

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.

New law levies tax on EVs, revises duties on fuel-powered cars

Similarly, the 2026 Union Tax Law imposes a 10 per cent tax on imported fuel-powered vehicles, including vans, saloons, sedans, estate wagons and coupes, with engine capacities of 1,501 to 2,000 cc, 30 per cent on those ranging from 2,001 to 4,000 cc, and 50 per cent on vehicles of 4,001 cc and above.

According to the 2026 Union Tax Law, battery electric vehicles (BEVs) have been designated as special goods. In addition, under the provisions of the law, a five per cent special goods tax must be paid on the landed value when importing such battery electric vehicles.

These battery electric vehicles had previously been granted a tax exemption for two consecutive years. However, starting from 2026, they have been included in the Union Tax Law and are now subject to the imposition of the special goods tax.

Similarly, for the importation of fuel-powered vehicles such as vans, saloons, sedans, estate wagons, and coupes, the 2026 Union Tax Law stipulates that a tax rate of 10 per cent will be applied to vehicles with engine capacities ranging from 1,501 cubic centimetres to 2,000 cubic centimetres, 30 per cent for those from 2,001 cc to 4,000 cc, and 50 per cent for those with engine capacities of 4,001 cc and above. The 2026 Union Tax Law, enacted on 15 March 2026, will come into effect on 1 April 2026. — ASH/MKKS



This photo shows battery electric vehicles (BEVs) at a local car dealership.

ARTICLE

Changing Oneself is Changing the World

By Junior Thin

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Myanmar officials share electoral insights at Kazakhstan referendum observation

BUSINESS **PAGE 10**

Agriculture Dept, MRF eye Myanmar paddy seed exports

NATIONAL

Industrial Development Key to Improving People's Socioeconomic Life

❖ The agriculture sector, which serves as the primary and fundamental foundation of national economic development, must continue to progress steadily. Through the development of industries based on agriculture and livestock breeding must contribute towards improving the socioeconomic lives of the people continuously.

(An excerpt from the message sent by Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing to the ceremony to mark the 105th Anniversary of National Victory Day, which fell on 14 November 2025)

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

Objectives of 81st Armed Forces Day

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

Myanmar Gazette

Head of Service Organization appointed

THE National Defence and Security Council has appointed U Thein Win, Deputy Director-General of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union, as Director-General of the same organization on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

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.

Public Notice

17 March 2026

- The Ministry of Electric Power is making an effort to fully distribute 4,664 megawatts on a daily basis. However, due to the destruction of some main power lines and a decrease in natural gas supply, further generation of 500 megawatts from LNG power plants has been arranged. About 3,600 megawatts, which is 77 per cent of normal production capacity, are currently being generated and distributed. Moreover, repair works on damaged power lines are underway, and efforts are ongoing to generate electricity more from various energy sources.
- At present, March marks the summer, and the Ministry of Electric Power normally starts conserving water in dams to ensure electricity generation and distribution until June. However, during the period before and throughout the matriculation examinations, stored water from dams was used to increase electricity production in order to ensure an uninterrupted power supply for students' night study time and examination centres.
- However, starting from the days after the completion of the matriculation examinations, to ensure a balanced and continuous electricity supply until June during the summer and to manage the increased electricity consumption due to hot weather, planned load shedding will be applied in some areas and at certain times starting 18 March 2026. Electricity generated from Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) power plants and supplied through direct transmission lines will continue to be distributed without interruption, and these lines will not be subject to planned load shedding. Therefore, the public is respectfully requested to understand and be patient regarding the adaptation of planned load shedding due to reduced electricity generation, and to use electricity systematically.

Ministry of Electric Power

Zoos boost care, nutrition for endangered tigers amid declining wild numbers

TIGERS facing the threat of extinction are being systematically fed and cared for in zoos in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay to help stimulate their instincts, according to a statement from Yangon Zoological Gardens.

Zoo authorities prepare food for carnivorous animals, including tigers, in a manner that ensures proper nutrition, safety and the encouragement of natural behaviour. Officials also monitor whether the animals fully consume the food provided and maintain detailed health records to ensure appropriate care.

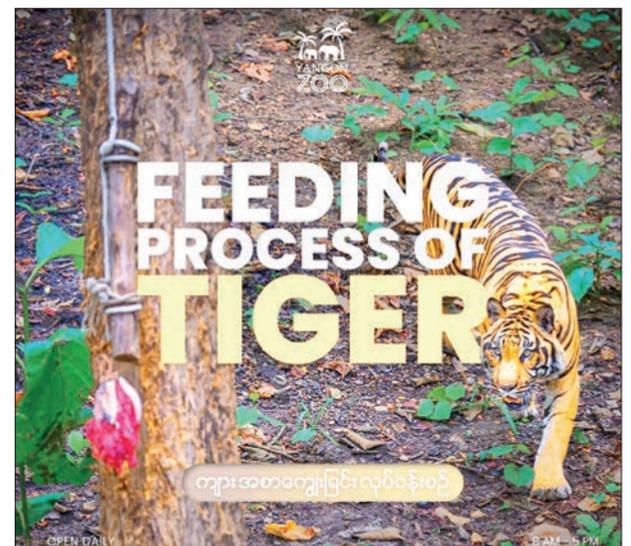
Fresh beef is used as the primary food source. Adult male tigers are fed about three viss of beef per day, while females receive approximately 2.75 viss, depending on

age and sex. To ensure balanced nutrition, calcium and multivitamin supplements are also mixed with the meat.

Globally, only about 3,600 tigers remain in the wild, while fewer than 150 are believed to survive in Myanmar. Scientific population surveys will continue under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation.

In the Hukong Valley Wildlife Sanctuary in Kachin State, the world's largest tiger conservation area, just over 50 tigers are estimated to remain.

In the wild, tigers typically live between 10 and 15 years; however, with proper care, they can live for up to around 20 years. — ASH/KZL



An illustration of the tiger feeding process.

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)

MoFA celebrates 79th anniversary

THE 79th anniversary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, with three main events: offering alms to monks in the morning, an award ceremony for outstanding staff, and a dinner with entertainment.

