the island weeks after she was reported missing in July, according to local police.

The court in the city of Mataram found the two men, Suhaeli, 34, and Heri Ridwan, 27, "legally and convincingly guilty of committing the crime of premeditated murder".

They had entered Cazorla's hotel room in the island's Senggigi area — where she was last seen — planning to rob her, presiding judge Kelik Trimargo told a hearing.

But when she was woken up by sounds from a nearby mosque, the two men strangled her to death, Kelik said. — AFP

Iran stresses willingness to reach nuclear deal as US deploys more warplanes



This photo taken on 20 February 2026 shows a city view of Tehran, Iran. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

SENIOR Iranian officials on Tuesday stressed Iran's willingness to reach a nuclear deal with the United States, while Washington continues to escalate its military posture in the Middle East, deploying advanced fighter jets.

Iran's Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi said on Tuesday Iran is determined to reach a "fair and equitable" deal with the United States as soon as possible.

In his remarks posted on X, Araghchi said the two sides have a "historic opportunity" to strike an unprecedented agreement that addresses mutual concerns and achieves common interests, adding

that a deal is within reach if diplomacy is prioritized.

His comments came ahead of a third round of indirect nuclear negotiations between Tehran and Washington, scheduled for Thursday in Geneva. Two rounds of indirect talks were held earlier this month, centered on Iran's nuclear program and the possible lifting of US sanctions.

Also on Tuesday, Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Majid Takht Ravanchi said Iran is ready to do "whatever necessary" to reach a nuclear agreement with the United States. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Shan United, Yangon United keep MNL title race alive

IN the 2025-2026 Myanmar National League season, matchday 19 on 25 February saw Shan United and Yangon United each secure wins, keeping the championship race tight.

At Thuwunna Youth Training Centre, Shan United defeated ISPE 6-1. Sa Aung Pyae opened the scoring in 17 minutes, followed by Thet Hein Soe in 26 and Mark Sakai in 36 minutes, giving Shan United a 3-0 lead by half-

time. In the second half, Sa Aung Pyae scored again in 68 minutes, with Lin Htet Soe adding goals in 54 and 85 minutes.

At Thiha Dipa Stadium, Yangon United beat Maha United 2-0. Rinta Rohama scored in 23 minutes, and Myo Set Paing sealed the win in 80 minutes.

Shan United, with one match fewer than Yangon United, can reclaim the top spot if they beat Rakhine United on 2 March.

Matchday 19 continues today, 26 February, with Dagon Port facing Rakhine United at Thihadi Stadium, and Thitsar Arman taking on Ayeyawady United at Thuwunna Youth Training Centre. — Ko Nyi Lay/ KZL

Players from Shan United and ISPE are struggling to maintain ball possession during the match.



Turmoil deepens for 2030 Olympic Games as chief executive quits

THE chief executive of the 2030 Winter Olympics organizing committee (Cojop) in the French Alps has stepped down after a serious falling out with the president Edgar Grosperon, it was announced on Wednesday.

“At the meeting of the board

on Sunday February 22 2026 in Milan, Cojop and other interested parties took note of the departure of chief executive of Cojop, Cyril Linette,” read the organisers statement.

Linette had been in his post since last April, personally chosen by Grosperon, and becomes

the fourth senior executive to leave in the past two months.

Linette’s departure seemed inevitable since a statement was issued following a meeting of all the interested parties, including the political leaders of the regions, earlier this month. — AFP



Man Utd financial results show profit increase after job cuts

Manchester United’s Old Trafford stadium. PHOTO: AFP

MANCHESTER United chief executive Omar Berrada highlighted the “positive financial impact of our off-pitch transformation” after the club recorded a profit increase following their recent job cuts.

United generated an operating profit of £32.6 million (\$44 million) in the first six months of the financial year, compared with a £3.9 million loss for the same period last year.

The operating profit for the most recent quarter, over the last three months, was £19.6 million, compared to £3.1 million in the same period last year.

Those numbers come after United minority owner Jim Ratcliffe, who heads the club’s football operation, oversaw a redundancy and restructuring programme that saw around 450 jobs cut.

In announcing their latest figures on Wednesday, United said they had seen “the positive impact of operating cost and headcount reduction programmes implemented in the prior year”.

United’s total revenues for the second quarter of the financial year were £190.3 million, down from £198.7 million for the equivalent period the previous year. — AFP

Japan's figure skating gold pair learn value of "never giving up"

RIKU Miura and Ryuichi Kihara, Japan's pair figure skating gold medallists at the Milan Cortina Winter Olympics, said Wednesday they have learned the meaning of "never giving up", as their triumph came after a disappointing short program.

“We won by delivering our performance in the free program, and I learned the importance of not giving up in any situation at the Games,” Miura said during a press conference in Tokyo.

The pair scored a world-record 158.13 points in the free program for a total of 231.24, climbing from fifth place in the short programme.

The pair, affectionately

dubbed "Riku-Ryu", returned home Tuesday along with other Japanese Olympians following the 17-day event in northern Italy.

They also helped Japan win its second straight team figure skating silver medal at the international event, where the country captured a Winter Games-best 24 medals, including a record-tying five golds, along with seven silvers and 12 bronzes.

Earlier in the day, Miura and Kihara attended a ceremony marking the conclusion of the Games for the Japanese team.

