

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.

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The Mask Singer Myanmar Season 3 premieres on 6 Mar

Bagan shines worldwide through photos and Thanaka



A young local volunteer guide presents Bagan souvenir photos to international visitors, sharing the history and stories behind each image. **PHOTO: ZWE MARN**

As travellers visit the Bagan Ancient Cultural Heritage Zone, where Myanmar's cultural heritage is richly concentrated, locals are helping promote Bagan internationally by offering commemorative photographs of Myanmar's ancient cultural heritage and applying traditional Myanma Thanaka on a small-scale service basis to the local and foreign travellers, according to Myinkaba Village photography businesses that produce souvenir photographs.

In Bagan, photographers from Myinkaba Village primarily produce photographs of 18 prominent

Myinkaba Village, famed for its commemorative Bagan photos, lacquerware, paintings, handicrafts, and Thanaka products, attracts both domestic and international visitors.

pagodas and temples, including the four sacred tooth relic pagodas. Other local photographers also produce images capturing the natural beauty of the Bagan region. These souvenir photographs are sold at lacquerware shops, clothing stores, and photo shops. Moreover, local youths sell photo sets (four by six inches and four by eight inches) con-

taining ten images of pagodas, temples, and landscapes at prices ranging from K2,000 to K5,000 per set. Higher profits are earned from sales to tourists, and sales were strong during the 2026 New Year season, the Union Day, and the Chinese New Year holiday period.

"Although ASEAN countries each have their own ancient cul-

tural heritage, I believe none of them can match Bagan, where Myanmar's ancient heritage is concentrated. This can be seen from the number of visitors from ASEAN countries who come to Bagan. When we take and resell photographs of Bagan's ancient pagodas and natural beauty, images of the Four Sacred Tooth Relic sites — Shwezigon, Tantkyitaung, Tuyintaung, Lawkananda, and Mount Popa — sell well. We are proud and happy to have the opportunity to provide this service, create job opportunities for local youths, and showcase our region's culture and natural beauty while helping Bagan gain greater international recognition," said U Tin Zeya, photographer from Myinkaba Village.

SEE PAGE 2

NATIONAL

Teachers must nurture students into well-rounded youth with five core strengths

- ❖ “It is the duty of teachers to guide students’ mindset, discipline, and learning in the correct direction.”
- ❖ “As ethnic teachers like you are very important for the future development of the nation, when you complete your studies and serve in your assigned areas, I deeply urge you to nurture your students to become well-rounded young people with the five strengths — strong in body, intellect, character, livelihood, and friendship.”

(Excerpt from the speech delivered by Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with male and female students from the BEd five-year course No 7 of the University for Development of National Races of the Union held on 21 October 2025)

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

Bagan shines worldwide...

FROM PAGE 1

Myinkaba Village is the first village to produce and distribute commemorative photographs of Bagan’s ancient cultural heritage and natural beauty to domestic and international travellers. In addition to the photography businesses, the village is well known for producing and selling lacquerware, mural paintings, hand paintings, sand paintings, handicrafts, Thanaka products, and other local goods. It is also a popular destination for foreign visitors.

Tourists prefer the photos of Dhammayangyi, Shwezigon, Tantkyitaung, Tuyintaung, Lawkananda, Ananda, Bu, Thatbyinnyu, Culamani, Htilominlo and Mount Popa, and they most-

ly purchase lacquer ball-point pens, hairpins and lighters. Local youths sell photos, explain the history of pagodas and temples and offer the service of applying traditional Myanmar Thanaka for local and foreign tourists. Such doings create proper job opportunities, and the photographers are continuing to produce more quality commemorative photographs for visitors to Bagan, as the visitor arrivals are mostly high during the Myanmar Thingyan Festival holiday. — Thitsa (MNA)/KTZH

This image illustrate the traditional use of Myanmar Thanaka applied to the cheeks of young boys and girls.



23 Feb marks release of Industrial, Agricultural, and Livestock Matric Exam cards

THE exam cards for the Industrial, Agricultural, and Livestock matriculation examination will be issued starting 23 February (Monday), according to a statement released by the Department of Myanmar Examinations on 20 February.

The department also announced that the matriculation examination will be held from 11 to 18 March. Students who will sit for the exam can

collect their examination cards, from their school heads and relevant exam centre supervisors, starting 23 February.

If any difficulties arise in obtaining the examination cards, students may make direct enquiries with their school heads, examination centre supervisors, township education officers, or the Department of Myanmar Examinations. — MNA/MKKS

Matriculation exam cards to be issued on 23 February

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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)

Haka marks 78th Chin National Day

STATE Security and Peace Commission Member and Union Minister for Border Affairs and for Ethnic Affairs Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, accompanied by Union ministers, the Chin State chief minister and relevant officials, attended the 78th Anniversary of the Chin National Day ceremony in Haka, Chin State, yesterday.

Union Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, Union Ministers U Maung Maung Tint and Dr Charlie Than, State Chief Minister Dr Wong Hsun Thang and Deputy Minister U Ye Tint cut the ceremonial ribbon to inaugurate the event, and Union Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae presented awards to the music and dance troupes.

The attendees saluted the State flag, and Patron Members then took the position and Patron Leader Daw Phwa Daw, representing Matupi Township, made a greeting speech.

Union Minister Lt-Gen Thiri Pyan Chi Sithu Yar Pyae read out the message sent by Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing to the occasion. The Chin State chief minister also spoke on the occasion.

Union ministers and officials presented prizes to those who won good civil servant awards, and awards for excellence in management (first and second class), and in social (first), (second) and (third) classes.

Deputy Minister U Ye Tint also presented 60 DTH receivers and 40 DVB-T2 set-top boxes donated by the Ministry of Information for the Chin State government to the state social



The 78th Chin National Day celebration is underway in Haka, Chin State, yesterday, attended by Union Minister U Tin Aung San.

affairs minister.

Union ministers and party observed the booths and MSME galleries marking the 78th Chin National Day at the district compound office, enjoyed Chin dances and presented cash prizes.

They proceeded to the Sasa-

na Rakkhita TatU monastery in Haka, and donated offerings to Haka and Thantlang Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Chairman, Presiding Sayadaw of the Haka Kyawboke Monastery Bhaddanta Paññobhasa.

At noon, they headed to

the Training School for Development of Nationalities Youth from Border Areas in Kalay and Women's Vocational Training School, met the principals, teachers and students, and presented cash to them. — District IPRD/KTZH

Public Notice for Filing Complaints

1. If a citizen's fundamental rights and legal rights enshrined in the Constitution, or the human rights provided under international and regional human rights treaties to which the State is a party, are violated, he or she may file a complaint with the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC) under Section 30 of the MNHRC Law whether on their own behalf, on behalf of another person, or on behalf of a group of persons.
2. Complaints can be submitted by addressing the Chairperson, Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, 27, 6½ Mile, Pyay Road, Hline Township, Yangon, or to any of the Commission's branches located in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Sittway, and Patheingyi, either by post, in person, via fax at 01 8654678 or through the Commission's email info@mnhrc.org.mm.
3. The following particulars must be clearly included in the complaint:
 - (a) Full name of the complainant; permanent address, and full contact details (telephone number; fax, and email if available);
 - (b) A detailed description of how the complainant's human rights were violated

- and what harm or loss was suffered, including supporting documents or photographic evidence, if available;
 - (c) A copy of the complainant's Citizenship Scrutiny Card must be attached;
 - (d) The complaint must be signed by the complainant to certify the correctness of the particulars of the complaint.
4. The Commission will review complaints and conduct investigations under the Commission's law and its procedures, and will coordinate with the relevant departments and organizations accordingly.



