

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.

Power generation expands as nationwide supply stabilizes

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Electric Power, efforts are being made to generate up to 3,400 megawatts of electricity per day (equivalent to 60,000 megawatt-hours) and to distribute power on a full-time basis whenever possible.

At present, the installed capacities of power plants operated by the Ministry of Electric Power, categorized by energy source, comprise 32 hydropower plants, 24 natural gas – fired plants, two coal-fired plants, and 12 solar power plants, with a total installed capacity of up to 6,725 megawatts.

“If all plants could be operated at full capacity, it would be possible to generate and distribute up to approximately 4,000 megawatts. However, due to acts of sabotage and the gradual decline in natural gas production, electricity gener-

ation has fallen by more than 600 megawatts. As a result, only slightly over 3,000 megawatts can be generated per day, and electricity still has to be distributed on a rotational basis for limited periods in some areas,” said an official from the Ministry of Electric Power.

To overcome these challenges, damaged power lines and substations are being repaired promptly. Additionally, efforts have been made to generate electricity using liquefied natural gas (LNG), and the successful construction of a 500-megawatt LNG power plant project has enabled the plant to begin supplying an additional 500 megawatts of electricity from 14 January 2026.

As of today, nationwide electricity access stands at 70.43 per cent, with approximately 6.9 million electricity consumers. Of these, 42 per cent consume between one and 50 units at the domestic tariff rate, while 19 per cent consume between 51 and 100 units. Consequently, around 61 per cent of consumers are using electricity under the domestic tariff.

The State continues to distribute electricity to the public at tariff rates below the actual cost of production to ensure affordability for basic household use, subsidizing the difference annually.

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This image depicts a segment of the National Grid responsible for power distribution across the country.

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Hailing the 79th Anniversary of Union Day: This Is Our Union

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Big hilsa hauls hit markets, bound for China, Thailand and Bangladesh

NATIONAL



National Objectives for 79th Union Day 2026

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

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

Mottos for 79th Union Day 2026

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



Myanmar reports no new COVID-19 cases

THE Ministry of Health tested 14 samples from 8 pm on 25 January 2026 to 8 pm on 1 February 2026, and no new cases were detected.

Currently, there is no need to worry about infection and deaths from COVID-19, but all need to follow personal hygiene methods, and the high-risk groups.

- Elderly people (aged 60 and above)
- People with diabetes, chronic respiratory diseases, and cancer
- Pregnant women (especially those beyond the third month of pregnancy) are prioritized to receive COVID-19 booster shots.

More detailed COVID-19 information can be found on the website of the Ministry of Health, moh.gov.mm.

Myanmar CDC
Public Health Department,
Ministry of Health

Myanmar Gazette

Appointment of Head of Service Organization confirmed; Head of Service Organization appointed

1. The National Defence and Security Council has confirmed the appointment of Professor Dr Moe Wint Aung, Rector of the University of Medicine 2, Yangon, the Department of Human Resources for Health under the Ministry of Health, after the one-year probationary period.
2. The National Defence and Security Council has appointed Dr Mie Mie Cho Htwe, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Technology Promotion and Coordination under the Ministry of Science and Technology, as Director-General of the same organization on probation from the date she assumes charge of her duties.

Mandalay hosts Myanmar Thanaka Festival for first time

THE Myanmar Thanaka Festival was held for the first time at Mahathetkya Marazein Kyauktawgyi Pagoda in Aungmyaythazan Township, Mandalay Region, on the full moon day of Tabodwe, 1 February.

The Myanmar Thanaka Festival was jointly organized by Thanaka enthusiasts and Thanaka-related businesses in Mandalay to mark Myanmar Thanaka Festival Day. Visitors were given pieces of Thanaka as gifts. It was also announced that the Myanmar Thanaka Festival will be held annually on the full moon day of Tabodwe.

“To celebrate the full moon of the Myanmar Thanaka Festival, we are holding a free Thanaka gift-giving ceremony. Thanaka lovers who come to the festival and apply Thanaka will receive a Thanaka gift in return. We plan to



This photo showcases the Myanmar Thanaka Festival held at the Kyauktawgyi Pagoda.

hold the festival every year,” said Daw San San Myint, one of the organizers of the Myanmar Thanaka Festival.

The Thanaka Festival was supported by Thanaka producers and related businesses, including Shwe

Pyi Nan, Shwe Sin, MNT, Shwe Bo Minthamee Thanaka, Shwe Pyi Win, Myint, Htoo, Thin Pyant Pyant, Myat, Min Khant, Ma Khaing, Waing Pyae Pyae Kyaw, Ko Tun Min Oo, and Daw Oo. — ASH/MKKS

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)

NSA & Union Minister meets Russian delegation

NATIONAL Security Adviser and Union Minister for the Ministry 1 of the President's Office U Tin Aung San received the Russian delegation led by Russian Security Council Secretary Mr Sergei Shoigu, who is currently in Myanmar at the invitation of the Union Minister, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The two sides exchanged views on cooperation among security councils, special forces, and law enforcement agencies, on collaboration in information security, including combating cybercrime, countering attempts to interfere with the internal affairs of sovereign states, and on matters related to bilateral cooperation and training courses. They also exchanged commemorative gifts.

The Russian delegation



National Security Adviser and Union Minister U Tin Aung San holds talks with the Russian delegation led by Russian Security Council Secretary Mr Sergei Shoigu.

then visited Maravijaya Buddha Image, donated flowers, water and oil lamps and ob-

served around the Buddha Park. In the evening, Union Minister U Tin Aung San hosted a dinner

for the Russian delegation at Jasmine Naypyitaw Hotel. At the Jasmine Naypyitaw

Hotel, Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Thet Win Aung met Russian Deputy Minister of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media Mr Andrey Zarenin, whereas Police Chief Police Lt-Gen Win Zaw Moe with Russian Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs Mr Igor Zubov and Deputy Director of the Federal Service of the National Guard Mr Oleg Plohoj, Police Brig-Gen Zaw Lin Tun of the Ministry of Home Affairs with Deputy Director of the Federal Financial Monitoring Service Mr Evgeny Gileta, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Science and Technology Dr Sai Kyaw Naing Oo with Rosatom's International Projects Department Head Ms Marina Belyaeva, respectively. — MNA/KTZH

Power generation expands as nationwide ...

FROM PAGE 1

Despite this ongoing State expenditure, electricity generation using LNG, although costly, has been prioritized under the "LNG to Industry" initiative to ensure uninterrupted industrial production and to prevent any slowdown in manufacturing output.

To maintain stable and continuous electricity supply and to ensure a more balanced electricity production cost structure, it is planned to introduce a specific "economic rate" for industrial and commercial en-

terprises. This approach aims to create a favourable production environment with a reliable energy supply guarantee for business operators, enabling them to expand their operations successfully. Electricity tariffs for public consumption will remain unchanged, and electricity previously used by industrial sectors will become increasingly available for public use. In view of national economic development, the Ministry of Electric Power has urged industrial entrepreneurs to work together in close cooperation. — ASH/KNN

Myanmar, Russia discuss ongoing cooperation in electricity sector



Union Minister U Nyan Tun meets the Russian delegation led by Deputy Energy Minister Mr Petr Konyushenko yesterday.

UNION Minister for Electric Power U Nyan Tun received a delegation led by Mr Petr Konyushenko, Deputy Minister of Energy of the Russian Federation, yesterday at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw.

The two sides held frank and open discussions on ongoing cooperative projects in the electricity sector between Myanmar and the Russian Federation. The meeting was also at-

tended by Deputy Minister U Aye Kyaw, departmental officials, and responsible personnel from relevant organizations of the Russian Federation. — MNA/MKKS

NATIONAL

Myanmar, Russia to boost military cooperation

UNION Minister for Defence General Maung Maung Aye received Russian Deputy Defence Minister Mr Vasili Sergeevich Osmakov in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

They exchanged views on the enhancement of defence cooperation between the two ministries and further cooperation in military tactics, training

and exercises between the two Tatmadaws.

After the meeting, Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Aung Myo Thant and Mr Vasili Sergeevich Osmakov signed a military cooperation programme between the two defence ministries.

Also present at the meeting were the deputy minister and relevant officials. — MNA/KTZH



Union Defence Minister General Maung Maung Aye receives Russia's Deputy Defence Minister Mr Vasili Sergeevich Osmakov yesterday.