Union Minister U Than Swe and staff donated alms to monks and shared merits. Awards were presented to staff who excelled in training courses conducted at the Civil Service Academy (Upper Myanmar and Lower Myanmar), as well as to winners of the December sports competitions of the Ministry.

Union Minister U Than Swe made a speech at the dinner.

He highlighted Myanmar's long diplomatic history, its relations with 127 countries, and ongoing efforts to strengthen international cooperation and the state's image. He also emphasized the importance of skilled diplomats, teamwork, and protecting citizens' interests abroad.

The event included singing, performances, dance competitions, and lucky draws, and was concluded successfully.

— MNA/KTZH



The celebration of the 79th anniversary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is underway yesterday, attended by Union Minister U Than Swe.

Committee on Myanmar-Thailand Transboundary Haze Pollution Prevention holds meeting

DEPUTY Minister for Defence Maj-Gen Aung Myo Thant, who is also chairman of the Committee on Myanmar-Thailand Transboundary Haze Pollution Prevention, presided over the first coordination meeting of the committee in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking at the meeting, the deputy minister highlighted the meetings held to reduce Myanmar-Thai transboundary haze pollution after the formation of the committee and the intention of holding the current meeting to reduce fire hotspots, especially in March, April and May.

He continued that fire hotspots tend to occur more frequently during hot and dry years, and haze pollution commonly arises from January to May. As transboundary haze pollution is a frequent issue among neighbouring countries, it is important to prioritize control and



The first coordination meeting of the Committee on Myanmar-Thailand Transboundary Haze Pollution Prevention is in progress yesterday, addressed by Deputy Defence Minister Maj-Gen Aung Myo Thant.

reduction measures before the dry season intensifies.

To reduce fire hotspots and control transboundary haze pollution, priority areas will be designated based on the number and density of hotspots in respective regions and states. Continuous efforts will include promoting upland farming instead of shifting cultivation,

producing fertilizer from agricultural waste, preventing careless use of fire in forests, raising public awareness, monitoring hotspot occurrences, measuring air quality, preparing response plans for haze pollution, and conducting simulation exercises.

He mentioned the main causes of fire in 2025, measures

to conduct public awareness and priorities to reduce fire hotspots and meet the target in 2026.

He also urged cooperation with the department concerned in monitoring fire hotspots and measuring air quality in respective regions, and suggested proper activities to reduce fire hotspots and to carry out haze pollution prevention measures

as a national task.

Committee First Vice-Chair Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Phyo Thant, Second Vice-Chair Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Min Thu and the committee secretary briefed the awareness programmes conducted at the affiliated departments, one development university, two degree colleges and over 100 schools under the Ministry of Border Affairs using documentary video sent by Thailand, data of ASMC Website that shows highest number of hotspots in recent years occurred in eastern Myanmar and northern Thailand during March and April and ongoing preventive measures.

Participants coordinated the discussion, and the deputy minister concluded the meeting. — MNA/KTZH

NATIONAL

Union Education Minister oversees exams in Nay Pyi Taw

UNION Minister for Education Dr Chaw Chaw Sein inspected students sitting examinations at the Naypyitaw State Academy on the morning of 16 March, accompanied by Deputy Minister Dr Zaw Myint, the academy's rector, and other officials.

The Union minister observed students sitting their first-semester examinations for the 2025-2026 academic year. This included first- to fifth-year (Law) students, as well as those enrolled in honours and postgraduate programmes.

The first-semester examinations at the Naypyitaw State Academy are being held from 16 to 24 March. During the inspection, the Union minister instructed officials to ensure that students could sit their examinations in a calm environment and that all administrative



Union Minister Dr Chaw Chaw Sein is pictured during her inspection tour in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

arrangements proceeded smoothly.

The Union minister later visited the examination centre at Basic Education High School No 6 in Zabuthiri

Township to observe students taking their matriculation examinations.

In the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, a total of 14,914 candidates registered

for the 2026 matriculation examination across 49 centres. On the sixth day, 14,085 students sat the Biology and Economics papers. — MNA/KZL

Myanmar officials share electoral insights at Kazakhstan referendum observation



UEC members present their electoral insights at the Kazakhstan referendum briefing on 15 March 2026.

UNION Election Commission Members U Than Htut Thein and U Khin Maung Gyi arrived back in Yangon by air yesterday evening, following an observation mission to the national referendum held in Kazakhstan on 15 March 2026. The visit was conducted at the invitation of the Chairperson of the Central Election Commission of Kazakhstan.

During the mission, the delegation attended a briefing on the conduct of the national referendum hosted by the Central Referendum Commission of the Republic of Kazakhstan (CRCRK) on 14 March. On the day of the referendum, 15 March,

the members observed the voting process and monitored the subsequent ballot counting. On 16 March, they attended a formal session at which the preliminary referendum results were announced.

Furthermore, the delegation met officials from various international election commissions and organizations participating in the observation mission. During these meetings, they engaged in a cordial and open exchange of views regarding electoral experiences and best practices. — MNA/KNN

NIA arrests 6 Ukrainians, 1 American over alleged terror plot in India

THE National Investigation Agency (NIA) of India has arrested seven foreign nationals – six Ukrainians and one American – on charges of conspiring to carry out terrorist activities

against India.

The arrests were made at airports in Delhi, Kolkata, and Lucknow. Investigations revealed that the accused had entered India on valid visas but had proceeded to Mizoram without permission. From there, they crossed into Myanmar, where they reportedly met ethnic groups hostile to India. Investigations also uncovered that they had delivered multiple consignments of drones from Europe to armed groups.

The suspects were brought to Delhi and remanded in custody until 27 March, while investigations are ongoing, according to The Indian Express. — MNA/TH



This news grab displays a terror story along with its accompanying photograph and caption.

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NATIONAL

High turnout nationwide on Day 6 of 2026 matric exams

THE 2026 matriculation examination and the 2026 industrial, agricultural and livestock matriculation examinations continued to their sixth day yesterday nationwide, including at overseas examination centres.