Myanmar National Human Rights Commission

Daily newspapers available online

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NATIONAL

Power from Myitson Project to Be Prioritized for Domestic Use

THE Ayeyawady Myitson-Upstream Hydropower Project could fully meet the country's electricity demand, create job opportunities for locals, and contribute to socio-economic development, said Electricity and Energy Development Commission Chairman and Union Minister for the Ministry 1 of the President's Office, U Tin Aung San.

The Union minister said so at the meeting with locals at the convocation hall of Myitkyina University yesterday.

Speaking at the event, the Union minister said electricity is essential for the economic development of the country, and systematic planning is required for that, whereas the electricity consumption in Myanmar is rising annually, and planning is necessary to increase production capacity to meet future needs.

He noted that hydropower projects take about five to ten years to implement, and only through advanced planning can the country ensure sufficient energy for future generations. Electricity is vital for agriculture, livestock, and industrial production from raw materials to finished goods. Only by fulfilling the country's basic electricity and energy needs can the agricultural and industrial sectors develop effectively. The government is striving to ensure electricity access even in remote areas inhabited



Union Minister U Tin Aung San, who is also Chairman of the Electricity and Energy Development Commission, meets locals in Myitkyina yesterday.

by diverse ethnic groups.

Although hydropower plants require certain initial investment, they have low operating and fuel costs compared to wind, coal, gas, and solar projects. Therefore, the hydropower projects are being implemented based on the abundant water resources of the country, as the dams protect the river from flooding and provide irrigation water.

Moreover, Ayeyawady Myitson-Upstream Hydropower Project could fully meet the country's electricity demand, create job opportunities for locals, and contribute to socioeconomic development. Electricity generated from the Myitson Project will be prioritized for domestic consumption. After meeting state-level demand, surplus electricity will be shared with other regions and states.

He emphasized that the government values public opinion and that the success of the project

depends greatly on the support and cooperation of local communities.

Water resource management expert U Hein Htet then explained the relationship between rivers and fault lines, the role of dams, hydropower and water conservation, watershed management, key project data, quality control processes, installation of dam safety monitoring instruments, and short-, medium-, and long-term development plans.

Earthquake and engineering geology expert Dr Aye Lwin discussed earthquakes and their causes, earthquake-resistant dam designs, comparisons between the Myitson Dam and other dams worldwide, the Sagaing Fault and seismic conditions, domestic and international dams located near fault lines, seismic reinforcement techniques, and the condition of domestic dams in Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw following

the Mandalay earthquake.

Union Minister U Nyan Tun added that experts have presented comprehensive data, as the public has concerns about earthquakes. The dam will be designed to withstand magnitude 8 earthquakes. He continued that if local communities accept and cooperate in implementing the Myitson Hydropower Project, electricity shortages could be effectively addressed.

Director-General U Khin Zaw of the Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department discussed the matters related to technical safety measures for the project, completed dams and Mandalay earthquake, emergency plans for dams, flood prevention measures in Myitkyina, project benefits after the Myitson project, and the no significant impacts on the Irrawaddy dolphin and fish species.

Union Minister U Min

Naung also discussed compensation and resettlement arrangements for affected residents and compliance with the farmland law and rule, vacant, fallow and virgin management law and rule.

Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn stated that both the government and the public must work together to develop the electricity sector and also for state development. He described the Myitson Project as a truly valuable project for the country and its people and called for unity and cooperation.

Central Advisory Body Member of the National Defence and Security Council Daw Dwe Bu emphasized that Kachin State is strategically important and that hydropower could help implement the long-held aspirations. She urged acceptance of change and collaborative efforts to achieve the goals.

Afterwards, attendees and locals coordinat-

ed the discussion, and Union Minister U Tin Aung San concluded the meeting.

The Union minister and party provided solar and commodities worth K100million and 100 MRTV DTH dishes for locals of Kachin State.

A total of 1,480 locals attended the meeting.

Union Minister U Tin Aung San and party, accompanied by the Kachin State chief minister, also met state ministers and Ayeyawady Myitson-Upstream Hydropower Project support and cooperation committee members of Kachin State on 19 February at the meeting hall of the state government.

During the meeting, the Union minister said the government organized the committee and set duties to be performed. While carrying out the rehabilitation programmes in order not to lose the job opportunities for locals, the state government and relevant committees should provide needed assistance for the locals to get the CSR Programmes fully. The regional committee members should work with the leading committee and working committees for the project, and they also appreciate the committee's efforts in carrying out the duties.

Attendees then reported on the situation encountered during the field study, and the Union minister concluded the meeting. — MNA/KTZH



NATIONAL

BNRA Second-in-Command, Four Members Rejoin Legal Fold with Weapons



Images depict the BNRA second-in-command, a third-ranking officer, and members returning to the legal fold after surrendering weapons and ammunition, where they are given food supplies.

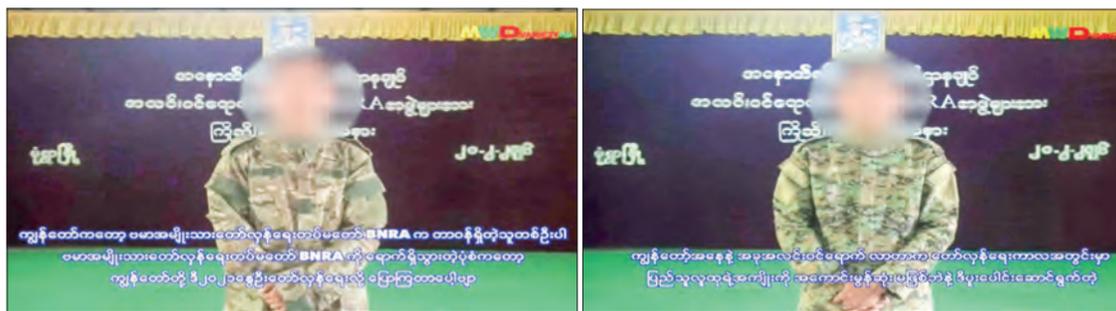
Five members of the group, identified as BNRA, including the second-in-command, reentered the legal fold through a security outpost, together with their weapons and ammunition.

Terrorist groups, including those operating under the name PDF, have been engaging in acts of violence against the State and Tatmadaw, as well as intimidating local communities. In addition, internal conflicts among such groups, including disputes over territorial control, the unequal distribution of interests, and incidents of coercion, torture and killings among members, have reportedly continued to occur.

Previously, BNRA leader Naing Lin (aka) Naga reentered the legal fold, citing dissatisfaction with violent activities and expressing confidence in the peace processes being implemented by the State and Tatmadaw. This information has been officially released.

Similarly, five BNRA members, including the second-in-command and a third-level officer, contacted and reported to a security camp in Pale Township yesterday afternoon. They returned to the legal fold with five assorted arms, related equipment and ammunition.

Officials from the local security unit warmly welcomed the returnees and provided the necessary assistance, including medical support, accommodation and administrative arrangements. Further scrutiny and verification will be conducted



Two returnees say they were warmly welcomed upon re-entering the legal framework and urge fellow members to follow the same path they chose.

ed in accordance with established procedures.

The voices of the second group leader and the third person in charge of the so-called BNRA group were also heard as follows: -

1. I am a responsible person of the BNRA. I joined the BNRA in 2021 because I believed we were moving towards a better situation for the country. We were told that we were working with good intentions. Whatever the situation, we decided to take part and serve wherever we could, following the trends. I joined the BNRA because I believed it was an organization that was acting rightly and correctly. The reason I decided to enter the legal field is that we initially joined politics, aiming for a better situation and to contribute wherever possible. We had hoped for improvements. However, under the current revolutionary circumstances, I no longer feel that we are heading towards or will reach a better situation. This feeling is not based merely on emotion, as we

have seen and experienced the realities on the ground. The next one is that, on the other hand, there can be seen a threat of elimination and destruction to us, like creating an atmosphere with the mindset that those who are not with us are enemies. Such a situation goes beyond partner conflicts and creates divisions both among the people and among members. After facing these realities directly, I no longer believe that this path can lead to a better situation. On the other hand, I was concerned whether it would truly be okay if I entered the legal fold. However, when I actually cooperated, I was warmly welcomed. When I returned to the legal fold, responsible officials at different levels received us warmly, kindly, and cordially. For that, I thank them. To my fellow members who remain in the revolution, I want to say that it is now very unlikely that the current situation will lead to a better outcome. Why should we continue sacrificing our lives,

our futures, our happiness, and our freedom? When we enter the legal fold, the reality is very different from what we imagined. We are welcomed in the best possible way. Therefore, I urge you to coordinate with the responsible authorities in your respective areas and cooperate by entering the legal framework.