Myanmar 8 Build, Electrical Power & Green Energy, Engineering Expos 2026 open

THE introduction and briefing session for the expos, along with a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signing ceremony, was held yesterday afternoon at Inya Lake Hotel in Yangon.

U Zar Ni of Silver Sea International Ltd first provided a detailed explanation of the arrangements made for the expos.

Following this, representatives from Silver Sea International Ltd and supporting organizations, including the Myanmar Engineering Society, Myanmar Steel Entrepreneurs Association,

Myanmar Private Vocational Training Association, and the Union of Myanmar Bamar Ethnic Entrepreneurs Association, participated in the MoU signing ceremony (see photo).

At the Myanmar 8 Build Expo, construction materials, as well as electrical and solar equipment, will be showcased and sold at special prices. The three-day event will take place from 9 am to 5 pm on 6-8 March at the Yangon Convention Centre (YCC) within Inya Lake Hotel, located in Mayangon Township, Yangon. — Bala/MKKS



The introduction and briefing session for the expos is underway in Yangon yesterday.

4-day Myanmar Tea Festival to honour Union Day



Chairperson Daw Sandar Khin of the Myanmar Cultural Heritage Trust is seen explaining details of the Myanmar Tea Festival.

TO commemorate Union Day, the Myanmar Tea Festival will be held for four days this month at Sein Lan So Pyay Garden on Inya Lake Bank, Yangon.

It will take place from 11 to 14 February. The event aims to support the nomination of Myanmar's tea culture for the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, introduce Myanmar's wet tea culture to the world, and highlight the symbolism of "Union" for the combination of wet tea from the highlands with sesame oil, peanut oil, and assorted fried beans from the lowlands.

The festival is intended to help the public, including the younger generation,

deeply understand, appreciate, and preserve the Myanmar tradition of eating wet tea. A special feature of the "Tea Talk" discussion will also be included.

"The Myanmar Tea Festival will run for four days, from 11 to 14 February, in honour of the Union Day. We will include a special 'Tea Talk' where we will share educational insights into the history of tea," said Daw Sandar Khin, Chairperson of the Myanmar Cultural Heritage Trust.

It will feature displays of various types of tea, exhibition booths for beans and pulses, traditional Myanmar food stalls, and cooking demonstrations to include Myanmar tea in international cuisines. — MT/ZN

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NATIONAL

24 PDF members rejoin legal fold

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

Members of KNDF, Inlay PDF, Shan (South) PDF and DPLA – 18 males and six females totalling 24 individuals – entered the legal fold yesterday.

These returning members stated that they could no longer accept the terrorist acts committed by the armed groups and PDF, such as forced conscription, threatening, arresting, and killing innocent civilians and civil servants for the benefit of terrorist organizations, planting mines and destroying non-military infrastructure like roads and bridges. They also cited discrimination, internal hierarchical oppression, torture, killings, violence, poor living conditions, and demoralization due to an inability to resist Tatmadaw operations as reasons for leaving. Moreover,



The photo depicts a handover ceremony held in Taunggyi yesterday as former PDF members rejoined the legal fold.

they expressed trust in the State and Tatmadaw's peace processes and a desire to live peacefully under the law, hoping to contribute back to the State and people whom they had caused losses to.

The 24 individuals from Taunggyi, Nyaungshwe, Kalaw,

Yaksawk, Ywangan, Pindaya, and Moebye-Pekhon of Shan State (South) and Loikaw of Kayah State entered the legal fold, and were accepted by responsible officials. At the handover ceremony, PDF members were handed over to their parents or guardians at Thanlwin

Hall of the Eastern Command Headquarters yesterday.

At the event, the state chief minister and the commander gave an opening speech, and the state police chief briefed on legal matters.

Those who rejoined the legal fold handed over two au-

tomatic rifles, three magazines and 40 bullets to the chief minister and the commander.

The chief minister rewarded K5 million for one rifle, totalling K10 million for two rifles, and K200,000 per returnee, totalling K4.8 million for 24 returnees. The rewards amounted to K14.8 million.

The returnees signed pledges after receiving gifts and were handed back to their parents or guardians.

The chief minister, the commander, and the officials cordially greeted the participants and served them food.

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

Schoolchildren injured, education facilities damaged in Hpakant shelling by KIA, KPDF

IN the Hpakant area of Kachin State, armed groups consisting of KIA and KPDF terrorists

have been carrying out activities such as collecting extortion money from villages, forcibly

recruiting new members, intimidating civilians through the use of weapons, and indiscriminately attacking villages that do not support them with heavy and light weapons.

While such activities have been ongoing, the joint groups of KIA and KPDF terrorists again carried out indiscriminate heavy weapon attacks on Hpakant from a distance of approximately 3,000 metres to the south-west of the town yesterday morning.

During the incident, heavy weapon shells fired by the terrorists landed and exploded in and around the Basic Education High School (Hpakant), causing damage to school buildings. As a result, two Grade-4 students – Maung Lin Khant Ko, a resident of Hngetpyawtaw Ward in Hpakant, and Ma Ron Din, a resident of Janggut village – sustained shrapnel injuries. The two injured children are currently receiving the necessary medical treatment.

The joint groups of KIA and KPDF terrorists have been committing acts of terrorism, including indiscriminate shelling with heavy weapons and instigating fighting in peaceful towns, villages, and wards, while describing their actions as being for regional development when, in reality, they are carrying out destructive activities. On this occasion as well, indiscriminate shelling into towns and villages, carried out with little consideration, resulted in injuries to children, who are the future generation pursuing their education, as well as damage and destruction to educational facilities. Residents are strongly opposing and condemning these terrorist acts, and it has been reported that security forces will continue to carry out necessary security measures and counter-terrorism operations as required. — MNA/MKKS



Images show damage to a Basic Education High School and injuries to 10-year-old schoolchildren in Hpakant caused by a brutal KIA and KPDF terrorist attack.

NATIONAL

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission Announcement 29/2026

1st Waning of Tabodwe, 1387 ME
2 February 2026

Announcement on List of Individuals Elected as Region or State Hluttaw Representatives

According to the announcements issued by the respective State and Region Election Sub-Commission offices in accordance with Section 49 (b) of the State and Region Hluttaw Election Law, the following individuals have been officially declared as elected representatives of the State or Region Hluttaws in the multiparty democratic general election held in phases starting from 28 December 2025.