For the 2026 matriculation examination, a total of 887 centres were opened this year, comprising 16 overseas centres and 871 domestic centres. Altogether, 268,753 candidates registered for the examination. On the sixth day, 254,624

candidates sat Biology and Economics, while 14,129 were absent, resulting in an attendance rate of 94.74 per cent. For the 2026 industrial, agricultural and livestock matriculation examinations, a total of 53 domestic centres were

opened. A total of 3,386 candidates registered, of whom 3,364 sat the examinations – Carpentry and Woodworking, Industrial Electric Motor Control, and Machine Cutting Technology under the Mechanical subject; Social Sciences under

the Agricultural subject; and Beef Cattle Breeding under the Livestock subject, while 22 candidates were absent, giving an attendance rate of 99.35 per cent, according to the Ministry of Education. — MNA/MKKS

2025-2026 matric exams conclude smoothly nationwide



Students leave their final-day exams with joy PHOTO-KANU

AS the 2025-2026 academic year matriculation examination, along with the industrial, agricultural and livestock matriculation examinations, continued nationwide yesterday from 9 am to 12 noon, students sat Biology and Economics, as well as Industrial, Agricultural and Livestock subjects, in a balmy manner.

On the final day of the matriculation examination, students sat for Biology and Economics at 111 examination centres across 45 townships in 14 districts of Yangon Region. Meanwhile, 402 candidates – 244 males and 158 females – taking the industrial, agricultural and livestock

matriculation examinations sat Carpentry and Woodworking, Industrial Electric Motor Control, and Machine Cutting Technology under the Mechanical subject; Social Sciences under the Agricultural subject; and Beef Cattle Breeding under the Livestock subject at four examination centres.

At the examination centre in Insein Central Prison, 36 candidates, including 33 males and three females, sat the examination. In addition, seven candidates took the examination at Mingaladon Hospital, Thingangyun Hospital, Dagon (North) Hospital, North Okkalapa Hospital, Bahan Hospital

and Lanmadaw Hospital.

Traffic police and relevant officials, together with health officers from respective townships, members of the Red Cross, and the fire brigade, provided security and assistance throughout the examination period to ensure smooth travel and peace of mind for students in Yangon Region.

The remaining subjects – drawing of civil in industrial subject, Introduction to Basic Programmes, and mechanical drawing – will be taken on 18 March by candidates sitting the industrial, agricultural and livestock matriculation examinations. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/MKKS

MGMA offers 3-day advanced-level mechanic training

THE Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association (MGMA) has announced that an advanced-level mechanic training course, conducted by experts from JUKI Company, will be held for three days.

The training will take place from 24 to 26 March at the Myanmar Garment Human Resources Development Centre (MGHRDC).

This course is highly recommended for mechanics currently working in garment factories. The

curriculum will focus on Button-hole Machine (LBH-1790A), Bartacking Machine (LK-1900B) and Control Box Systems. Training is from 9 am to 4 pm, and fees are K100,000 for MGMA members and K250,000 for non-members.

For more details regarding the training, interested persons can contact the following numbers 09 795405583 and 09 450723262, and the address at 400/B, Lower Mingaladon Road, Sinngu Ward, Insein Township. — MT/ZN

MECHANIC TRAINING ADVANCED LEVEL

- Button Hole machine, LBH-1790A
- Bartacking Machine LK-1900B
- Control Box System

24-26 MAR, 2026
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
MGHRDC

FEE
MEMBER - 100,000 MMK
NON - MEMBER - 250,000 MMK

09795405583 အမှတ်-၄၀၀/ခ၊ အောက်မင်္ဂလာဒုံလမ်းမကြီး၊ စဉ့်တုံ
09450723262 ရပ်ကွက်၊ အင်းစိန်မြို့နယ်။

This image displays an announcement poster for the advanced-level mechanic training.

Daily newspapers available online

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News and Periodicals Enterprise



NATIONAL

Union Tax Law 2026

CONTINUED FROM YESTERDAY

No	Types of Special Goods	Value	Tariff
9	Varieties of beer		60 per cent
10	(a) Varieties of wine	If wine fetches prices ranging from K700 to K3,500 per litre	K250 per litre
	(b) Varieties of wine	If wine fetches prices ranging from K3,501 to K5,000 per litre	K561 per litre
	(c) Varieties of wine	If wine fetches prices ranging from K5,001 to K6,500 per litre	K891 per litre
	(d) Varieties of wine	If wine fetches prices ranging from K6,501 to K8,000 per litre	K1,262 per litre
	(e) Varieties of wine	If wine fetches prices ranging from K8,001 to K9,500 per litre	K1,799 per litre
	(f) Varieties of wine	If wine fetches prices ranging from K9,501 to K11,500 per litre	K2,294 per litre
	(g) Varieties of wine	If wine fetches prices ranging from K11,501 to K13,500 per litre	K2,773 per litre
	(h) Varieties of wine	If wine fetches prices ranging from K13,501 to K15,500 per litre	K3,284 per litre
	(i) Varieties of wine	If wine fetches prices ranging from K15,501 to K19,000 per litre	K3,779 per litre
	(j) Varieties of wine	If wine fetches prices ranging from K19,001 to K23,500 per litre	K4,356 per litre
	(k) Varieties of wine	If wine fetches prices ranging from K23,501 to K26,000 per litre	K5,016 per litre
	(l) Varieties of wine	If wine fetches prices ranging from K26,001 to K30,100 per litre	K5,676 per litre
	(m) Varieties of wine	If wine fetches prices ranging from K30,101 and above per litre	50 per cent of the value per litre
11	Logs, sawn timbers		5 per cent
12	(a) Battery electric vehicle		5 per cent
	(b) vans saloon, sedan, estate wagon and coupe installed from 1,501 cc to 2,000 cc, except pickup cars, including double cab 4-door pickup cars		10 per cent
	(c) vans saloon, sedan, estate wagon and coupe installed from 2,001 cc to 4,000 cc, except pickup cars, including double cab 4-door pickup cars		30 per cent
	(d) vans saloon, sedan, estate wagon and coupe installed 4,001 cc and above, except pickup cars, including double cab 4-door pickup cars		50 per cent
13	Kerosene, petrol, diesel, and jet fuel		5 per cent
14	Natural gas		8 per cent