2. I am a member of the BNRA. I joined it because I believed it could best serve the interests of the people. I decided to enter the legal fold because, during the revolutionary period, it became clear that we could not serve best for the interest of people and cooperation in many sectors did not go smoothly, and as a result, our revolution has gradually caused the people to suffer greater poverty and hardship. As I came to understand the true attitude of Tatmadaw in peace processes, I made this decision. Before entering the legal fold, I had fears - whether I would be arrested, imprisoned, or punished for any alleged

offences. However, when I actually arrived, I was warmly received by Tatmadaw. In all our communications, we were well and warmly treated, for which I am thankful. At present, I have entered the legal fold to build the best future. I would like to thank Tatmadaw. I would also like to say that the members involved in the revolution are fully aware of both the good and bad aspects of the situation. Tatmadaw now welcomes warmly. Therefore, I encourage you to think carefully and choose to cooperate. When I arrived, everyone welcomed me warmly and clearly explained the plans to continue working for the best interests of the people. I would like to invite other members to cooperate as well. There are already efforts to contact remaining members. I urge all who are considering entering the legal fold to quickly connect with the nearest military bases and follow the same path I have taken.

The State has consistently invited individuals who joined terrorist groups for various reasons to return to the legal fold. Authorities reaffirmed that those who reenter will continue to receive assistance to ensure stability and enable them to live peacefully within the framework of the law, and that similar support will be extended to those who choose to return in the future. — MNA/KZL

NATIONAL

KIA, PDF terrorists use suicide drones against MNA passenger aircraft

KIA and PDF terrorist combined groups, with the intention of undermining regional development, disrupting the government's administrative mechanisms, and destabilizing local peace and security, have been recklessly carrying out destructive acts. On 12 February, they committed an attack on the airport in Myitkyina, Kachin State, using FPV suicide drones.

At around 8:12 pm on 20 February, the KIA and PDF combined terrorist groups carried out another attack. An ATR-72-600 passenger aircraft operated by Myanmar National Airlines (MNA), which plays a vital role in facilitating civilian travel and the swift flow of goods unrelated to military affairs, was at Myitkyina Airport preparing to depart for Mandalay after boarding passengers. At that time, KIA and PDF combined terrorist groups launched a malicious attack using FPV suicide



Photos reveal an MNA passenger plane preparing to depart Myitkyina for Mandalay (L) and the minor damage it sustained after a suicide drone attack by KIA and PDF terrorists.



drones with the intent to cause death and injuries among civilian passengers.

In the incident, the aircraft sustained minor damage after being struck by bomb fragments on the nose section, the mid-fuselage, and the tail. Security

personnel promptly carried out necessary evacuations to safe areas and conducted assistance and rescue operations. There were no injuries or fatalities among passengers or crew members in the incident.

The deliberate attack on a

civilian airline that significantly supports public transport and the swift flow of commodities unrelated to military affairs constitutes a war crime under the Geneva Conventions and international law. Hence, not only residents but also people

across the country have strongly condemned and denounced these terrorist acts with revulsion. Security forces are continuing to carry out necessary area security operations and will undertake effective and firm countermeasures. — MNA/TTA

Attempted Drone Strike Thwarted During Chin National Day in Haka



Foiled drones are seen after a CDF (Haka) and PDF terrorist attack on the venue of the Chin National Day ceremony.

SECURITY forces successfully prevented an FPV suicide drone attack targeting the venue of the Chin National Day ceremony held in Haka, Chin State.

Joint groups reportedly identified as CDF (Haka) and PDF terrorists carried out a malicious attack using FPV suicide drones, aimed at disrupting the Chin National Day commemorative event and causing harm to members of the public attending the ceremony in the compound of the office complex in Haka.

The incident occurred yesterday morning during

the 78th Chin National Day ceremony. Security personnel undertaking air defence duties detected the incoming FPV suicide drones through air defence systems and took timely preventive measures. Consequently, the drones were intercepted before reaching the ceremony venue.

Due to the prompt actions of the security forces, the drones failed to hit the target area and instead crashed to the ground in nearby locations without exploding. Security personnel then conducted systematic clearance operations,

rendering safe the explosive materials attached to the downed drones. No casualties or damage to buildings were reported.

Residents reportedly condemned the terrorist acts, which targeted a non-military commemorative event and public gathering areas with the intention of causing casualties and destruction. Authorities stated that investigations are being carried out in cooperation with the public to swiftly identify and take action against those responsible for the attack. — MNA/KZL

One Indian national detained over telecom fraud

THE government has been systematically identifying and investigating foreign nationals who entered and resided illegally in border areas and participated in unlawful activities, including online gambling and online scams. The authorities have transferred these individuals to their respective countries in accordance with existing laws and procedures.

In the latest case, an Indian national was found to have entered through illegal routes after transiting via neighbouring countries, including Thailand, and was located at a site near Myawady Township in Kayin State. Officials completed initial screening processes to facilitate deportation.

A combined departmental team has been collecting per-

sonal data and records required for the prompt repatriation of the detained foreign national. Assistant Director U Than Nang, from the Myawady District Management and Administration Body, inspected the ongoing documentation work and coordinated the necessary measures.

The government stated that it continues to cooperate actively with neighbouring countries, regional partners, and international organizations to identify, arrest, and take effective action against individuals involved in online scam centre operations and their foreign organizers. It also affirmed that foreign nationals facing hardship or those who were victims of human trafficking are being assisted and coordinated for swift repatriation. — MNA/MKKS

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NATIONAL

Thukha Dagon to allocate 5 new rental units by draw

THE Department of Urban and Housing Development (DUHD) has announced that five newly completed buildings within the Thukha Dagon Public Rental Housing project will be allocated to tenants through a lucky draw system. These buildings in Dagon Myothit (South) Township are one for the public and four for the government employees.

It is intended for individuals facing housing difficulties, granting them a five-year residency lease. The DUHD has issued a warning regarding scammers who are soliciting money with

false promises of securing rooms. Furthermore, it clarified that if subleasing or transferring the unit is found, their tenancy rights will be revoked, and legal action will be taken.

The project is managed by the DUHD, and tenants are required to strictly adhere to the following rules: No individuals other than the authorized tenant and those in the lease agreement are permitted to reside; Subleasing, transferring, sold, mortgaged, or gifted to others, with or without money, is strictly prohibited; The authorized



This photo features newly completed units at the Thukha Dagon Public Rental Housing.

tenant must reside in the unit personally, without leaving the unit locked.

The announcement emphasizes that any breach of these regulations will result in the im-

mediate seizure of the housing unit and further legal actions. — NN/ZN

Digital Payments Surge: MMQR Records 30M Transactions, K12.7T in Single Year

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) announced on 19 February that between 28 February 2025 and the end of January 2026, MMQR usage reached over 30 million transactions, totalling more than K12.7 trillion, with over 420,000 merchants and more than 24 million users.

CBM is systematically building a national payment infrastructure for a cashless payment system. It first established the CBM-NET, followed by the Myanmar Payment Union (MPU), eventually advancing to the current MMQR system.