No	Name	CSC	Constituency	Representing Party/ Independent
Shan State (FPTP)				
1	U Kham Lu	13/PaYaNa (C) 013654	Metmung Township Representative 1	Union Solidarity and Development Party
2	Khun Pho Sein	13/PaLaNa (C) 068514	Pinlaung Township Representative 1	Pa-O National Organization (PNO)
3	U Tun Hla (aka) U Toe Ya	13/NyaRaNa (C) 008945	Nyaungshwe Township Representative 1	Inn National League Party
4	Sai Kyaw Yin	13/FaKhaNa (C) 013816	Pekhon Township Representative 1	Union Solidarity and Development Party
5	U Nyi Nyi Zaw	12/AhSaNa (C) 203914	Hsipaw Township Representative 1	Shan and Nationalities Democratic Party (SNDP)
6	Sai Kyaw Win	13/MaNaNa (C) 001138	Mongnai Township Representative 1	Shan and Nationalities Democratic Party (SNDP)
7	Daw Nang Mon Aung	13/LaKhaNa (C) 029249	Kehsi Township Representative 1	Shan and Nationalities Democratic Party (SNDP)
8	U Sai Naw Kham	13/MaRaNa (C) 018714	Mongshu Township Representative 1	Union Solidarity and Development Party
Shan State (PR) Constituency 1				
9	Khun Win Naung	13/PaLaNa (C) 001671	Pinlaung Township Representative 2	Pa-O National Organization (PNO)
10	Khun Kyaw Aye	13/TaKaNa (C) 225578	Hsihseng Township Representative 2	Pa-O National Organization (PNO)
11	U De Gaulle	13/HaPaNa (C) 027783	Hopong Township Representative 2	Union Solidarity and Development Party
12	U Aung Pyae Sone	13/KaLaNa (C) 143578	Ywangan Township Representative 2	Danu National Democracy Party
13	U Hein Htet Zaw	13/RaSaNa (C) 048299	Pindaya Township Representative 2	Union Solidarity and Development Party
14	Khun Saung Shwe	13/KaTaLa (C) 001362	Taunggyi Township Representative 2	Pa-O National Organization (PNO)
15	Khun Sanay Aung	13/HsaHsaNa (C) 076548	Nyaungshwe Township Representative 2	Pa-O National Organization (PNO)
16	Khun Tun Nge	13/HsaHsaNa (C) 000138	Kalaw Township Representative 2	Pa-O National Organization (PNO)
17	Sai Htein Soe	13/MaMaNa (C) 000018	Yaksauk Township Representative 2	Union Solidarity and Development Party
18	Sai Lone Kyaw	13/TaKaNa (C) 015283	Pekhon Township Representative 2	Union Solidarity and Development Party
19	U Lin Lin Naing	5/KaLaHta (C) 148577	Maukmai Township Representative 2	Danu National Democracy Party
20	U Kyi Lwin	13/NyaRaNa (C) 063742	Langkho Township Representative 2	Inn National League Party
21	Sao Tha Oo	13/TaKaNa (C) 018897	Mongpan Township Representative 2	Shan and Nationalities Democratic Party (SNDP)
Shan State (PR) Constituency 2				
22	Daw Wah Wah Htwe	13/TaKaNa (C) 002936	Namsan Township Representative 2	Union Solidarity and Development Party
23	U Naing Win Aung	13/PaLaNa (C) 059709	Loilem Township Representative 2	Union Solidarity and Development Party
24	Daw Nang Thida Nwe	13/NaSaNa (C) 000133	Kehsi Township Representative 2	Union Solidarity and Development Party
25	U Kyaw Kyaw Naing	13/KaHaNa (C) 013614	Mongshu Township Representative 2	Union Solidarity and Development Party
26	U Min Tun Aung	7/NaTaLa (C) 000015	Kunhing Township Representative 2	Shan and Nationalities Democratic Party (SNDP)
27	U Sai Hong Kham	13/KaTaNa (C) 081348	Mongkai Township Representative 2	Shan and Nationalities Democratic Party (SNDP)
28	Daw Nang Kham Lu (aka) Nang Lei Lei Phyo	13/LaKhaNa (C) 000315	Mongnai Township Representative 2	Shan and Nationalities Democratic Party (SNDP)
29	Khun Tun Lay	13/LaLaNa (C) 037928	Laikha Township Representative 2	Pa-O National Organization (PNO)
Shan State (PR) Constituency 3				
30	U Zaw Lwin	13/MaBaNa (C) 014146	Namhsan Township Representative 2	Union Solidarity and Development Party
31	Daw Soe Soe Nyein	13/NaKhaTa (C) 029676	Mangtong Township Representative 2	National Unity Party
32	U Than Htaik Zaw	13/KaMaNa (C) 087937	Kyaukme Township Representative 2	Union Solidarity and Development Party
33	U Thiha Hlaing	13/NaKhaTa (C) 077407	Hsipaw Township Representative 2	Union Solidarity and Development Party
34	Daw Nang Kham Mung	13/NaPhaNa (C) 000026	Tanyang Township Representative 2	Union Solidarity and Development Party
35	U Sai Kham	13/MaRaTa (C) 000669	Nawngkhio Township Representative 2	Union Solidarity and Development Party
36	Daw Khaing Thanda Htwe	13/NaKhaTa (C) 099790	Mongyai Township Representative 2	Union Solidarity and Development Party
37	U Sai Kham Kyaw	13/KaMaNa (C) 067023	Mongmit Township Representative 2	Shan and Nationalities Democratic Party (SNDP)
38	U Than Zaw Oo	13/MaMaTa (C) 036390	Namtu Township Representative 2	Shan and Nationalities Democratic Party (SNDP)
39	Nang Kham Li	13/KaMaNa (C) 067104	Mabein Township Representative 2	Shan and Nationalities Democratic Party (SNDP)
Shan State (PR) Constituency 6				
40	U Kyaw Thein Aung	13/NaKhaNa (C) 078089	Panghsan (Pangkham) Township Representative 2	Union Solidarity and Development Party
41	U Naw Aung	13/KaKhaNa (C) 016832	Hopan Township Representative 2	Union Solidarity and Development Party (SNDP)
42	Sai Win Myint	13/ThaNaNa (C) 002596	Pangwaing Township Representative 2	Shan and Nationalities Democratic Party (SNDP)
43	U Sai Aung Myint	13/KaKhaNa (C) 016277	Narphant Township Representative 2	Shan and Nationalities Democratic Party (SNDP)

NATIONAL

Users urged to avoid harmful or risky behaviour on social media

❖ “As today’s era is a media-driven age, it is important for individuals to use social networks responsibly, avoiding actions that are harmful or pose risks to themselves or their communities.”

(Excerpt from the speech delivered by State Security and Peace Commission Chairman and Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with Tatmadaw members and families of Myeik Station in the Coastal Region Command Headquarters on 19 September 2025)

FROM PAGE 6

No	Name	CSC	Constituency	Representing Party/ Independent
44	U Soe Kabarseik	13/LaRaNa (C) 130640	Mongmaw Township Representative 2	Shan and Nationalities Democratic Party (SNDP)
45	U Sai Ba Than	13/NaMaTa (C) 015811	Metmung Township Representative 2	National Unity Party
46	U Haw Htaik Phu (aka) U Aung Kyaw Tun	12/LaThaNa (C) 020306	Laukkai Township Representative 2	Union Solidarity and Development Party
47	Daw Mya Mya Swe	13/LaRaNa (C) 024013	Kongyan Township Representative 2	Union Solidarity and Development Party
48	U Khin Aung Swe	13/LaRaNa (C) 134306	Lashio Township Representative 2	Union Solidarity and Development Party
49	U Kyaw Swa Win (aka) M Aung Ja	13/NaMaTa (C) 031353	Muse Township Representative 2	Union Solidarity and Development Party
50	U Htay Win Hlaing	9/ThaSaNa (C) 090828	Kutkai Township Representative 2	Union Solidarity and Development Party
51	U Than Soe	9/KaPaTa (C) 002189	Namkham Township Representative 2	Union Solidarity and Development Party
52	U Maung Maung	13/LaRaNa (C) 100522	Kunlong Township Representative 2	Union Solidarity and Development Party
53	U Sai Sam (aka) Sai Khun Maung	13/ LaRaNa (C) 037194	Hsenwi Township Representative 2	Shan and Nationalities Democratic Party (SNDP)

Sd/ Than Soe
Chairman
Union Election Commission

Big hilsa hauls hit markets, bound for China, Thailand and Bangladesh

DURING the fishing season, saltwater products are being caught for both domestic consumption and export. In the current hilsa season, large quantities of high-quality hilsa are flowing into the Yangon fish market. According to the Kyimyindine fish market, these are being exported to China, Thailand and Bangladesh through cold storage factories.

Among the four sizes entering the market, such as three by five inches, five by eight inches, eight by 10 inches and 10 by 12 inches, the three by five size is consumed domestically, while the remaining three sizes are exported. The prices are about K30,000 for a three-by-five inches size, K35,000 for a five-by-eight inches size, K40,000 for an eight-by-10 inches size and K48,000 for a 10-by-12 inches size.



Fishery workers are seen sorting the catch at a bustling fishing port. PHOTO: KANU

“As it is hilsa season, hilsa have been entering the market since December. In recent days, large catches resulted in more high-quality hilsa arriving.

This month is the peak season for hilsa fishing, so fishing vessels are continuously arriving at the port. Larger sizes are exported through cold storage

factories, which benefits both fishing boats and exporters. Now, they are being exported to China, Thailand and Bangladesh through the cold storage

facilities,” said Daw Tin Nwe, exporter from Kyimyindine port.

Yangon ports receive between 40,000 and 50,000 visses of hilsa on the days with high catches, and there are about 10,000 and 20,000 visses on the days with low catches.

Although some fishing vessels catch fewer hilsa, others catch them in large shoals and arrive at the market with a full load. Compared to last year, hilsa prices are currently higher.