(b) A person who exports the following special goods to a foreign country shall be liable to pay Special Goods Tax on the proceeds from such sales in accordance with the tariffs set out alongside. No Special Goods Tax shall be imposed on the export of special goods other than those specified. In exporting special goods that are subject to tax, the Special Goods Tax previously paid at the time of purchasing, importing, or manufacturing the goods shall be credited against the Special Goods Tax payable on such

export in accordance with the prescribed rules and conditions -

No	Types of goods	Tariff
1	Logs, sawn timbers	10 per cent

- (c) If goods imported under the Temporary Admission or Drawback system in accordance with customs procedures are used for domestic consumption without being re-exported within the prescribed period, the Special Goods Tax that was originally granted exemption shall be repaid.
12. Among the special goods subject to tax under this Law, if the total annual sales proceeds from the production and sale of tobacco, cheroots, and cigars manufactured and sold domestically by the cooperative sector and the private sector do not exceed K20 million within a year, no Special Goods Tax shall be levied.
13. The definitions of the terms set out in Chapter (V) of this Law shall be the same as those provided in the Special Goods Tax Law.

Chapter VI

Commercial Tax

14. In accordance with Section 6 of the Commercial Tax Law, schedules annexed to that Law are hereby prescribed as follows: -

Schedules annexed of Commercial Tax Law

- (a) No Commercial Tax shall be levied in respect of any of the goods listed below: -

No	Types of goods
Foodstuff commodities	
1	Paddy, rice, broken rice, bran, coarse bran, paddy husk, wheat seed, wheat bran, wheat coarse bran, maize, varieties of maize seeds
2	Pulses and beans, crushed beans, varieties of pea flour, pea bran, groundnut pod, groundnut seed, sesame, niger, groundnut expeller cake, sesame expeller cake, cotton expeller cake, bran expeller cake
3	Garlic, onion, potato, spicy leaves, fruits, seeds, barks, curry powder, chilli, chilli powder, turmeric, turmeric powder, ginger, tamarind, salts
4	Various green fruits and vegetables
5	Green tea, dried tea, processed dried tea, packaged dried tea
6	Fresh fish, fresh shrimp, fresh meat, chicken eggs, duck eggs
7	Peanut oil, sesame oil
8	Sugarcane, sugar, jaggery, brown slab-sugar, soyabean milk, milk, dairy products, condensed milk, evaporated milk, milk powder, yoghurt
9	Creamers
10	Various fish sauces, dried fish, dried shrimps, pickled fish, pickled shrimp, shrimp dust, fish meal, varieties of fish paste
Goods related to agriculture and livestock breeding	
11	Mulberry leaf, cocoon
12	Living animals, fish, shrimps, land animals, aquatic animals, amphibians, their eggs, larvae, offspring, species, aquatic plants and seeds, saplings, fungi, fungus
13	Various fertilizers including humus and chemical fertilizers used in agricultural sector to help thrive plants with high blooming and bearing fruits, agricultural pesticides for fungus, bacteria, nematode, agricultural vaccines and germicides, various sprays for livestock farms (except sprays and rat killers), drugs for animals, fish and shrimps, (including drugs and vaccines certified by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation and recommended drugs issued by the Department of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary, raw materials and finished products for feeds of animals, fish and shrimps, (except animal feeds for pets)
14	Quality oil palm, sunflower seeds, cotton seeds, pumpkin seeds, watermelon seeds, cashew seeds, areca, areca shell and quality seeds, and saplings
15	Raw cotton, varieties of cotton, cardamom, Thanaka, horticultural products not mentioned in other places, and coconut oil (not palm oil)
16	Fibre of coconut shells
17	Firwood, bamboo, raw and finished rattan, firewood substitute briquette
Goods for use at schools and offices	
18	Sealing wax, various stamps (including tax stamps)
19	State flag
20	Slate, slate pencil, chalk, pencil lead
21	Various school textbooks, various books on knowledge and skill used for basic education schools, universities and colleges, notebooks, drawing books, fiction and non-fiction books, magazines, periodicals and newspapers, paper for these products (measuring 40 grammes per square metre to 80 grammes per square metre), various pencils, rulers, erasers, and pencil sharpeners
Goods-related healthcare measures	
22	Traditional medicines
23	Mosquito repellents

TO BE CONTINUED

Republic of the Union of Myanmar National Defence and Security Council

Myanmar Passport Law (National Defence and Security Council Law 19/2026)

15th Waning of Taboung 1387 ME
17 March 2026

THE National Defence and Security Council enacts this Law under Section 427 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar:

Chapter I

Title, Jurisdiction, and Definitions

1. This law shall be called the Myanmar Passport Law.
2. Any person who commits an offence punishable under this law, whether within the country, or on board any vessel, aircraft, or any motor vehicle registered under the existing laws of Myanmar, or outside the country by a Myanmar citizen, a person entitled to hold a Myanmar passport, or a person with permanent residence in Myanmar, shall be subject to jurisdiction under this law.
3. The following expressions contained in this Law shall have the meanings given hereunder —
 - (a) State means the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
 - (b) Relevant Ministry means the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or the Ministry of Immigration and Population of the Union Government.
 - (c) Citizen means a person recognized as a citizen under the Myanmar Citizenship Law.
 - (d) Associate Citizen means a person designated as an associate citizen under the Myanmar Citizenship Law.
 - (e) Naturalized Citizen means a person designated as a naturalized citizen under the Myanmar Citizenship Law.
 - (f) Unique Identification Number (UID) means the certificate issued by the Ministry of Immigration and Population to citizens, associate citizens, and naturalized citizens.
 - (g) Certificate of Identification means a certificate issued for one-time use by Myanmar embassies, consulates, or mission offices in foreign countries to Myanmar citizens or persons presumed to be Myanmar citizens who are abroad, to allow them to return to Myanmar.
 - (h) Myanmar Passport means a regular passport, special passport, or diplomatic passport of Myanmar.
 - (i) Person entitled to apply for a Myanmar passport means a citizen, associate citizen, or naturalized citizen.
 - (j) Ordinary Passport means a Myanmar passport issued to a person entitled to apply for a Myanmar passport by the Myanmar Passport Issuance Board under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
 - (k) Special Passport means a Myanmar passport issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to military personnel, members of the Myanmar Police Force, government officials, or any person sent abroad by the State for special assignments.
 - (l) Diplomatic Passport means a Myanmar passport issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to diplomats, senior officials of ministries, or any person sent abroad by the State for special assignments.
 - (m) Electronic Passport (e-passport) means a Myanmar passport in which the applicant's personal data is embedded in a chip, providing a higher level of security.
 - (n) Myanmar Passport Issuance Board means the body established under this law to carry out Myanmar passport issuance procedures.
 - (o) Myanmar Passport Issuance Office means the Myanmar Passport Issuance Office (Yangon) and its branch offices.