Furthermore, under the CBM's leadership, state-owned and private banks, financial institutions, and technology companies are transitioning from cash-based payments to a cashless system, where the



This image illustrates an advertisement for Myanmar's payment infrastructure - MMQR.

public can reliably use mobile banking or digital payments instead of cash. The benefits include faster money circulation, increased transparency, integration of micro, small, and medium enterprises into the formal economy, and financial opportunities for rural people.

For that system, CBM studied and adopted the best practices of international models to ensure maximum efficiency, including the Unified Payment Interface (UPI) system of India, the PromptPay

and National QR systems of Thailand, and the regulatory sandbox and cloud governance policies of Singapore.

MPU is a financial organization established as a domestic card scheme. By connecting ATM, POS, and e-commerce transactions through a Domestic Switching Platform, it ensures that payments are fast, easy, secure, and reliable. The objectives of the MPU are to reduce cash usage and increase card payment adoption. — NN/ZN

CBM sells foreign currency to edible oil-importing companies

ON 19 February, the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold over 970,000 yuan and 4 million Thai baht, as well as over US\$1.8 million of foreign currency purchased from CMP companies, to edible oil-importing companies.

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

In foreign exchange trading, foreign currencies were purchased for edible oil (14 per cent), fuel oil (36 per cent), pharmaceuticals and pharmaceuti-

cal raw materials (13 per cent), industrial raw materials (eight per cent), car and motorcycle spare parts (12 per cent), consumer goods (four per cent), agricultural goods (three per cent), and other goods and non-trade transactions (eight per cent). CBM also reported that, on 19 February, the US dollar exchange rate was set at K3,654 on the foreign exchange trading platform.

CBM has allowed authorized dealers (private banks) to conduct online foreign exchange trading freely at market rates, based on supply and demand, starting 5 December 2023. — NN/TH



The head office of the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) in Nay Pyi Taw.

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OPINION

ARTICLE POEM

Bridge ethnic areas across the country through the Union spirit

Myanmar is a Union country where more than 100 national ethnic groups live together. These ethnic groups, though living in different geographical regions, are members of one family who share the same land and water and have grown up together. Although they may live far apart, they are bound by close ties of blood and affection, and the State is fostering unity and connection among them so that they may live and develop together in harmony and friendship.

To enable ethnic nationalities to maintain close relations and live, develop, and progress together, transportation is the most essential and fundamental factor. Only when transportation is efficient can all sectors, including education, healthcare, regional development, and the socio-economic sphere, advance in a balanced manner without leaving any area behind. Therefore, successive governments that have taken responsibility for the country have constructed roads and bridges nationwide, extending across urban and rural areas, mountainous regions and plains alike, in the form of an interconnected network.

The Naga Self-Administered Zone, which includes Leshi and Lahe townships in Homalin District, Sagaing Region, is located in the far northwestern part of Myanmar and is an area with difficult transportation. Only when roads and bridges linking the region with the mainland are in good condition can ethnic areas achieve development and progress. Although it is remote and far from central areas, the region remains peaceful and stable, with local people safeguarding their own area. To support the development of the region, the State has constructed and inaugurated the Chindwin River Crossing Bridge (Htamanthi), a key infrastructure project for the area.

progress in the education, healthcare, and economic sectors.

The Naga Self-Administered Zone, which includes Leshi and Lahe townships in Homalin District, Sagaing Region, is located in the far northwestern part of Myanmar and is an area with difficult transportation. Only when roads and bridges linking the region with the mainland are in good condition can ethnic areas achieve development and progress. Although it is remote and far from central areas, the region remains peaceful and stable, with local people safeguarding their own area. To support the development of the region, the State has constructed and inaugurated the Chindwin River Crossing Bridge (Htamanthi), a key infrastructure project for the area.

Therefore, local people need to safeguard and take responsibility for their own region. At the same time, the State's efforts to support regional development will greatly contribute to peace, stability, and prosperity. In this regard, all ethnic nationalities are urged to work together in unity with a Union spirit and collectively participate in efforts for the benefit of their region and the nation as a whole.

Cancer of the Body: Malignancy Without Contagion

Cancer of the body evokes profound fear because it has structure, location, and measurable progression. It arises when cells lose their regulatory discipline and begin to multiply for their own survival rather than for the organism they belong to. Yet despite its destructive potential, cancer possesses one important limitation: it is not contagious. It does not spread through proximity, touch, or communication. It originates from within the individual's own biological system, representing a failure of internal regulation rather than invasion by an external agent. Its threat is intimate, but not transmissible.

Cancer of the Mind: Malignancy of Thought

The mind can develop an analogous form of malignancy, not in tissue but in patterns.

The Crab Without Claws: Contagion and Cancer of the Mind

By Khin Maung Myint

Certain thoughts – fear, despair, self-negation – may initially serve adaptive purposes but later become self-perpetuating. Fear that protects becomes anxiety that imprisons. Reflection that enlightens becomes rumination that paralyzes. These cognitive patterns, like malignant cells, escape normal regulatory mechanisms. They replicate automatically, shaping perception and narrowing psychological flexibility. In conditions such as depression or trauma, these patterns operate with a form of autonomy, sustaining themselves even in the absence of immediate threat.

Psychological Contagion: Transmission Without Pathogens

Unlike cancer of the body, cancer of the mind exists within a social and communicative environment. Human beings are inherently receptive to one another's emotional and cognitive states. Through emotional contagion, observational learning, and shared narratives, maladaptive mental states can propagate across individuals. Neuroscience-

tific research demonstrates that mirror neuron systems and empathic processes allow one person's despair, fear, or cynicism to influence another's neural and emotional equilibrium. In this sense, psychological malignancy becomes transmissible – not through cells, but through ideas, symbols, and repeated exposure.

Collective Mind: When Malignancy Becomes Cultural

When such patterns spread widely, they may become embedded in collective consciousness.

Traumatized communities often internalize persistent narratives of helplessness or threat. These narratives replicate across generations, shaping expectations and behaviour independently of present reality. The pathology is no longer confined to individual psychology but becomes systemic, sustained by social reinforcement. What begins as an internal dysregulation can evolve into a shared psychological environment.

Awareness as Regulation and Remedy

The mind, however, possesses a unique protective capacity: awareness itself. To observe a thought is to interrupt its automatic authority. Neuroplasticity allows new cognitive and emotional pathways to emerge through reflection, connection, and meaning. Just as maladaptive states can spread, so can resilience, hope, and stability. Psychological health is therefore not



static but dynamic, continuously shaped by both internal regulation and external influence.

Conclusion: The Ecology of Mental Health

Cancer of the body threatens the organism but remains biologically contained. Cancer of the mind, while originating internally, exists within a network

of minds and meanings. It can propagate through unexamined beliefs and shared despair, but it can also be contained through awareness and understanding. This dual reality reminds us that mental health is not merely an individual condition but an ecological one, sustained by the quality of both inner regulation and collective consciousness.

Hope you heal from the things no one ever apologized for

By Lynn Lynn Myat Oo

There is a particular ache that comes from harm that was never acknowledged. No apology. No explanation. No moment of reckoning where someone admits, "I hurt you."

Instead, there is silence — and that silence can feel like a second wound layered over the first.

When you don't receive the closure you wanted (the closure you deserved), the mind keeps

searching for resolution. It replays scenes, edits conversations, imagines alternative endings. But healing cannot depend on someone else's willingness to take responsibility. At some point, peace

has to become an inside job.

1. Validate your own pain: You do not need their confession to confirm that you were hurt. Write it down. Speak it out loud. Admit to yourself what happened and how it affected you. Self-validation replaces the acknowledgement you never received.

2. Stop waiting for the perfect apology: Sometimes we remain emotionally stuck because we believe closure will arrive in the form of regret from the other person. But waiting keeps the wound open. Accepting that the apology may never come is painful – yet freeing.