Miura, 24, and Kihara, 33, teamed up in 2019 and are based in Canada. — Kyodo



Miura and Kihara embraced resilience, proving perseverance after setbacks led to Olympic gold triumph. PHOTO: KYODO

'Look forward to strengthening India-Israel friendship': PM Modi

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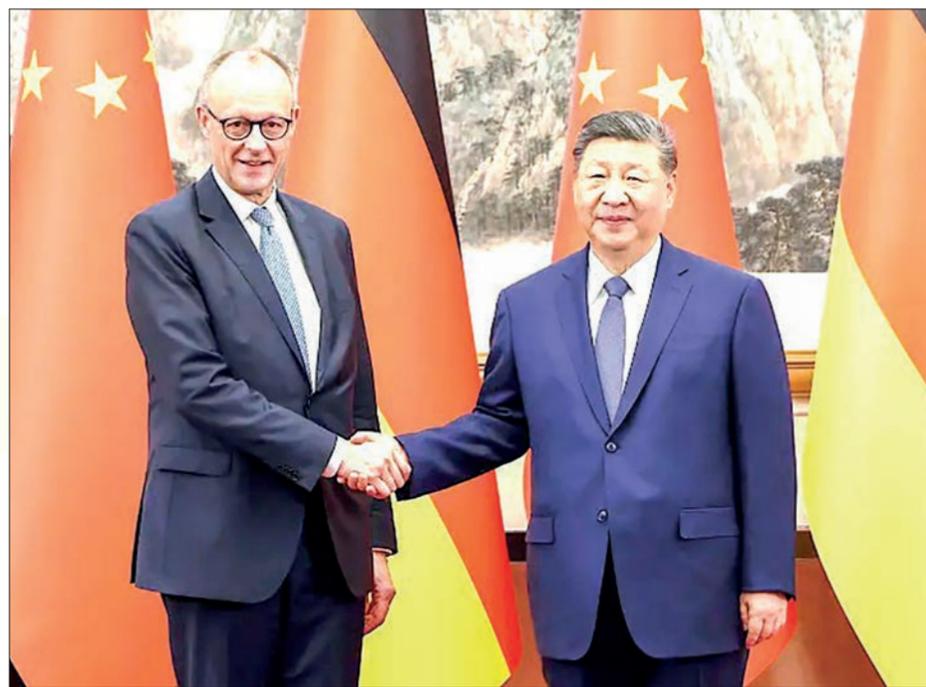
Xi says China, Germany should reinvigorate UN's leading role

Xi urged China and Germany to champion multilateralism, rule of law, free trade, solidarity.

Chinese President Xi Jinping on Wednesday said China and Germany should uphold the central role of the United Nations, reinvigorate its leading role, and take the lead in being upholders of multilateralism, practitioners of international rule of law, defenders of free trade, and advocates of solidarity and

coordination.

Xi made the remarks during his meeting in Beijing with visiting German Chancellor Friedrich Merz. German Chancellor Friedrich Merz arrived in Beijing on Wednesday for an official visit to China through Thursday. This is Merz's first visit to China since he took office. — Xinhua



China's President Xi Jinping and Germany's Chancellor Friedrich Merz shake hands at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing. **PHOTO: CHINA DAILY**

Trump delivers State of the Union address to divided Congress



US President Donald Trump applauds as US veteran Captain E Royce Williams receives the Medal of Honour during the State of the Union address in the House Chamber of the US Capitol in Washington, DC, on 24 February 2026. **PHOTO: ANDREW CABALLERO-REYNOLDS/AFP**

US President Donald Trump delivered his State of the Union Address to Congress on Tuesday night, receiving cheers from Republicans and jeers from Democrats in the chamber.

Speaking before a gathering of lawmakers, the president railed against Democrats, blaming them for the nation's problems, getting loud applause from Republicans and angry shouts from Democrats.

In the first minutes of his speech, Trump blamed Democrats for causing

"record-setting inflation".

He took credit for what he called bringing consumer costs down, although many Americans continued to feel the impact of high prices and economists see no significant relief on the horizon.

Trump blasted Democrats for "open borders" policies, saying that Democrats should be ashamed. "You should be ashamed!" Democratic lawmaker Ilhan Omar from Minnesota shouted back.

When Trump claimed that he had resolved eight wars, a Democratic law-

maker interjected loudly, "That's a lie."

Throughout the address, Republican lawmakers frequently rose to their feet and applauded enthusiastically, while Democratic lawmakers remained largely unresponsive. A rare moment of bipartisan applause occurred when ice hockey players who had just won gold for Team USA at the Milan-Cortina 2026 Olympic Winter Games entered the chamber. Trump quipped to Democrats, "That's the first time I've ever seen them get up." — Xinhua

Researchers develops AI monk robot using Buddhist scriptures

KYOTO University unveiled on Tuesday a robot monk with built-in artificial intelligence that was trained on Buddhist scriptures, hoping it will be able to aid or act on behalf of monks during certain religious services.

A research team at the university showcased the so-called Buddharoid at the Shoren-in temple in Kyoto Prefecture to reporters. At the event, it responded to questions and put its palms together.

When asked by Professor Seiji Kumagai of the research group, who also serves as a monk, for advice regarding personal relationships, the robot replied, "It will improve if you reflect on your closeness with them and maintain an inner balance."

The Buddharoid is equipped with the "BuddhaBot-Plus," an AI chatbot derived from OpenAI's ChatGPT.

It answers a wide range of questions from personal matters to social issues using Buddhist scriptures, while its slow monk-like gait and movements from bowing to putting its hands together in prayer were based on a robot manufactured by a Chinese firm.

Kumagai said it could serve as a "paradigm shift" to help monks as the number of temples in Japan diminishes. — Kyoto