Chapter II Objectives

4. Objectives of this law are as follows: -
 - (a) To carry out, in accordance with the law, the issuance, use, renewal, refusal, or cancellation of Myanmar passports.
 - (b) To protect national security and national interests through the systematic issuance of Myanmar passports.
 - (c) To properly manage travel abroad using Myanmar passports.
 - (d) To take appropriate legal action in the event of loss or damage to a Myanmar passport.
 - (e) To legally prevent forgery, alteration, destruction, or any form of unauthorized transfer of Myanmar passports.

Chapter III

Establishment of Myanmar Passport Issuance Board, Its Responsibilities and Authority

5. The Union Government –

- (a) The Myanmar Passport Issuance Board shall be established as follows: -
 - (1) Deputy Minister
Ministry of Home Affairs
Chairperson
 - (2) Chief of Police
Myanmar Police Force
Ministry of Home Affairs
Member
 - (3) Director-General
Bureau of Special Investigation
Ministry of Home Affairs
Member
 - (4) Director-General
Consular and Legal Affairs Department
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Member
 - (5) Director-General
Internal Revenue Department
Ministry of Finance and Revenue
Member
 - (6) Director-General
Legislative Vetting Department
Ministry of Legal Affairs
Member
 - (7) Director-General
Immigration Department
Ministry of Immigration and Population
Member
 - (8) Director-General
Labour Department
Ministry of Labour
Member
 - (9) A representative
Office of the Chief of Defence Services Military Affairs Security
Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army)
Member
 - (10) A representative
Directorate of Security Printing
Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army)
Member
 - (11) Commander
Special Branch, Myanmar Police Force
Ministry of Home Affairs
Secretary
- (b) The Myanmar Passport Issuance Board may, if necessary, be re-established.
6. The responsibilities and authority of the Myanmar Passport Issuance Board are as follows: -
 - (a) To formulate policies and procedures related to Myanmar passports and implement them.
 - (b) To coordinate with relevant ministries to ensure that Myanmar passports comply with international standards.
 - (c) To determine the validity period and necessary conditions for ordinary passports for special cases.
 - (d) To provide guidance and supervision over the operations of Myanmar Passport Issuance Offices, Myanmar embassies abroad, consulates-general, or mission offices.
 - (e) To examine applications submitted to Myanmar embassies, consulates-general, or mission offices abroad for passport renewal, replacement due to loss or damage, application for additional births, or certificate of identification, and to approve or reject them.
 - (f) To examine applications for ordinary passports and grant, refuse, or restrict them.
 - (g) To cancel issued Myanmar passports.
 - (h) To determine, with the consent of the Union Government, the fees payable under this law for passport applications, renewals, replacements due to loss or damage, or reapplications.
 - (i) To examine applications for urgent passport issuance submitted by persons entitled to apply for a Myanmar passport for important or emergency reasons, and approve or reject them.
 - (j) To enter names on the blacklist if notified by the relevant ministry.
 - (k) To serve passport-related duties as assigned from time to time by the Union Government.

TO BE CONTINUED

OPINION

Ensure life expectancy with health and fitness

AS the saying goes, "Health is wealth", it is well understood that no matter how much a person earns in life, if they are not in good health, all their wealth will eventually be useless. Only when wealth is properly managed with property and integrity can it be preserved, maintained, and allowed to grow.

Therefore, every person must be healthy to be able to live happily with their family and community to enjoy their life expectancy, health and fitness. Otherwise, they will lose their property one after another. As health helps create freshness and activeness to be able to manage everything under their management, good health is essential for all.

Only through the health and vitality of the people can a nation achieve its production capacity, maintain stability, and ensure sustainable development for the future. Therefore, in line with the third objective of the National Defence and Security Council, which emphasizes "To put emphasis on enhancing the national education and health sectors for sustainable development of the State", it is essential to strengthen the population's physical fitness for their life expectancy, prevent disease, and maintain overall health. Without this, national progress cannot be achieved effectively.

Therefore, in line with the third objective of the National Defence and Security Council, which emphasizes "To put emphasis on enhancing the national education and health sectors for sustainable development of the State", it is essential to strengthen the population's physical fitness for their life expectancy, prevent disease, and maintain overall health. Without this, national progress cannot be achieved effectively.

It is only through good health that one can learn and work effectively; without it, life and personal development cannot progress properly. People have to follow the prescriptions directed by physicians. That is why people must be encouraged to cultivate knowledge, awareness, and habits that support health before any problems arise, so that they can live a strong and productive life.

Humans often fail to appreciate or properly care for their health, neglecting it during their daily routines and not valuing its importance. Those who spend their time without taking breaks or resting, constantly engaged in work or other activities, often fail to recognize the true worth of their well-being. Therefore, in order for every person to live a healthy and fulfilling life, it is essential to cultivate good habits that protect and maintain their health before any problems arise.

This year, unhealthy eating habits and lifestyles that are not aligned with good health have affected people's well-being. In addition, insufficient daily physical activity has disrupted normal blood circulation. Therefore, it is necessary for everyone to maintain a balanced lifestyle that supports good health. Proper nutrition, adequate sleep, and regular exercise help maintain blood circulation and overall well-being; without these, one cannot achieve true health.