3. Separate accountability from your worth: Their refusal to apologize reflects their limitations, not your value. Someone's inability to say "I'm sorry" is not proof that you were wrong for feeling hurt.

4. Create your own closure ritual: Write a letter you never sent. Burn it. Tear it up. Pray over it. Journal your final words.

Symbolic acts can help the brain register an ending, even when reality failed to provide one.

5. Redirect your energy: Instead of investing emotional strength into replaying the past, pour it into growth – therapy, creativity, fitness, spiritual practices, meaningful relationships. Healing accelerates when your life expands beyond the wound.

6. Practise forgiveness for yourself: You may blame yourself for not seeing red flags, for trusting too much, for staying too long. Release that guilt. You made decisions with the information and emotional capacity you had at the time.

Healing from unapologized pain is not about pretending it didn't matter. It mattered. It shaped you. It hurt. But you are allowed to move forwards even without their acknowledgement.

And when you stop waiting for someone else to finish the story, you finally regain the pen in your own hands.



သီကုံးပန်းသွင် နေ့တိုင်းဆင်

Wear It Like Arranged Flowers Daily

စာသင်ပျို့နု၊ အခြေပြုတို့

ဥဇ္ဇဘူတ၊ လုံ့လပြင်းစွာ

သူထက်ငါ့ဟု၊ နှုတ်မှာရွှေ

ကြိုးပမ်းကလျှင်၊ သိပ္ပံကျေးဇူး

အထူးသိမြင်၊ ပညာရှင်ဟု

မထင်မပေါ်၊ မကျော်စောဘဲ

တိမှာလွဲအံ့။

ရှင်မဟာရဋ္ဌသာရ

You young elementary learners!

With integrity and assiduity,

Off by heart preeminently

If you study hard, scientific advantage

As academics who gratefully acknowledge

You will then have risen to prominence:

This is a foregone conclusion, why on earth?



Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

NATIONAL

Mandalay Shwesayan to host 78th Buddha Pujaniya Festival

THE 78th Buddha Pujaniya Festival of the Shwesayan Pagoda in Patheingyi Township, Mandalay Region, will be organized as usual, according to U Thein Zaw, a chairman of the Pagoda Board of Trustees.

The festival begins annually on the full moon day of Taboung and attracts pilgrims from all over the country, commencing on the 1st waxing day of Taboung. This year, too, many pilgrims have been seen arriving from the 1st waxing day, and shops from across the country are open and selling their goods.

“The Buddha Pujaniya Festival of the Shwesayan Pagoda is a special occasion. The opening ceremony will be held on the 14th waxing day of Taboung, and the festival will continue from the full moon day of Taboung to the 8th waning day of Taboung. The festival has already been busy since the 1st waxing of Taboung. As part of Dhamma Puja, a



The 77th Buddha Pujaniya Festival of the Mandalay Shwesayan Pagoda is seen in the previous year.

Maha Pathana treatise recitation is also held. On the 9th waning day of Taboung, alms will be offered to 250 monks. On the 14th waxing day, a traditional dance will be performed as a joyous event, and on the 6th, 7th, and 8th waning days, a Swan Zar Ni troupe will also perform. As

usual, about 250 shops from Shan State will open their stalls for the festival. There are more than 700 local shops around Mandalay, bringing the total to over 1,000 shops. The area is already bustling, yet peaceful,” said U Thein Zaw. — ASH/MKKS

Chatrium Hotel hosts Burma Beauty Group Art Exhibition from 22 Feb

THE Burma Beauty Group Art Exhibition will be held at the Chatrium Hotel in Bahan Township, Yangon Region, from 22 February to 21 March, according to the organizers.

The exhibition will showcase diverse artworks by artists Aung Ko, Aung Naing, Aung Min Baw, Aung Si Thu, Maung Nay Chi, Htoo Aung Kyaw, Shwe Thein, Ko Maung Kyaw Than and Kyaw Lin. The displayed pieces will include watercolour, oil, acrylic and charcoal paintings, featuring a variety of themes and styles.

“Myanmar is an exceptionally beautiful country. Wherever one looks, its beauty is evident — in forests and mountain landscapes, in pagodas, and in the physical and spiritual grace and endearing traditions of its people.

Kalasa Art Space is organizing the Burma Beauty exhibition at the Chatrium Hotel, bringing together paintings that portray these facets of Myanmar’s beauty through diverse artistic interpretations.

Through this exhibition, we hope visitors will not only appreciate Myanmar’s visual splendour but also experience the genuine essence of the country’s spirit. We cordially invite the public to attend and enjoy the exhibition, which will run from 22 February to 21 March at the Chatrium Hotel,” said artist Aung Ko, who will participate in the exhibition.

In addition, the exhibition will feature works by German fine art photographer Jens Uwe Parkitny, who resides in Myanmar. His collection, based on research and photographic studies of Chin ethnic women, will be specially presented. — ASH/KZL

Twantay tapped for footwear industry zone development

A footwear industrial district will be established in Twantay Township for footwear entrepreneurs in the Yangon Region, according to the Myanmar MSME Footwear Entrepreneurs Cluster (Central).

With the opening of the new Dala Bridge, the Korea-Myanmar Friendship Bridge linking Yangon and Dala, a footwear industry district will be developed in Twantay Township to support manufacturers struggling to find space.

“Most shoe entrepreneurs are located in North Okkalapa and South Okkalapa townships. When we submitted a

proposal to the regional government to bring together businesses in the same industry for production, we were allocated land in Twantay Township and Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township. We have not yet secured a site to build the federation’s office, and we do not know the exact location. We will meet with the head of the Settlement and Land Records Department. We do not yet know how many acres will be allocated or how the payment will be made,” said an official from the Myanmar MSME Footwear Entrepreneurs Cluster (Central).

Further discussions are needed

to determine the land area, number of acres, and payment amount for the site in Twantay Township. It is also said that once the footwear industry zone is established, it will create local jobs and increase production to meet domestic demand.

Currently, there are around 40,000 shoe entrepreneurs, including home-based sole traders, and domestic demand for shoes is estimated at least 40 million pairs per year. However, only about 25 per cent of this demand is currently being met by local production. — ASH/TH

The Mask Singer Myanmar Season 3 premieres on 6 Mar



THE Mask Singer Myanmar Season 3 will be officially launched at a press ceremony at 1:30 pm on 20 February at Amarapura Grand Ballroom, the Wyndham Grand Hotel, Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Yangon.

The Mask Singer Myanmar first aired in 2019, featuring many famous stars from various fields and popular songs, both classics that remain well-loved today and contemporary hits.

This season, Season 3, will feature tele-detectives including film stars Academy Khine Thin Kyi and Academy Htun Htun, singer Sandy Myint Lwin, and actors Phyo Ngwe Soe and Paing Zay Ye Htun.

The programme will be broadcast at 8 pm every Friday on Channel 9 beginning on 6 March and will also be available on The Mask Singer Myanmar YouTube channel and the Sky Net application. — Bala/MKKS

The press launch of The Mask Singer Myanmar Season 3 is in progress yesterday in Yangon.

Egyptian-Chinese joint mission uncovers millennia-old limestone structure in Giza

The mission discovered a diverse collection of artifacts, including pottery and glass vessels, as well as copper coins, according to the statement.

AN Egyptian-Chinese archaeological mission had uncovered a limestone structure believed to be part of the temple of King Apries from Egypt's 26th Dynasty (664-525 BC) at the Tel Aziz site east of the Mit Rahina area in Giza, Egypt's Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities said in a statement on Thursday.

The joint mission, formed by Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities, China's Peking University and the Shandong Institute of Cultural Relics and Archaeology, made the discovery during excavation work at the site, where parts of the temple had been uncovered in earlier excavation seasons.

Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Sherif Fathy described the discovery as an important addition to ongoing archaeologi-



cal research in Mit Rahina, noting that it shed further light on one of the most significant historical sites linked to the ancient city of Memphis.

He also praised "the fruitful scientific cooperation between the Egyptian and Chinese sides in the field of archaeological work".

For his part, Hisham El-Leithy, secretary-general of the Supreme Council of Antiquities, said the discovery significantly contributed to a deeper understanding of the urban planning of the ancient city, as well as its religious practices during the period. — Xinhua

This photo taken on 11 October 2024 shows a pharaoh statue at the Mit Rahina Museum in Giza, Egypt. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IAGE/AHMED GOMAA/XINHUA/FILE**

Ramadan in Sudan under shadow of civil war

SUDAN'S Ramadan 2026 unfolds amid war and economic collapse, stripping the holy month of its joyous abundance and replacing it with bare survival. Since the April 2023 conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces and Rapid Support Forces, families face skyrocketing prices, supply shortages, and massive displacement—over 12 million affected.

In Omdurman markets, civil servant Ahmed Abdul-Baqi rations basics like sugar, flour, and oil, buying day-by-day as incomes slash and the Sudanese pound plummets from 600 to 3,500 per US\$. Analyst Abdul-Khaliq Mahjoub notes disrupted production in war zones erodes supplies, shifting focus to minimal needs over festive variety.— Xinhua

Brazil road deaths rise during 2026 Carnival holiday

BRAZIL recorded 130 deaths and 1,481 injuries in 1,241 traffic accidents on federal highways during the 2026 Carnival holiday from 13 to 18 February the Federal Highway Police (PRF) said Thursday.

The provisional figures exceed those from the 2025 Carnival, with 85 deaths and 1,433 injuries in 1,190 accidents. The PRF noted that even with preliminary data, this year's Carnival is already the deadliest on federal roads since 2020, with the number of serious accidents up by 8.54 per cent. Most victims were travelling by car or motorcycle, said the PRF, adding that despite enhanced patrols, some of the most severe crashes involving multiple fatalities took place in areas not classified as high-risk. — Xinhua

Sweden to open youth prison units amid rising youth gang crime

SWEDEN will establish dedicated youth units in prisons for children as young as 13 years old, in a bid to address rising youth crime, the Ministry of Justice announced Thursday.

Minister for Justice Gunnar Strommer told a press conference that youth gang crime has become an acute problem in the country. The new units will house offenders aged 13 to 17, and in some cases up to 20.

The reform will move convicted youths away from the current system of "incarcerated youth care" in state-run youth homes. In these existing residential facilities, minors are placed under compulsory care and supervision, typically with a focus on treatment and rehabilitation rather than conventional imprisonment. According to the ministry, nine out of 10 youths with gang links reoffend after a stay in such "closed care".



The Swedish Police Authority, Prosecution Authority, and organizations like Save the Children Sweden warn the policy may lead gangs to recruit even younger children or entrench minors further in criminal environments. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Strommer said convicted youths will receive better support in the new prison units than in the youth homes. Each youth will be assigned a case officer to monitor progress. The maximum time allowed in a cell will be 11 hours per day, less than 14 hours for adult inmates. The children will be

kept separated from adult inmates and have more flexible leave rules than adults.

The youth units are expected to open in three prisons in July. Existing youth homes will continue to serve young people with social or behavioural problems who are not serving sentences. — Xinhua

ECONOMY WORLD

US trade deficit in goods hits record high in 2025

Among main trading partners, the US trade deficit in goods with the European Union dropped by US\$17.12 billion year on year.

THE United States posted a record US\$1.24 trillion trade deficit in goods in 2025, up 2.1 per cent from the previous year, according to data released Thursday by the US Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Statistics show that the United States' annual exports and imports of goods stood at \$2.19 trillion and \$3.43 trillion in 2025.

Among main trading partners, the US trade deficit in goods with the European Union dropped by \$17.12 billion year on year, while the US trade deficit with Mexico and Vietnam increased by \$25.42 billion and

\$54.73 billion year on year, respectively.

The United States had \$339.47 billion of trade surplus in services in 2025, up \$27.6 billion or 8.85 per cent from the previous year, according to the data.

"The deficit in 2025 shows how little effect tariffs have had, for now, on the overall level of the deficit while distorting monthly trade flows as American businesses adapted to the changes in tariffs," Eugenio Aleman, chief economist at Raymond James, was quoted by MarketWatch as saying. — Xinhua



Shipping containers are stacked at the Port of Long Beach on 4 March 2025 in Long Beach, California. PHOTO: FREDERIC J. BROWN / AFP/FILE

Japan's financial watchdog warns regional banks over real estate loans

JAPAN'S financial watchdog has warned regional banks about the risks of increased loans for real estate, saying it could lead to repayment defaults, sources close to the matter said Friday.

Based on its hearings with the lenders, the Financial Services Agency has found cases in which the banks extended loans to individuals and real estate business operators without sufficiently assessing their credit quality, the sources said.

By warning these banks, the agency hopes to prevent financial institutions from being saddled with massive nonperforming loans, as seen in the aftermath of the burst of the asset price bubble in the early 1990s.

The move comes amid growing concerns that a re-



File photo taken on 9 October 2025, shows a signboard for the Financial Services Agency in Japanese and English in Tokyo. PHOTO: KYODO

cent rise in interest rates may cool investment, possibly pushing down land and property prices.

In one case, a loan was extended without setting a lending limit, while one bank was not fully using "stress tests", an evaluation system designed to anticipate unforeseen situa-

tions, such as a possible fall in land prices, the sources said.

In regular exchanges with local banks, the agency has expressed in writing its concerns about the increase in real estate loans and urged the lenders to take steps to "enhance risk management", the sources said. — Kyodo

Brazil's GDP grows 2.5% in 2025

BRAZIL'S gross domestic product (GDP) expanded 2.5 per cent in 2025 from a year earlier, according to data released Thursday by the country's central bank.

The growth was mainly driven by the agricultural sector with an increase of 13.1 per

cent, while services grew by 2.1 per cent and industry by 1.5 per cent.

The latest economic data has bolstered market expectations of a potential interest rate cut in March by the monetary policy committee of the central bank. — Xinhua



Brazil has recently emerged as a global leader in cotton, becoming the world's top exporter and the third-largest producer.

PHOTO: EVARISTO SA / AFP/FILE

Portugal raises disaster relief plan to 3.5 bln euros

PORTUGUESE Prime Minister Luis Montenegro announced on Thursday that the government has increased the value of its disaster relief plan to 3.5 billion euros (US\$4.13 billion),

up from the initial estimate of 2.5 billion euros, in response to the damage caused by recent severe storms.

Speaking during a biweekly parliamentary debate, Monte-

negro said the expanded package includes an additional one billion euros and is primarily aimed at supporting affected people and businesses, particularly in the country's central

region. He noted that the first compensation payments were made just 15 days after Storm Kristin struck western and central Portugal on 28 January.

The prime minister de-

scribed the measures as unprecedented in terms of speed, scope and impact, stressing that the scale of destruction requires a long-term recovery effort rather than simple repairs. — Xinhua

Walmart outlines big AI ambitions as it reports mixed results

WALMART'S newly installed leadership team on Thursday emphasized plans to build up artificial intelligence integration, lifting shares of the retail behemoth despite a cautious forecast.

Fresh off achieving a \$1 trillion market value earlier this month, Walmart

reported solid fourth-quarter results, but projected lower earnings per share in this year's first quarter compared with analyst expectations and slower annual revenue growth.

John Furner, who ascended to CEO on 1 February praised the results as evidence of Walmart's

resonance with consumers across income levels.