Various types of marine products enter Yangon ports while the fishermen capture the largest numbers of hilsa. They catch fish using various fishing nets for local consumption and exports. This year, they caught quality hilsa and exported them to China, Thailand and Bangladesh, making proper profits. — Thitsa (MNA)/KTZH

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OPINION

Shape the future life of children at school

ACHILD is like wax, capable of being shaped and moulded according to guidance and care. When early childhood care is applied effectively, children can grow into individuals with high talent, creativity, and the ability to contribute meaningfully to society. By nurturing children in their formative years, elders can confidently entrust the future of the community and nation to them.

Recognizing this, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement recently organized an Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) Trainer Course for primary school teachers. Held at the Ministry of Social Welfare,

Upon completing the training, participants are expected to apply their newly acquired knowledge and perspectives to enhance their teaching practices. When effectively implemented, the skills and insights gained from the ECCD course will help teachers improve the quality of education, ensuring that children develop holistically and that the next generation is equipped to carry society forward.

resources with strong morals, a positive mindset, social skills, and public-mindedness. The course also emphasizes fostering children's health, life habits, and overall well-being. By understanding the nature of children and applying effective educational practices, primary teachers can guide their pupils toward becoming responsible, creative, and competent individuals.

Both ministries are committed to producing highly qualified primary teachers who can apply the knowledge and techniques gained from the course. The training program is planned to be conducted four times between January and April 2026, offering ample opportunities for teachers across the country.

During the course, instructors provide both theoretical and practical guidance on a wide range of topics. These include children's nature and basic needs, learning through play, child development, classroom management, child psychology, learning fundamentals, collaboration with families and communities, teaching children requiring special care, language development, early literacy, observing children, and understanding the transitional periods in childhood.

Upon completing the training, participants are expected to apply their newly acquired knowledge and perspectives to enhance their teaching practices. When effectively implemented, the skills and insights gained from the ECCD course will help teachers improve the quality of education, ensuring that children develop holistically and that the next generation is equipped to carry society forward.

Relief and Resettlement, the course aims to ensure that primary school-aged children are well-prepared for school and comfortable in their learning environment. By facilitating smooth and effective learning, the course plays a crucial role in supporting the long-term development of human potential.

The training program equips participants with a comprehensive understanding of early childhood care and development policies, children's rights, and child psychology. Trainees gain knowledge of how to promote balanced development of children's five senses and how these skills connect to broader contexts, including the family, community, and national development. Such holistic training aims to produce well-rounded, capable human resources who can grow sustainably and contribute to society in multiple ways.

ECCD activities are essential for cultivating human

Hailing the 79th Anniversary of Union Day:

ONA cool morning in February, the people welcome a day of special significance that comes each year. The very name "Union Day" is regarded nationwide as one of profound historical importance. The pledges made on Union Day, along with the nation's hopes, have remained alive for 79 years and counting.

Panglong in history

February 1947. Leaders from various ethnic groups had gathered together in the small town of Panglong. It can be imagined that General Aung San's eyes reflected a mixture of enthusiasm and concern. On the face of Sao Shwe Thaik, some historic Panglong paintings depict the profound sense of responsibility he felt for the prestige of the Shan State. The Panglong Conference was not an ordinary meeting; here, discussions were not only about independence but about a larger unity called the Union. The agreements reached on decisions that would shape the very structure of the nation became the historical date of Union Day.

To be precise, General Aung San and his delegation arrived in Panglong on 7 February 1947. Accompanying the General were U Aung Zeya, Thakin Tun Oak, Mahn Ba Khine, and Deedok U Ba Cho. The Shan ethnic group consisted of prominent leaders and representatives Sao Shwe Thaik, Sao Khun Cho, Sao San Tun, and Sao Khun Pan Sein. The Kachin ethnic group comprised Sama Duwa Sinwa Nawng, Sama U Hla Phae, Duwa Zaw Wan, and Duwa Zaw Tun. Likewise, U Wam Kaung (from No 2 Chin Hills District) and U Hal Khun (from Falam District) participated in the Chin group.

The conference was held from 6 to 12 February 1947. During the first few days, the conference faced many difficulties. The Shan leaders were concerned that their rights would be lost

after independence. The Kachin leaders also emphasized the need to secure guarantees for the rights of non-Bamar ethnic groups. General Aung San discussed and mediated, pledging commitments and engaging in thorough negotiations.

Thus, on the afternoon of 12 February 1947, they signed the historic Panglong Agreement. The agreement included 12 main points, with key provisions covering political, economic, and social equality. Among those who signed were General Aung San (representing the Bamar), Sao Shwe Thaik, Sao Khun Cho and Sao San Tun (representing the Shan), Sama Duwa Sinwa Nawng and Duwa Zaw Wan (representing the Kachin), and U Wam Kaung and U Hal Khun (representing the Chin).

"We should not emphasize our differences. We should only think about how to live together," said General Aung San. This

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We must remember that unity is not simply speaking the same words, but understanding one another – a truth our ancestors demonstrated through the Panglong Agreement. Likewise, the teachers who teach Burmese in Shan villages, the cultural mentors who bring traditional Kayin "Frog Drum" dances to children along the Ayeyawady basin, and the scholars who translate advanced science and technology books into the Mon language are all builders of the foundation for unity.

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statement, the essence of the Panglong Agreement, became a guiding principle that deeply inspired the ethnic groups. Thanks to the mutual trust, respect, and great wisdom of the leaders, the 135 ethnic groups were able to unite and exist together as the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. However, even after regaining independence, underlying differences could not yet be fully resolved, and conflicts

fuelled by ethnicity and ideology continued.

Thinking about this, I recalled the words of writer Min Thu Wun: "History does not just speak of the past; it directs the future." Similarly, historian Dr Than Tun said, "The Panglong Agreement marks the beginning of a good future, not the end of the road." The Panglong Agreement is more valuable than a single historical document, and it is a blueprint for the future for all of our people and citizens.

The Union Day and the Panglong Agreement represent efforts to achieve unity amid diversity among diverse nationalities. They embody the spirit of ensuring equality between the highlands and the mainland, and of sharing both warmth and hardship. The suspicions and difficulties in initiating unity caused by colonial divide-and-rule policies were overcome through the Panglong Agree-

Act practically and move forward with purpose

What can we hope for on

ment on the historic Union Day, fostering a shared sense of national solidarity.

Integrity of Union Day

Union Day celebrations are held on 12 February every year. Union Day carries significance beyond that of a traditional commemorative day. It is recognized as an annual reaffirmation of the principles of our Union, reminding us that Myanmar is not the

nation of a single ethnic group but a Union of many ethnicities, cultures, and languages.

We will have a chance to listen to the stories told by an elderly Shan grandmother, feel the song of a young Kachin, and help ease the concerns of a Rakhine person. We must remember that unity is not simply speaking the same words, but understanding one another – a truth our ancestors demonstrated through the Panglong Agreement. Likewise, the teachers who teach Burmese in Shan villages, the cultural mentors who bring traditional Kayin "Frog Drum" dances to children along the Ayeyawady basin, and the scholars who translate advanced science and technology books into the Mon language are all builders of the foundation for unity.

Act practically and move forward with purpose

What can we hope for on

Union Day 2026? It is time to make a real effort to breathe life into the "spirit of the Union". We should consider ethnic youth working together in practical ways, starting agricultural projects, learning new technologies, and jointly protecting the natural environment, so that unity is experienced through action.

For a Union that all ethnic groups can accept, the languages and traditional cultures of

each group must be mutually recognized and respected. Everyone should be supported in exercising their rights to education, healthcare, and employment, regardless of region or ethnicity. True love for one's own people is not enough; but it must also include respect for all other communities living alongside one's own.

The future route with challenges

Today's Union Day is filled with questions for the people. Can we strive to revive the Panglong spirit? How can genuine peace and unity be established amid the country's current political conflicts and internal instability? It is not an easy task. However, Father of Independence General Aung San himself demonstrated that it was possible by bringing together the voices of the ethnic groups, and successfully concluded the signing of the Panglong Agreement as clear proof.

At the 2025 Union Day celebration, Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, stated, "While complying with the Constitution and laws of the State, all ethnic peoples must work together in unity to build a strong federal democratic Union." Moreover, he stressed that protecting the integrity of the Union is everyone's responsibility, that trust among ethnic groups must be established, that the Panglong Agreement is a historic gift of unity, and that priority must be given to promoting national unity and peace.