Only through the health and vitality of the people can a nation achieve its production capacity, maintain stability, and ensure sustainable development for the future.

Changing Oneself is Changing the World

By Junior Thin

Great changes in the world are not always created by very big actions. Sometimes they begin with small and simple good deeds done in our daily lives. If people help one another with kindness, sympathy, and responsibility, society will gradually become better and more peaceful.

When individuals try to do their duties honestly and help others whenever possible, these small actions can influence many people around them. As a result, the community becomes stronger and more united.

Therefore, instead of waiting for big opportunities to change the world, every person should start with small, good actions in their daily life. These simple efforts can finally lead to meaningful and positive changes in society.

Changing oneself is the way to change the world. Human daily lives cannot be separated from the surrounding environment. In society, people often face many difficulties and inconveniences related to politics, economics, social affairs, and workplace conditions.

If we truly want to create genuine progress and change in these problems, instead of blaming and criticizing others, we should begin by changing ourselves. By building ourselves as disciplined individuals with good character, honesty, responsibility, and awareness of our duties, we can become useful persons not only for ourselves but also for others. This is the single most important key to benefiting both oneself and society.

Avoiding Blame and the Foundation of Change

By nature, people tend to hide their own weaknesses and

shift their mistakes onto others. In workplaces, when we see problems such as a lack of unity, irresponsibility, or other undesirable situations, people often blame others by saying, "It is because of them" or "It is because of the system." Such blaming only gives temporary psychological relief.

Criticism and blame do not produce constructive solutions. Instead, they make the environment more tense and toxic. According to psychologists, blaming others is often an attempt to make oneself appear superior by pointing out others' weaknesses. Such behaviour does not create positive results and may even harm the surrounding environment.

One of the greatest social movements in the world was inspired by the famous guidance of Mahatma Gandhi, who said, "Be the change that you wish to see in the world."

This statement changed the way people think. Gandhi emphasized that change should not begin outside but within ourselves. Instead of blaming the environment, we should begin by becoming the kind of person we want to see in the world. By developing empathy, discipline, and responsibility within ourselves, we begin the process of changing the world around us. Only through this method can we demonstrate true responsibility, awareness, and leadership.

Self-Development and Taking Responsibility with Sacrifice

To become a person who benefits oneself and society, we must begin by building ourselves with moral values and discipline. Most problems in the world begin in the hearts of individuals.



Greed, anger, and ignorance arise from individuals and gradually combine to create major social problems.

People often try to hide their own faults while exaggerating the faults of others. As a result, problems become worse while time is wasted on criticism. Therefore, the first task of someone who wants to change the world is to change their own heart and mind. Self-reflection and self-examination are the first steps towards real change.

Discipline and Good Character

Discipline is as fundamental as breathing. It can begin with simple daily habits such as being punctual, keeping promises, and maintaining personal integrity. Discipline means controlling oneself to act according to one's goals and values. It is the foundation of all success. With discipline, a person can fulfil responsibilities properly in both professional and family life.

Good character means re-

maining honest, fair, and morally upright even when no one is watching. Psychologists say that good character is an essential component of leadership. When a person is disciplined and morally upright, their words and actions become consistent, and people around them naturally develop trust in them.

Loyalty and Sacrifice

Loyalty means faithfully standing by one's commitments, relationships, and organization. In the workplace, an employee's loyalty greatly contributes to the stability of the organization. Even when difficulties and temptations arise, remaining faithful to one's responsibilities and principles is a highly respected quality.

Sacrifice means giving up personal benefits, time, or energy for the benefit of others. Instead of merely criticizing the lack of compassion in society, personally helping others in their difficulties is a true expression of empathy. Sacrifice is one of the most fundamental attitudes in

working for the welfare of others.

Responsibility and Consideration

Fulfilling responsibilities means carrying out one's duties towards work, family, and society with dedication and effort. In a time when irresponsibility is commonly seen, those who work hard and take responsibility can become role models for others.

Consideration and emotional intelligence are also very important social virtues. Emotional intelligence is the ability to understand others' feelings and manage one's own emotions. Consideration means expressing the truth at the right time and in the right way without hurting others' dignity. This helps reduce unnecessary conflicts in workplaces and communities.

The Ripple Effect of Change and Serving the Common Good

When a person builds himself with discipline and moral values, the inner change natu-

rally spreads outward into the world. Changing oneself is like throwing a stone into water: The impact of a single stone creates ripples that spread across the entire surface.

Becoming a Role Model

When a person demonstrates discipline, loyalty, and responsibility, their actions inspire others. Instead of teaching with words alone, showing good behaviour through personal actions becomes a powerful example.

Young people especially tend to imitate the behaviour of leaders rather than just listening to their words. In this way, a person's conduct can guide others toward a better path and become a role model for society.

Being Useful to Society and the World

When a person becomes disciplined and takes pride in his work, the quality of his work improves, and mistakes decrease. For example, when an engineer builds a structure responsibly with discipline and honesty, it provides safety and reliability for those who use it. In this way, one's work becomes beneficial to society.

According to social scientists, when individuals improve their moral values and character, they collectively build social capital – trust, cooperation, and unity within society. As a result, individual change can lead society towards peace and harmony.

Many people feel that changing the world is too big a task and do not know where to begin. However, the answer is simple: start by changing oneself.

Striving to become disciplined, morally upright, loyal, self-sacrificing, responsible, and considerate benefits not only oneself but also society and the world. Blaming others only wastes time, but improving oneself creates real positive change.

Therefore, even a small change within oneself can lead to great changes in the world. Without delaying any longer, we should begin today. Although external changes may take time, internal change can begin immediately. By firmly believing that changing oneself is the first step towards changing the world, we should start improving ourselves from today.