"The way we're using technology and AI is helping us create great customer solutions, reduce friction, simplify decision making, and pinpoint where our inventory is, all while maintaining the trust we've earned from our cus-

tomers and members," Furner said. Walmart has seen significant growth in its advertising and e-commerce businesses, with Chief Financial Officer John David Rainey pointing to notable expansion of the company's Amazon-like "Marketplace" platform for third-party sellers. — AFP



Walmart CEO John Furner, shown here in 2022, is set to address Wall Street analysts for the first earnings report since he ascended to the post on 1 February.

PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Canada's intl merchandise trade deficit widens in 2025

CANADA'S annual merchandise trade deficit widened significantly to 31.3 billion Canadian dollars (about US\$22.8 billion) in 2025, the largest deficit since 2020, Statistics Canada said Thursday.

It followed consecutive deficits of 933 million Canadian dollars in 2023 and 7.2 billion Canadian dollars in 2024, according to data released by the national statistical agency.

Total exports edged down 0.2 per cent in 2025, with seven of the 11 major

product sections contributing to the decline. The downturn was led by energy products, which saw a 6.9 per cent decrease mainly due to lower prices, it said. The overall export decline was almost entirely offset by a 41.7 per cent increase in exports of unwrought gold, silver, and platinum group metals, and their alloys. Excluding exports of this product group, Canada's annual exports were down three per cent, said the agency. — Xinhua

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Changing Trade Name for Registered Pesticide

The Pesticide manufactured by **Ningbo Cycle Chemical Co., Ltd.** and distributed by **Thu Thu Hein Co., Ltd** is changing trade name as follow. If any Objection regarding to this changing can notify at Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board within (14) days.

| No | Previous Name | New Name | Active Ingredient Name | Registration No. |
|----|---------------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| 1 | Fun Tebu | Nghaat Nha Kaung Tebu | Tebuconazole 25 % EW | F2025-4887 |

Thu Thu Hein Co., Ltd.
09-793828948

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (3602S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (3602S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **20-2-2026** 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 BLPL SHIPPING LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V AREZOO VOY.NO. (SCY1197)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V AREZOO VOY. NO. (SCY1197)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **21-2-2026** 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 LAND AND SEA INTERMODAL LOGISTICS
SDN BHD LINE**

ဆောင်းစာ မှာယူလိုပါက ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါတယ်

09 454 237 515

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V SUNNY HONOR VOY.NO. (2601)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SUNNY HONOR VOY.NO. (2601)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **21-2-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **TMIT-2** 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: **2301928**

**Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority**

Agent For:
M/S UNI SPRING LOGISTICS HOLDING PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V AGIOS NIKOLAOS VOY.NO. (106333)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V AGIOS NIKOLAOS VOY.NO. (106333)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **21-2-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT-4** 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: **2301928**

**Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority**

Agent For:
**M/S CHUN AN INTERNATIONAL LOGISTICS
CO.LTD**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V 21 CORAL VOY.NO. (AR1910)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V 21 CORAL VOY.NO. (AR1910)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **23-2-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301928**

**Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority**

Agent For:
M/S GLOBAL MARS SHIPPING PRIVATE LTD

GLOBAL VIEWPOINTS: WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS



N Korea opens ruling party congress, Kim boasts of economic achievements

NORTH Korea has opened its ruling party congress, held every five years, with leader Kim Jong Un highlighting past economic achievements and successes in "all realms" including defence, diplomacy and politics, its state-run media said Friday.

The gathering of the Workers' Party of Korea, convened on Thursday with 5,000 delegates attending, is expected to last several days. Kim said the country fulfilled the five-year national economic development plan set forth at the previous congress in January 2021, according to the official Korean Central News Agency.

His opening speech did not touch on Pyongyang's relations with the United States and South Korea as well as its nuclear and

Thursday's Workers' Party meeting with 5,000 delegates is expected to last several days.



The Workers' Party of Korea's congress opened Thursday in Pyongyang. **PHOTO: KCNA/KYODO**

missile programmes.

Observers are watching for decisions on North Korean foreign and defence policies for the next five years and whether the leader's daughter, believed to be named Kim Ju Ae and in her teens, will receive an official title.

Earlier this month, South Korea's spy agency said the daughter had entered the "internal appointment stage" towards becoming Kim's designated successor, citing her continued public prominence. KCNA did not report if she attended Thursday's congress session.

Kim said in his speech that back in 2021 the country faced conditions "so harsh that we could hardly maintain our own existence". — Kyodo

Australian PM plays down chance of referendum on monarchy



On 27 September 2025, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese met King Charles III at Balmoral Castle in Scotland. **PHOTO: POOL/AFP/FILE**

PRIME Minister Anthony Albanese played down on Friday the chance of a vote to remove the British monarch as Australia's head of state following the arrest of former prince Andrew.

Albanese, who favours changing his country to a republic, said Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor's arrest and detention on suspicion of misconduct in public office represented "an extraordinary fall from grace".

However, he appeared to rule out holding a vote to re-

move Andrew's brother King Charles III as Australian head of state, recalling a failed 2023 referendum on Indigenous people's rights that he had supported during his first term in office.

"I'm a republican but we had a referendum during the last term. Referendums are hard to pass in Australia," Albanese said when asked in an interview with The Guardian whether Australia should reassess its ties with the monarchy.

He said he had a good rela-

tionship with King Charles, who he said loved Australia.

"But that doesn't change the fact that I think there should be an Australian head of state," Albanese said.

Australia was a British colony for more than 100 years and gained de facto independence in 1901, but has never become a fully-fledged republic.

In a 1999 referendum, Australians narrowly voted against removing Queen Elizabeth II after a row over whether her replacement would be chosen by members of parliament, not the public.

Twenty-five years later, a 2024 YouGov poll found that 37 per cent of respondents favoured Australia becoming a republic, 43 per cent were against and 20 per cent undecided.

Andrew's arrest on Thursday followed revelations last week that he appeared to have sent the late US sex offender Jeffrey Epstein potentially confidential documents while serving as a UK trade envoy. — AFP

Iran, Russia hold joint drill as Trump hints at 15-day deadline

NAVAL forces of Iran and Russia held a joint drill on Thursday in the Gulf of Oman and the northern Indian Ocean, amid growing speculation about an impending US military strike against Iran.

Special operation teams from Iran's army, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), and Russia conducted an operation to liberate a hijacked ship during the exercise, according to a report on the Iranian army's website.

The drill involved Iran's Alvand destroyer, missile-launching warships, helicopters,

landing craft, special operation teams, and combat speedboats, among others, the report said.

The exercise followed an IRGC drill in the Strait of Hormuz earlier this week, which included a temporary closure of the strategic waterway.

Meanwhile, US President Donald Trump said Thursday that Iran has 10 to 15 days to reach a deal over its nuclear program, warning that otherwise "really bad things" will happen.

"I would think that would be enough time," Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One. — Xinhua



Iranians visit an exhibition showcasing missile and drone achievements in Tehran on 12 November 2025. **PHOTO: ATTA KENARE / AFP / FILE**

SPORTS LOCAL



This image features a poster for the new selection of U16 players.

U16 players to be selected from Regions and States

NEW U16 players will be selected from different regions and states to help young, qualified national players in different age groups emerge for international tournaments, according to the Myanmar Football Federation.

The selection of new U16 players will be made in Kachin State, Mon State, Nay Pyi Taw, Shan State, Mandalay Region, Ayeyawady Region, Yangon Region, Bago Region, Magway Region, Taninthayi Region, Kayin State and Sagaing Region, with support from regional and state-level football federations and regional football training centres, it said.

For this project, scouting and regional selection teams have been set up, and outstanding new-generation players will be nominated by regional or state federations and regional football training centres.

Requirements are: approval signed by coach or club manager if the player is a member of a football club, or regional or state-level team must be submitted; players must be healthy with both physical and mental well-being, and must have original birth certificate, ID card, household list, school recommendation and two passport-sized photos (with application form). Players must be born between 1 January 2010 and 31 December 2011 and must have a private football jersey and shoes with parents' or guardians' approval.