Currently, the path of elections is seen by the people as a hopeful opportunity to revitalize the spirit of the Union. The 2025 multiparty democratic general election provides an opportunity for a nationwide dialogue involving all citizens to emerge prominently in each Hluttaw. Elections are a step along the

ARTICLE

By May

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Instead of punishing young people who have gone astray, opportunities must be created for them to reintegrate into society. Education, vocational training, and mental health support are key to helping them rebuild their lives. Every young individual is a valuable human resource for nation-building, and if their energy is guided toward creation rather than destruction, the Union will undoubtedly become stronger.

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journey toward this goal. From these elections, all ethnic groups should aim toward a new political system that genuinely recognizes equality for everyone, moving forward with real and meaningful change.

Those who will initiate the historic Panglong in the new era

Walking the path of the same federal democratic system is a process that requires rebuilding deep-seated trust. It is not enough to simply put down arms or stop hateful speech. A functional political system must be established, based on practical plans, long-term cooperative actions, and mutual respect. While the Panglong Conference was a gathering of senior leaders, it is now necessary for the voices of youth to shape and write the new Panglong history.

The success of elections will be meaningful only when all ethnic groups have the opportunity to preserve their history with pride, and everyone accepts a system in which they can determine their own future. The present time is no longer for mere imagination or speculation; it is a time to move forward together with practical and achievable aspirations. Let us demonstrate a genuine Union by building a political culture that recognizes the rights and dignity of all citizens.

Providing equal opportuni-

ties in education, healthcare, and economic advancement for all ethnic groups is not only the responsibility of the government but also the duty of the entire society. It is time to ensure that, regardless of region, state, city, village, or ethnicity, every child has access to education based on their abilities, and that everyone, whether rich or poor, can receive essential rights such as medical care.

To help young people understand the essence of the Union, people have to disseminate the history and build hopes for the future together. The benefits of peace and the rule of law can be better appreciated by youth not only in the classroom but also through real-life experience.

The first step in eliminating hatred arising from accusations and conflicts between ethnic groups is to remove the misunderstandings that cause division. Hatred must be uprooted by honouring and recognizing each other's cultures and by promoting equality.

Instead of punishing young people who have gone astray, opportunities must be created for them to reintegrate into society. Education, vocational training, and mental health support are key to helping them rebuild their lives. Every young individual is a valuable human resource for nation-building, and if their energy is guided toward creation rather than destruction, the Union will

undoubtedly become stronger.

The Vow for Union Day

The meaning of Union Day is "Unity in Diversity". This is not an easy responsibility. With patience, understanding, and mutual respect, the Union must be built not through rigid uniformity but by valuing differences and working together. We all need to be able to sing the song of peace together, even with different words.

Union Day is not only a day to honour the pledge made in 1947, but also a special day that reminds us of our continuing responsibility to strive for a peaceful and just Union for future generations. Union Day is not just a historical milestone; it is also a map for the future. On this map, the choice of which path to take rests with us. The ones who must answer that question are ourselves. We must cultivate the true "Panglong spirit" of mutual respect in the hearts of all citizens. On the day the Panglong Agreement was signed, General Aung San said, "We have decided to walk together."

As we reflect on how quickly we can join hands and overcome challenges, it is a reminder that our progress depends on the effort of each citizen and the genuine spirit of the Union. With this in mind, we honour the 79th Anniversary of Union Day.

Translated.

NATIONAL BUSINESS

Fertilizer reference prices remain unchanged in Feb



Images depict an agricultural fertilizer store and a farmer spreading fertilizer on farmland.

THE Myanmar Fertilizer, Seed and Pesticide Entrepreneurs Association (MFSPEA) announced that fertilizer reference prices stayed the same in February 2026, like the rates registered in January.

The reference prices for February 2026 were K94,000 per 50-kilogramme bag of Urea fertilizer (large granular), and K115,000 per 50-kilogramme bag of Di Ammonium Phosphate.

The prices may vary a bit depending on transport charges in other regions

and states, as the aforementioned prices are set for the Yangon Region, MFSPEA stated.

Additionally, reference prices will be further announced as per rules and regulations. For overcharging, consumers can complain to the committee through contact numbers 067 410032 and 09 988539360. MFSPEA has already asked the member companies to stick to the reference prices.

At present, the Fertilizer Commit-

tee holds a quarterly meeting to ensure quality fertilizer for growers without facing shortages. Under the approval of the Fertilizer Technology Group, 12,297 fertilizer registrations have been granted after the 43rd meeting of the Fertilizer Committee. With individuals' consent, 2,088 registrations were voluntarily cancelled. The department revoked 2,867 registrations for expiration of validity, and 7,342 registrations are still under processing. — NN/KK

YCDC calls for open tender to procure fuel oil, cement

THE Yangon City Development Committee invited interested business entities to supply operational materials, including fuel oil and cement.

YCDC called for an open tender to purchase 450,000 gallons of diesel, 30,000 gallons of premium diesel, 20,000

gallons of 92 RON, 42,000 bags of cement, 1 lot of HDPE pipe and pipe fittings, 15 units of butterfly valve, and 30 tonnes of MS Plate that are to be utilized in the operations of the YCDC in the 2025-2026 financial year.

Tender form is available for sales

from 2 February 2026 at the Procurement division of the Department of Finance and Accounts on the First Floor of the City Hall. Individuals can enquire details through 01388732 within office hours. — NN/KK

July JLPT individual applications open in Mar

MYANMAR Association of Japan Alumni (MAJA) said individual applications for the Japanese Language Proficiency Test, scheduled on 5 July in Yangon and Mandalay, will be accepted in March.

Exam fee and application fee are K57,000 for N1, N2 and N3 and K52,000 for N4 and N5.

The online application period is 3-4 March for N1, N2; 5-7 March for N3; 9-11 March for N4 and 12-13 March for N5. The submission time won't be announced before avoid concurrent loggings, suggesting noon during the application period.

Language schools can submit between 9 am and 4:30 pm from 18 February until 27 February, said MAJA. — MT/ZS



This image illustrates an announcement for the JLPT exam date.

Gold Market Rate as of 2 February 2026

THE price of one tical (16.329325 grammes) of gold with density of 19.25 grammes per cubic centimetre and above is K6,900,000, as established by the Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee.

The people are urged to receive vaccination of COVID-19 without fail as full-time vaccination of COVID-19 and receiving booster shots can effectively mitigate infection of the virus, severe suffering from the disease and increase of death rate due to the disease.

CBM injects over US\$43M, THB65M, CNY4M



A general view of the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) in Nay Pyi Taw.

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold over US\$43 million, 65 million baht and over four million yuan in January 2026.

CBM sold over \$1.17 million to edible oil-importing companies and over \$3.59 million to fuel oil-importing companies on 30 January, along with an injection of over 1.27 million baht.

CBM sold over \$1.4 million to edible oil-importing companies on 29 January, in addition to an injection of over one million baht into the market.

CBM announced on 28 January that it would sell \$23 million to fuel oil-importing companies and 30 million baht to importers. CBM sold over \$2.13 million to edible oil-importing companies on that day.

CBM sold over \$3.3 million to edible oil-importing companies on 27 January, in addition to an injection of \$430,000, 137,970 yuan and over 2.47 million baht into the market.

CBM sold over \$3.29 million to edible oil-importing companies on 26 January,

along with selling over 565,900 baht.

CBM pumped \$34 million, 11 million baht and 300,000 yuan into the market in December 2025. CBM made an injection of over \$21 million, 2.4 million yuan and 1.5 million baht in November and over \$2.48 million, 5.75 million yuan and 4.98 million baht in October, along with sales of over \$54 million purchased from CMP companies.

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

Sumo diplomacy: Japan's heavyweight 'soft power' ambassadors

The Japan Sumo Association is revitalizing its cultural diplomacy by resuming international tours, starting with a 2025 London showcase and a planned June 2026 Paris tournament.

SUMO, Japan's ancient sport, is being revived as a tool of cultural diplomacy. After years of focusing on domestic audiences, the Japan Sumo Association (JSA) is once again sending wrestlers abroad, with a Paris tour planned for June following last year's London showcase. Such trips were once common, from France in 1995 to Las Vegas in 2005, but waned due to scandals, declining popularity,

and the pandemic.