Before Functional Language Writing

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

IT is natural if we say that whatever we cannot do will be difficult for us at all. But in language practice, most learners often believe that the writing skill of the language is the most difficult among the four language skills, for the potential reason that the written matter is not always an easy task to correct very quickly if we make a mistake about it. Rarely is a learner's writing with fluency and accuracy on some matter his inherited ability, except for some persons like U Ponnya, a great poet laureate in the Konbaung era of Myanmar. In schools, students must take exercises for essays, letters and emails as the language writing skill before reading the very works of literature in the future. Of course, anything that we have written should work. Additionally, everything that we have composed should do any good, functioning effectively and efficiently. So, before this writing,

there are still several useful tasks which we are able to follow quite easily. Sometimes, very little but important things make a big deal. Hence, language learners can conduct the following until their willingly targeted writing.

Previous to great writing, we can just start reading a short article. Instead of scrolling on our phones, we should read a short English article, especially during our commute or break time. Many people tend to waste their precious time commuting from one place to another or having a break between periods of time for nothing. In the space of that length, we will be able to read a kind of short article on a trip at one sitting or exactly for fifteen minutes. Certainly, short articles may never seem boring for whoever is an elementary or advanced learner of the language, since they usually save so much time that the learners can absorb detailed information in clusters in a moment with their eyes shut. Furthermore, a good choice of words, that is, short-to-the-point words, is often selected by most writers of a short article.

No matter what kind of sub-

ject matter is read, we had better set a reading goal, for example, to sit the entrance examination, to go abroad for regional knowledge, or to communicate with overseas friends and teachers by email or letter and so on. And we have to aim to read in English at least three times a week. On those days, we must read English only as much as possible, not the others. Sayama Khin Khin Htoo once stated that her husband, writer Saya Nay Win Myint, likes to read only English on Sundays, not in Myanmar at all. Also, it is best if we are able to read English every day without fail, for instance, at a rate of about thirty minutes each day. Such a reading routine would be better than one where we read one day but not another day. As we are all aware, little and often makes a big difference. The more reading, the better writing.

Following enough study of reading, we ought to keep an English journal, where the term journal means a written record of the things we know, see and do day by day. Writing in a journal helps us practise new words, grammar, and express ourselves simply, as we all can't know English usages and expressions which will describe whatever we want, like the back of our hand. Thus, while writing a journal, we may try using some of our never-before-seen words or vocabulary to the extent that we would like to show. Subsequently, we can write the three things we did one day. Here, I want to mean that we can note down three things we did each day. To be candid, it is absolutely simple and great for fluency because this enables us to decide whether or not we can tell any theme effectively and efficiently, rather than normally. Then, we can even write about our future; that will involve our dreams, ideas and plans. It makes us practise and reflect on any matter to see if we have subject mastery and language proficiency as well. After all, someone's writing may mark an important milestone in his life, I strongly hope.

NATIONAL BUSINESS

Agriculture Dept, MRF eye Myanmar paddy seed exports

THE Agriculture Department and Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) are making efforts to export Myanmar's paddy seeds to foreign countries, including the Philippines, Bangladesh, and Indonesia.

MRF has been planning for paddy seed export to Bangladesh, the Philippines and Indonesia together with the Department of Agriculture.

"Paddy is extremely valuable. When green paddy for milling is worth around US\$300-400 per tonne, seeds can fetch up to \$700-800 per tonne. Therefore, farmers have to estimate profit per acre and determine the grain production or seed production. The Netherlands and Belgium are the leading countries in seed production and plant breeding, holding the top position in international seed export. Myanmar has self-sufficiency in paddy seed production. Consequently, the country is planning to export the paddy seed of some varieties. Some rice seeds are still being



Farmers undergo a strenuous ploughing and planting process in the rice fields. The inset shows rows of rice plants.

imported," elaborated MRF President U Ye Min Aung.

Additionally, Myanmar is producing pulse seeds as well.

Yet, some pulse varieties and maize are imported.

There are two types of maize: grain corn and sweet

corn. The grain corn for animal feed and processed food fetches only \$200 per tonne, while sweet corn is valued at up to \$500 to

\$600 per tonne. Therefore, it is necessary to cultivate both grain corn and sweet corn in order to reduce seed import. — ASH/KK

YR distributes 20,000 visses of onions at subsidized prices

A total of 20,000 visses of onions were sold to the public in townships across Yangon Region at lower prices than the market rate.

The distribution was carried out on 16 March through coordination by the Yangon Region Cooperative Department to support the development and continuous operation of cooperative retail

businesses and to provide basic food items to consumers and the public at affordable prices.

The onions were sourced from the Seikphyu area in Magway Region through cooperation with the Magway Region Cooperative Syndicate and distributed to cooperative associations and the public across Yangon Region. — Bala/KZL



Consumers line up for discounted onion sales.

CBM sells \$2.38M to edible oil importers

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold over US\$2.38 million to edible oil-importing companies on 16 March, along with an injection of 1.15 million baht into the forex market.

CBM also injected around 1.49 million baht into the foreign exchange market on 13 March. Additionally, CBM sold over \$1.98 million to edible oil-importing companies on the same day.

Furthermore, CBM sold \$1.85 million to edible oil-importing companies on 12 March, in addition to \$1.56 million and a 1.4-million-baht injection into the market.

CBM has been constantly injecting large amount of US dollars to the edible oil sector, with over \$1 million on 11 March, \$2.1 million on 10 March, \$1.97 million on 9 March, \$1.96 million on 6 March, \$2.65 million on 5 March, over \$1.24 million on



Greenbacks are seen at the money changer counter.

4 March and \$1 million on 3 March to the edible oil sector, respectively.

CBM injected forex into the market, with a view to curbing 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

NATIONAL

Nay Pyi Taw Rice Exhibition draws 180 buyers for Pawsan rice

THE rice exhibition held in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory received 400 visitors, and of them, about 180 bought Pawsan rice, according to a statement released by the Myanmar Rice Federation on 17 March.

Jointly organized by the Ministry of Commerce, the Department of Consumer Affairs and the MRF, the event was held on 13 March at the Myoma

Market in Zabuthiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw.

At the event, samples of the most-consumed rice varieties, their quality and nutritional values and prices were displayed, and cooked rice, tea leaf, and dried fish were served.