Enthusiastic young players and guardians can contact regional or state football federations or regional football training centres. The following are contact numbers: 09 400038822 and 09 764320047 for Kachin State, 250 345219 and 09 693299602 for Mon State, 09 660032610 and 09 422588007 for Ayeyawady Region, 09 5417517 and 09 682777024 for Nay Pyi Taw, 09 2305302 and 09 769900600 for Yangon Region, 09 429666696 and 09 787411580 for Mandalay Region, 09 443388255 and 09 454639500 for Shan State, 09 448044663 for Bago Region, 09 780710953 for Magway Region, 09 5090454 for Taninthayi Region, 09 442333323 for Kayin State and 09 777333340 for Sagaing Region. — MT/ZS

Shan United hold Yangon United to goalless draw in title race thriller

IN Matchweek 18 fixtures of the 2025-2026 Myanmar National League (MNL), played on 20 February, Shan United secured a goalless away draw against Yangon United, strengthening their position in the race to defend the championship.

The closely contested match at the YUSC Ground ended 0-0. Yangon United, who needed a win to keep their title hopes firmly in their own hands, had to settle for a draw and must now rely on Shan United dropping points in upcoming matches. Defending champions Shan United maintained their unbeaten run and boosted confidence in their pursuit of a sixth consecutive league title and seventh overall. Shan United's unbeaten streak, which began in the 2020 season, has now reached 95 matches.

Given the significance of the match, both sides fielded full-strength line-ups. The first half produced limited attacking opportunities, while the second half saw more open play. Yangon United created several chances after the break but failed to convert them. Near the end of the match, Shan United defender Ye Min Thu received a red card for a reckless challenge.

In the other match at the Thuwun-



Yangon United and Shan United players compete during their MNL match. PHOTO: YUFC

na Youth Training Centre, Thitsa Arman and Dagon Port shared the points in a 2-2 draw in a crucial relegation battle. Thitsa Arman took the lead through Saw Myo Zaw in 11 and 67 minutes. Dagon Port responded with an equalizer by Cantona in 21 minutes and a late stoppage-time goal by Yan Naing Lin in 90+5 minutes.

After Matchweek 18, Yangon United lead the standings with 45 points, followed by Shan United with 43 points.

Dagon Star United sit third with 32 points, Hanthawady United have 27 points, Maha United and ISPE are level on 25 points, Ayeyawady United have 22 points, Yadanabon have 20 points, Rakhine United have 18 points, Thitsa Arman have 16 points, Dagon Port have 13 points, and Ramanya United have six points. Shan United and Rakhine United each have one match in hand, while the remaining teams have completed 18 matches. — Ko Nyi/KZL

Next Generation Youth Golf Tourney Awards event held



MGF President U Ko Ko Aye presents the trophy to Boys Under-18 champion Set Naing Aung.

THE awards event for the Next Generation Youth Golf Tournament, the opening event of the 2026 Myanmar Golf Federation (MGF) Chairman's Cup Golf Tournament, was held on 20 February at Yangon Golf Club (Danyingon) in Yangon.

The tournament was organized by the Myanmar Golf Federation with Sae Paing Development Ltd and Phyo Si Thu Teak Plantation (Myanmar) serving as

major sponsors. Following the final-day competitions, Junior Golf Myanmar Joint Secretary U Chit Swe presented a commemorative gift to the Yangon Golf Club in recognition of hosting the event. The gift was accepted by the club's General Manager, U Thein Zaw Wai.

Sae Paing Development Ltd representative U Kaung Htet Kyaw presented prizes to winners in the Junior Boy's Under-12 category. Aung Soe Tun secured

first prize with a total of 264 strokes, Kaung Khant Zaw claimed second prize with 288 strokes, and Phone Myat Kyaw received third prize with 306 strokes.

In the Girl's Under-18 category, prizes were awarded by Daw Su Paik of Sae Paing Development Limited, as Choi Hui won second prize with 260 strokes, while Cho Tha Aung captured first prize with 217 strokes.

Myanmar Golf Federation Joint General Secretary and Junior Golf Myanmar (JGM) Chairman U Aung Ko Zaw presented prizes in the Boy's Under-18 category. Khant Phone Lyan placed fifth with 244 strokes, Kyaw Than Lwin Hein finished fourth with 243 strokes, Choi Hwan earned third prize with 237 strokes, and Naing Oo Ko took second prize with 235 strokes. MGF President U Ko Ko Aye awarded the first prize to Set Naing Aung, who recorded 231 strokes.

The tournament was conducted over three days from 18 to 20 February. Alpine drinking water and Burmese Golf (BG) also provided extra support. — Shine Htet Zaw/KZL



China submits first comprehensive policy document outlining its stance on WTO reform

Amid severe trade challenges, China submitted a new position paper addressing shared development concerns.

China recently submitted to the World Trade Organization (WTO) a position paper outlining its stance on WTO reform under the current circumstances, the Ministry of Commerce said Thursday.

It is the first policy document China has submitted to the WTO since the launch of the necessary WTO reform process in June 2022, which comprehensively and systematically sets out China's position on WTO reform, an official with the ministry said.

China took the lead to call for the necessary WTO reform, and released a position paper in 2018 and submitted a proposal in 2019, the official said.

Against severe challenges facing the multilateral trading system and evolving development needs, China submitted the new position paper after taking into account its own concerns and those of other members, the official said.

The document is multilateral-oriented, development-focused and future-oriented, and sets out China's overall principles and action proposals for WTO reform under the current cir-



The World Trade Organization (WTO) Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala (C) speaks at a press conference on WTO's latest Global Trade Outlook and Statistics report at the WTO headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, 7 October 2025. PHOTO: MA RUXUAN/XINHUA/FILE

cumstances.

On multilateralism, it reiterates China's support for open and inclusive

economic globalization and its commitment to upholding the multilateral trading system, and underscores the

importance of advancing WTO reform under the current circumstances. — Xinhua

Japan remains committed to peace treaty with Russia: Foreign Minister

JAPAN continues to adhere to its policy of resolving the territorial issue and concluding a peace treaty with Russia, and also proceeds from the necessity of resolving existing problems by ensuring appropriate interaction and communication, Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi said on Friday.

"Relations between Japan and Russia are in a difficult situation, but the Japanese government adheres to the policy of resolving the issue of the ownership of the 'Northern Territories' [southern Kuril Islands] and concluding a peace treaty.

As neighbouring countries, Japan and Russia have many unresolved problems that need to be addressed while ensuring appropriate interaction and communication," Motegi said.

Tokyo intends to "persistently demand from the Russian side the resumption" of grave visit programmes for former residents of the Kuril Islands, the minister added.

A major territorial dispute over a chain of Pacific islands has marred the relations between Russia and Japan for decades and prevented them from signing a permanent peace treaty after World War

II. Moscow considers its sovereignty over the Kuril Islands an indisputable result of World War II, while Tokyo continues to refer to them as its "Northern Territories". — SPUTNIK



Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi speaks during a meeting in Moscow on 19 December 2019. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Budapest airport breaks ground on third terminal

HUNGARY'S state-owned Budapest Airport on Friday began construction of a third terminal, a one billion euro project that aims to capitalize on growing tourism numbers.

"If all our plans come to fruition, by the end of the decade Liszt Ferenc Airport will be able to establish itself as the region's most important commercial and tourist centre," Prime Minister Viktor Orbán said while laying a ceremonial foundation stone at the site.

The government acquired the Budapest airport in 2024 in what Orbán hailed as a "strategic takeover" in a deal that also involved France's Vinci, which operates it.

A record 19.6 million passengers travelled through it last year, up 12 per cent from 2024, and the government hopes the new terminal will boost airport capacity to 40 million people annually. — AFP