Historically, sumo has long served as soft power: in 1854, wrestlers performed before Commodore Perry, and during the Cold War, tours complemented Japan's diplomacy, including a symbolic visit to Beijing in 1973. Today, with record tourism in Japan, overseas interest is surging. Promoters emphasize that sumo must be treated as tradition, not mere



The sumo grand champion Onosato Daiki signing a fan's shirt in London on 15 October 2025. Onosato is a Japanese professional sumo wrestler and the 75th yokozuna, or grand champion. **PHOTO: KYDO/FILE**

entertainment.

Wrestlers recall past tours fondly, from meeting President Jacques Chirac to enjoying Pa-

risian culture. While China once countered with "panda diplomacy," current strained relations mean sumo's impact is different.

Still, the JSA hopes these tours will reinforce Japan's cultural appeal abroad. — AFP

South Africa drops 'Melania' just ahead of release

SOUTH Africa's main cinema houses have pulled a documentary about US First Lady Melania Trump just ahead of its release, with the distributor citing "the current climate", local media reported.

"Melania" was not listed on the websites of the Nu Metro or Ster Kinekor theatres on Thursday, the day before its international release on 30 January.

News24 media reported Wednesday the South African distributor Filmfinitly had abruptly dropped the film.

"Given the current climate, the film will no longer be releasing theatrically in (the) territory," the site quoted the distributor's head of marketing, Thobashan Govindarajulu, as saying.

It was not clear what "climate" he was referring to and AFP could not immediately reach



The 'Melania' documentary about the US First Lady is due to be released internationally on 30 January. **PHOTO: MUSE FILMS/AMAZON MGM STUDIOS**

a company representative for details. Nu Metro confirmed to AFP Thursday that it had been told by Filmfinitly to withdraw the film. — AFP

First competitors settle into Milan's Olympic village

THE Olympic Village in Milan officially opened its doors on Friday, one week before the opening ceremony of the 2026 Winter Games.

"Italy was the first to move in, followed by large delegations from Germany, the Czech Republic, and Japan," the organizing committee an-

nounced in a statement.

"Further arrivals are expected this evening (Friday), including delegations from the Netherlands and Australia," added Milano-Cortina 2026.

While the opening ceremony takes place on 6 February, the competitions start as

early as 4 February, notably with curling at Cortina d'Ampezzo in the Dolomites.

The Olympic Village in Milan is designed to house 1,700 athletes and support staff, as Italy's economic capital hosts most of the ice sports, including figure skating and ice hockey. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Social media drives UK testosterone surge

DOCTORS in the UK and Australia are warning that aggressive social media campaigns by private clinics are pushing large numbers of men into unnecessary testosterone replacement therapy (TRT).

Promoted as a way to boost energy, physique, and mood, TRT is being marketed through influencers, London Underground ads, and online videos, often targeting young men.

While TRT is medically necessary for those with true deficiency, such as hypogonadism, many clinics prescribe it to men with normal levels, risking side effects including infertility and cardiovascular problems.

Endocrinologists say claims that one in four men under 40 have low testosterone are false, and that clinics are essentially selling performance-enhancing drugs. — AFP

Justin Bieber to perform at Grammy Awards 2026

AFTER a hiatus from major public performances since 2022, global pop star Justin Bieber is set to make a highly anticipated return to the stage at the Grammy Awards 2026.

The announcement has generated significant excitement among fans, as the singer has largely stayed away from large-scale live performances over the past few years.

Notably, Bieber has received four Grammy nominations this year. He is nominated for album of the year for Swag, his first studio album since 2021's Justice. In addition, he is in the running for best pop vocal performance, best pop vocal album, and best R&B performance, as reported by The Hollywood Reporter. — ANI

ECONOMY WORLD

OPEC+ to continue to pause oil output increase in March

THE Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and its allies, known as OPEC+, decided on Sunday to continue pausing oil output increases in March, OPEC said in a statement.

The decision came after a virtual meeting of OPEC+ member countries, including Saudi Arabia, Russia, Iraq, the

United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Kazakhstan, Algeria and Oman, to review global market conditions and the economic outlook.

The eight OPEC+ countries had been raising oil output on a monthly basis since April 2025. However, they decided in late November last year to pause the increases in the first three months of 2026 due to sea-

sonality.

According to the statement, the countries will adopt a cautious approach and maintain full flexibility to adjust output levels as needed in response to market developments.

OPEC said the eight countries will meet on 1 March to make further decisions. — Xinhua



Photo taken on 30 November 2023 shows the headquarters of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in Vienna, Austria. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kazakhstan records 12.2% annual inflation in January

KAZAKHSTAN reported an annual inflation rate of 12.2 per cent in January 2026, with monthly inflation reaching one per cent.

The annual inflation rate in December 2025 was 12.3 per cent, while the monthly inflation rate was 0.9 per cent.

The Bureau of National Statistics reported on Monday that food prices increased by 12.9 per cent in January, a slight decrease from the 13.5 per cent rise in December. Prices for non-food goods rose by 11.7 per cent, up from 11.1 per cent the previous month, while prices for paid services grew by 12 per cent and remained unchanged from December. — Xinhua

S Korea's online shopping sales up in December

SOUTH Korea's online shopping sales rose in single digits in December last year due to surging demand for cars in cyberspace, statistical ministry data showed Monday.

Shopping in cyberspace gained 6.2 per cent over the year to 24.29 trillion won (about US\$16.7 billion) in December of 2025, according to the Ministry of Data and Statistics.

The growth was attributable to soaring online purchases of models from the US carmaker Tesla. The online sale of cars and car accessories spiked 66.4 per cent in the cited month. — Xinhua

New Zealand household living costs up 2.2% in 2025

THE average New Zealand household's living costs rose 2.2 per cent in the year to December 2025, Stats NZ said Monday.

Household living costs price indexes (HLPs), which measured the increase and how inflation affects New Zealand households, have continued to moderate since peaking at 8.2 per cent in 2022, returning to levels last seen in June 2021, said the statistics department.

The consumer price index (CPI), a broader gauge of inflation, rose 3.1 per cent over the same period, statistics showed. — Xinhua

Japan collects rare earth mud from deep waters off island in Pacific

JAPAN has successfully collected mud containing rare earth elements from a depth of about 5,600 metres in waters off Minamitori Island in the Pacific, around 1,900 kilometres southeast of central Tokyo, the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology said Monday.

The project team retrieved the mud on Sunday aboard the agency's research vessel Chikyu as part of a study on the feasibility of extracting critical minerals from the seabed.

The effort is a step toward the domestic production of rare earths crucial to modern technology, including electric vehicles and defence equipment, amid China's dominance in supply and refining.

The ship arrived in the work area, around 150 kilometres southeast of the remote island, on 17 January and began collecting sediments on Friday.

The retrieval devices, including a riser pipe system, operated without problems, although work was temporarily halted due to bad weather, the Cabinet Office said. The retrieved mud samples will be dehydrated and further analyzed.

A full-scale test is planned for February 2027 with the goal of collecting about 350 tonnes of sediment per day. The government plans to assess the feasibility of industrializing deep-sea rare earths by March 2028, examining costs and potential economic security benefits.

In the 2027 test mining, re-



File photo taken on 12 January 2026 shows the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology's Chikyu research vessel leaving a port in Shizuoka Prefecture to collect rare earth mud off Minamitori Island in the Pacific. **PHOTO: KYODO**

trieved sediments will be processed at a dehydration facility on Minamitori Island — Japan's easternmost territory — before being shipped to mainland Ja-

pan, where rare earth elements are expected to be extracted and refined.

Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Masanao Ozaki said at a

regular press conference earlier Monday that the successful collection was "a meaningful achievement in terms of economic security and comprehensive ocean development".

"Moving towards industrialization of rare earth mud mining will require demonstrating the full process from mining through separation and refining, as well as verifying its economic viability, based on the results of ongoing tests," he said.

Rare earth sediments lie on the seabed within Japan's exclusive economic zone, according to the Cabinet Office, but the cost of mining and transporting rare earths from remote areas such as Minamitori is seen as a hurdle to exploiting them for industrial use. — Kyodo

SoftBank robot Pepper recognized by Guinness as 1st mass-produced humanoid

SOFTBANK Robotics Corp's "Pepper" robot has been recognized by Guinness World Records as the world's first mass-produced humanoid service robot, the company said Monday.

The 121-centimetre-tall Pepper, designed for human interaction through spoken conversation, has been used in various settings, including shopping malls, schools and nursing homes since its debut on 5 June 2014.

The company also said it has launched "Pepper+," equipped with the latest artificial intelligence technology, aiming not only to engage people through communication but also to provide services such as demonstrating and

recommending products that meet customers' needs.

"We will continue to expand the possibilities of robots," SoftBank Robotics said in a statement.

Pepper+ recognizes passersby via an equipped camera and holds conversations with them based on their outfits and traits. It also uses replicated sales talk techniques of professional demonstrators to ask shoppers about their needs and interests.

Under an annual plan, Pepper+ is available for rent at 79,800 yen (\$515) per month, while short-term rentals cost 150,000 yen per monthly use. An initial contract fee is required separately. — Kyodo

Disney posts better-than-expected quarterly results, driven by theme parks



Asad Ayaz, Chief Brand Officer, The Walt Disney Company and President, Marketing, The Walt Disney Studios and Disney+ attends the world premiere of 20th Century Studios "Avatar: Fire and Ash" at The Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, California on 1 December 2025. PHOTO: ALBERTO E. RODRIGUEZ/GETTY IMAGES FOR 20TH CENTURY STUDIOS/AFP

THE Walt Disney Company reported quarterly earnings Monday that showed streaming services gaining momentum and theme parks revenue hitting record levels.

Net profit reached \$2.48 billion, down six per cent year-on-year, according to a statement, with the Experiences division — Disney's theme parks and resorts — delivering

record quarterly revenue of \$10.0 billion.

Domestic parks showed eight per cent operating income growth for the quarter that ended 31 December, with attend-

ance up one per cent and per capita spending up four per cent.

Operating income for the company's Disney+ and Hulu streaming services grew 72 per cent from the same quarter a year ago to \$450 million, well above expectations.

However, the Entertainment segment overall saw operating income plunge 35 per cent to \$1.1 billion, as higher programming and marketing costs more than offset revenue gains from theatrical releases including "Zootopia 2" and "Avatar: Fire and Ash."

Shares in Disney were up by three per cent in pre-session trading.

"We are pleased with the start to our financial year, and our achievements reflect the tremendous progress we've made," said CEO Bob Iger in the statement. — AFP

Vietnam's 2025 cashless payments valued at 28 times GDP

Vietnam's total value of cashless payments in 2025 was about 28 times the country's gross domestic product (GDP), local daily VnEconomy reported Monday, citing the State Bank of Vietnam.

Compared with 2024, cashless payment transactions last year increased by 42.21 per cent in volume and 22.65 per cent in value, the report said.

As of December 2025, the number of individual

payment accounts exceeded 232 million, up 13.68 per cent year on year.

All higher education institutions and colleges in urban areas accepted cashless payments for tuition fees. — Xinhua

Changing Distributor for Registered Pesticide

Distribution of pesticide registered by EastChem Co., Ltd is changing from LionChem (Myanmar) Pte., LTD to Agro Rich World Co., Ltd. Any objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Co-Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein within 2 weeks.

No.	Name	Active Ingredient	Registration No.
1	Goldcheck 50 EC	Lambda-cyhalothrin 50g/l EC	F2022-3487

Agro Rich World Co., Ltd
Contact Phone: 09-407 111 120

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY.NO. (0QM8AS1NC)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY.NO. (0QM8AS1NC)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **2-2-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S CMA-CGM SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (277W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (277W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **3-2-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V RANONG MOE VOY.NO. (011)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V RANONG MOE VOY.NO. (011)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **3-2-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S ANDAMAN SEA GATEWAYS GROUP OF COMPANIES LIMITED

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Gaza's Rafah crossing makes limited reopening after two-year war



World Health Organization vehicles help with the evacuation of Palestinian patients and war-wounded to leave the Gaza Strip for treatment abroad through the Rafah border crossing between Gaza and Egypt, the day after it was opened by Israel for a limited number of people, in Khan Yunis, in the southern Gaza Strip on 2 February 2026.

PHOTO: AFP

GAZA'S Rafah border crossing has reopened to Palestinians, an Israeli security official said, with 150 people due to leave the territory on Monday and 50 allowed to enter, according to Egyptian authorities.

The resumption of operations comes after Gaza's civil defence reported dozens killed in a wave of Israeli strikes over the weekend, in what the military said was retaliation for Palestinian fighters exiting a tunnel in Rafah city.

The border crossing with Egypt is Gaza's only gateway to the outside world that does not lead to Israel and is a key

access point for both people and goods.

Mahmud, a 38-year-old leukaemia patient from Gaza City, told AFP he felt lucky to be able to travel to Egypt for treatment, after receiving approval from Israel to go with his sister.

"In Gaza, (there is) no treatment and no life... of course, I am lucky, but I am still sad because my father and mother are still in Gaza," he said.

Ali Shaath, the head of a Palestinian technocratic committee established to oversee the day-to-day governance of Gaza, said Monday that Rafah's reopening offered a "window of

hope" for people in the territory.

Israeli forces seized control of the crossing in May 2024 during the war with Hamas, and it has remained largely closed since.

A partial resumption of operations began on Sunday in a tightly restricted pilot phase that did not involve travel of people, following months of appeals from aid groups.

"The Rafah crossing has now opened to the movement of residents, for both entry and exit," the Israeli official said.

Three Egyptian border officials told AFP that 150 Palestinians would be allowed into Egypt on Monday, composed of 50 patients each accompanied by two companions.

Another 50 Palestinians would be allowed to enter Gaza, the officials said.

Khaled Mogawer, governor of North Sinai — which includes the Egyptian side of Rafah — said on Egyptian state-linked AlQahera News that 50 Palestinian patients and 84 companions were expected to enter Egypt on Monday.

Israeli state broadcaster Kan reported that the crossing would be open for about six hours daily, while AlQahera News said the Egyptian side would remain open "round the clock". — AFP

EU agency proposes toxin dose limits in powdered milk

THE EU's food safety agency on Monday proposed reference doses for a toxin sometimes found in powdered milk following recalls in dozens of countries.

The EFSA said that a concentration of over 0.054 microgrammes of cereulide per litre in infant formula or over 0.1 microgrammes per litre in follow-on formula "may lead to safe levels being exceeded".

"This advice is intended to help EU risk managers determine when products should be withdrawn from the market as a precautionary public health measure," the Italy-based agency said in a statement.

It was not immediately clear whether the new advice would lead to further recalls.

Several manufacturers, including giants like Nestle, Danone and Lactalis have issued recalls of infant formula in more than 60 countries, including France, since December due to a risk of cereulide contamination. Cereulide, a toxin produced by certain bacteria, is "likely to cause primarily digestive problems, such as vomiting or diarrhoea", according to the French health ministry.

Two criminal investigations have already been opened in France following the deaths of two infants who consumed infant formula recalled by Nestle due to "possible contamination" by a bacterial substance. The French health ministry said that no "causal link" has yet been established. — AFP



This photograph shows a spoonful of infant milk formula and an infant feeding bottle in Quimper, western France 29 January 2026.

PHOTO: AFP

China, Singapore to deepen cooperation in fighting telecom, online fraud

CHINESE State Councilor and Minister of Public Security Wang Xiaohong on Monday met Singaporean Coordinating Minister for National Security and Minister for Home Affairs Kasiviswanathan Shanmugam in Beijing.

Wang said China is willing to work with Singapore to improve mechanisms and deepen cooperation in areas such as drug control, immigration management, and combatting telecom fraud, online fraud and economic crime. He also said that they should strive to achieve further practical results and bring great-

er benefits to the people of both countries.

He said China is willing to work with Singapore to implement the important consensus reached between their heads of state, viewing and developing bilateral law enforcement and security-related cooperation from a strategic, long-term perspective.

Shanmugam expressed his willingness to maintain close communication with China and deepen practical cooperation on law enforcement and security. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Death toll in Indonesian landslide reaches 80 after 10 days of search

THE search for victims of a landslide in Indonesia's West Java province continued on Monday, with the number of recovered bodies reaching 80, local media Kompas.com reported.

The news website quoted Ade Dian Permana, head of the Bandung Search and Rescue Office, as saying that by 11:45 am local time Monday, all recovered bodies had been evacuated.

The landslide struck the Cisarua area in West Bandung regency on 24 January, affecting 158 people, displacing 564 individuals from 164 families, and damaging 48 homes. Indonesia is prone to floods and landslides during the rainy season, which typically runs from October to March. — Xinhua

Laura Fernandez claims victory in Costa Rica's presidential election

LAURA Fernandez, the candidate from the ruling Sovereign People Party, on Sunday celebrated her victory in the Costa Rican presidential election after securing 48.3 per cent of the vote.

Fernandez marked the occasion with her supporters in downtown San Jose, declaring her commitment to continuing the transformative changes the country needs and leading a government focused on dialogue.

According to data from the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, with 93.8 per cent of polling stations reporting, Fernandez defeated Alvaro Ramos of the National Liberation Party, who received 33.4 per cent of the vote, and Claudia Dobles of the Citizen Agenda Coalition, who garnered 4.9 per cent. In Costa Rica, a candidate must secure over 40 per cent of the vote to win the presidency in the first round. — Xinhua

SPORTS

MFF coaching diploma course kicks off on 2 Feb

THE AFC/MFF "B" Diploma Coaching Course, jointly conducted by the Asian Football Confederation and the Myanmar Football Federation, started on 2 February 2026.

The opening ceremony was held on 2 February at MFF, and MFF general secretary U Tun Tun Aung, technical director Mr Michiteru Mita and coach, U Nyi Nyi Latt, gave speeches.

Altogether, 24 trainees – 20 men and four women – are attending the coaching course part 1 from 2 to 10 February. — Htun Htun/ZS



The group photo session of the opening of the B diploma coaching course.

PHOTO: MFF

Arsenal wins inaugural FIFA Women's Champions Cup

ARSENAL Women defeated Brazil's SC Corinthians 3-2 after extra time on Sunday to win the inaugural FIFA Women's Champions Cup at Emirates Stadium.

Substitute Caitlin Foord scored the winner in the 104th minute, finishing a swift counterattack led by Frida Maanum to seal the intercontinental title for the London club.

Arsenal took the lead in the 15th minute when Olivia Smith scored, but Gabi Zanotti equalized soon after for Corinthians. Lotte Wubben-Moy restored Arsenal's advantage with a header in the second half before Vic Albuquerque forced extra time with a penalty for the Brazilian side.

"It's nice to write our names in the history books," Foord said.

Arsenal captain Kim Little was named player of the match and said lifting the trophy at the club's home stadium made the occasion "extra special".

Earlier on Sunday, Gotham FC of the United States finished third with a 4-0 win over Morocco's AS FAR at the same venue.

The FIFA Women's Champions Cup features clubs from all six confederations and will be staged annually in the years between Women's Club World Cups.

Arsenal's victory also earned a women's club football record prize purse of US\$2.3 million. — Xinhua

Atletico Madrid to sign Lookman from Atalanta

ATLETICO Madrid has agreed a deal to sign Nigerian forward Ademola Lookman from Atalanta.

"The Nigeria international is already in Madrid to have the relevant medical tests and to formalize his new contract," read an Atletico statement on Sunday.

"Atletico Madrid and Atalanta have agreed to transfer the 28-year-old," added the

statement.

Lookman will add depth to Atletico's left wing after the departure of Giacomo Raspadori, who moved to Atalanta in January after failing to win a regular starting place for Atletico following his summer arrival from Napoli.

Lookman could make his debut in Atletico's Copa del Rey quarterfinal away to Real Betis on Thursday night. — Xinhua

Ayeyawady FC to celebrate MWL title with trophy event in Patheingyi

MYANMAR Women League 2025-26 champions Ayeyawady FC will celebrate their title with a trophy presentation in Patheingyi, Ayeyawady Region, according to Ayeyawady FC.



As part of the celebrations, Ayeyawady FC on 2 February, was planned to meet and celebrate with their fans in Ayeyawady Region.

Myanmar national team players San Thaw Thaw, Naw Htet Htet Wai, Zun Yu Ya Oo, Phyu Phyu Win and Ei Sandar Zaw, along with foreign players, young players, and footballers from Ayeyawady Region, took part in the demonstration match.

The final match of the Myanmar Women League 2025-26 football tournament was played between Ayeyawady FC and ISPE at Thuwunna Football Stadium in Yangon on 31 January. The match ended in a goalless draw, with Ayeyawady FC finishing the season unbeaten and securing the championship with 40 points. Ayeyawady FC received the championship trophy, gold medals, and a cash prize of K50 million. — ASH/MKKS



Ayeyawady FC women's team with the Myanmar Women League 2025-26 championship trophy.



Russia-US Nuclear Disarmament Talks Possible Even After New START Ends – Expert

THE United States and Russia can initiate dialogue on nuclear disarmament following the expiration of the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START), according to Daryl Kimball, Executive Director of the Arms Control Association.

The New START treaty between the US and Russia is set to expire on 5 February.

“Even with the end of New START, it is not too late for the leaders of the two countries to put the world on a safer path by taking commonsense actions to build down the nuclear danger and launch serious and sustained nuclear disarmament negotiations,” Kimball said.

He highlighted the necessity to invite other countries, including China, the UK, and France, to the negotiation table.

Russian President Vladimir Putin previously announced that Moscow was ready to continue adhering to the New START limitations for one year after its February 2026 expiration, but only if the United States reciprocated. In response, US President Donald Trump reportedly called the proposal “a good idea.”

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov



US President Donald Trump greets Russian President Vladimir Putin on the tarmac after they arrived to attend a meeting at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Anchorage, Alaska, the United States. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

said on 29 January that the United States had not yet responded to Russia’s initiative regarding the treaty.

Chinese Defence Ministry spokesperson Jiang Bin said on 29 January that Beijing welcomed Russia’s positive

approach concerning the proposed year-long extension of responsibilities under the New START. — SPUTNIK

China’s Shenzhou-21 astronauts in good health, science goals on track after 3 months in space

THE Shenzhou-21 crew members aboard China’s Tiangong space station have successfully completed their first three months in space, with all planned tasks progressing smoothly, according to the China Manned Space Agency.

A video report by China Media Group on Sunday night showed specifically that to combat the physical effects of weightlessness, the crew, consisting of mission commander Zhang Lu and astronauts Wu Fei and Zhang Hongzhang, had performed a lower limb muscle force stimulation test.

Using specialized gear like bionic adhesive shoes, they exercised to stimulate their leg muscles and collected data to study muscle adaptation in space.

In the field of space medical research, they have made



This screen image captured at Beijing Aerospace Control Centre on 9 December 2025 shows Shenzhou-21 astronaut Wu Fei performing extravehicular activities outside China’s orbiting space station. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

progress with a pharmacokinetics project, which studies how drugs are processed in the human body in space. This involves collecting saliva samples that will be sent back to Earth for analysis, thereby providing critical data for managing medication use in space.

The three astronauts

have also conducted multiple tests on human psychology, including assessments of human-computer trust, in-orbit emotional states and emergency decision-making capabilities.

In the realm of microgravity physical science, the crew members have maintained and serviced exper-

imental facilities. This process has included cleaning and replacing samples inside a containerless experiment cabinet, a device that levitates materials to study their properties without interference from a container, the report revealed.

Beyond scientific experiments, regular health monitoring remains a priority as a disciplined regimen of in-orbit exercise is key to ensuring that crew members remain in optimal condition for the remainder of their mission.

The astronauts have already undergone numerous medical checks, including dynamic electrocardiograms, blood pressure monitoring, ultrasound exams and bone density measurements, which showed that they are in good health, the report noted. — Xinhua

Iranian president orders start of talks with US on nuke profile – local media

IRANIAN President Masoud Pezeshkian has ordered the start of negotiations with the United States within the framework of the nuclear issue, Iran’s semi-official Fars news agency reported Monday, citing an unnamed government source.

Fars, quoting Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baghaei’s remarks earlier in the day as saying, added that talks between Iran and the United States will probably be held in Türkiye in the next few days.

Meanwhile, Iran’s semi-official Tasnim news agency, quoting an unidentified informed source, also confirmed that senior officials from the two sides will probably begin negotiations in the coming days.

The negotiations will probably be held between Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi and US President Donald Trump’s special envoy Steve Witkoff, Tasnim reported, adding that the venue and exact date of the negotiations have not been finalized yet. — Xinhua