Kyapyan, Myaungmya Pawsan, Pyapon Pawsan, Yekyi Pawsan, Bogale Pawsan and

Kyaiklat Pawsan, produced from Ayeyawady Region, are the most-consumed rice varieties due to their reasonable prices, just between K120,000 and K140,000 per bag, and drew most of the visitors.

DOCA director general, MRF chair and guests from governmental departments attended the exhibition, which was opened by DOCA regional



This image depicts visitors sampling rice at the rice exhibition.

head, Nay Pyi Taw Rice Millers' Association chair and Nay Pyi Taw Rice Traders' Association chair. — MT/ZS

YCC to host Agri Tech Myanmar Expo 2026 on 26-28 Jun

THE tenth edition of Agri Tech Myanmar Expo 2026 will take place on 26-28 June 2026 at the Yangon Convention Centre.

AgriTech Myanmar 2026 is a comprehensive B2B event covering the entire value chain. Crop production technology, agriculture machinery, agro chemicals & inputs (fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, and biopesticides), seeds & nurseries, precision agriculture (drones, lot solu-

tions, soil mapping and farm management software), farm equipment, post-harvest and processing technology, animal feed and nutrition, animal health products, livestock and aquaculture farm equipment and meat processing technology will be showcased.

This will be a great platform bringing large farm owners, agribusiness executives, distributors, importers, government officials, and

processing plant managers together. Myanmar Fruits, Flowers and Vegetable Producers and Exporters Association will participate in the expo as the supporting partner.

Interested individuals can enquire about details and book the booth through Silver Sea, expo organizer at 09 40940007, 09 5414336 or via email: events.silversea@gmail.com, adv.silversea@gmail.com. — NN/KK

MRF suspends home delivery system amid energy crisis



MYANMAR Rice Federation (MRF) temporarily halted home delivery service on 17 March amid the fallout of fuel

oil. MRF and Myanmar Rice and Paddy Traders Association jointly provided home delivery

service to stabilize rice prices, and a total of 1,161 rice sacks were delivered to consumers.

The global energy crisis put a stop to the home delivery system. Only those consumers who have already placed orders with processed transactions will receive their orders. MRF will make further announcements as and when the programme resumes. — NN/KK

MRF to roll out Rice Industry Cashless Ecosystem

MYANMAR Rice Federation will launch a new initiative, "MRF RICE – Rice Industry Cashless Ecosystem", designed to encourage all stakeholders across the supply and distribution chain to adopt mobile money, digital payment and Myanmar's banking system, according to MRF's notification dated 16 March.

This programme will be implemented in collaboration with banks and financial institutions, in accordance with Myanmar Digital Economy Roadmap 2030 and the guidelines of the Central Bank of Myanmar, with a view to promoting financial and banking literacy within the private rice sector; promote the use of digital payment systems, and enable the widespread application of modern banking services in the supply and distribution chain including farmers, rice millers, traders, exporters and brokers.

Promoting the use of digital platforms, online services, and electronic payment systems such as MMQR - Myanmar Pay will support a gradual transition from cash-based transactions to a secure and modern digital financial system.

The MRF RICE initiative aims to enhance rice productivity, strengthen financial linkages among stakeholders, reduce reliance on cash, and expand

access to financial services within the rice sector. Furthermore, the MRF stated that this initiative will be integrated with the Federation's other development projects related to digital transformation, modernization, and sustainable development in Myanmar's agribusiness sector.

As an initial measure, MRF will collaborate with A Bank to promote financial and banking literacy, share experiences and information, and enhance the practical application of digital financial services among stakeholders in the rice industry in Ayeyawady Region.

This collaboration will enhance the understanding of banking services among key participants in the rice value chain and encourage the practical use of digital services.

An MRF RICE Seminar will be held in March 2026 in Ayeyawady Region as the first activity of this collaboration, expecting to attract over 300 farmers, millers, brokers, traders, exporters and financial service providers. The seminar will help disseminate knowledge and practical application of the digital payment system and services, and contribute to the development of the rice market with digitalization.

MRF will collaborate with other authorized Banks in different regions and states as well. — NN/KK

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ECONOMY WORLD

Japan land prices up for 5th straight year amid modest economic recovery

THE average price of land in Japan climbed for the fifth consecutive year amid a modest economic recovery, government data showed Tuesday.

The nationwide average of land prices in all categories logged a 2.8 per cent increase from a year earlier as of 1 January, the sharpest rise since the burst of Japan's asset price

bubble in the early 1990s, according to the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism. Average prices for both residential-use land and commercial-use land rose.

"Demand for shops and hotels was robust, backed by an increase in visitors from overseas," a ministry official explained.

For commercial land, the national average price rose 4.3 per cent from a year earlier, while that for the three big metropolitan areas of Tokyo, Osaka and Nagoya surged 7.8 per cent.

Commercial land prices in four major cities outside the three metropolitan areas – Sapporo, Sendai, Hiroshima, and Fukuoka – went up 6.4 per cent, while those in rural areas grew 1.1 per cent.

Residential land prices rose 2.1 per cent nationally and by 3.5 per cent both in the three metropolitan areas and in the four major cities.

The rates of increase in land prices in the four major cities, however, shrank compared with a year earlier, as some people and businesses are believed to be holding off on purchases of homes and development projects due to high construction costs.

Prices for commercial land increased in 38 of the country's 47 prefectures, while those for residential land rose in 31 prefectures. By prefecture, Tokyo returned to the top spot for the steepest rise in residential land price for the first time in 18 years, driven by brisk demand for condominiums in the heart of the capital. — Kyodo



File photo taken on 31 January 2026 shows the outside of JR Hakuba Station in Hakuba, Nagano Prefecture, crowded with tourists and others. **PHOTO: KYODO**



This photo taken on 12 February 2026 shows a cityscape of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Ethiopia emerges as Africa's 2nd largest FDI destination with China taking the lead

ETHIOPIA has become the second most attractive foreign direct investment (FDI) destination in Africa, with China being a leading investment partner to the East African country, a senior Ethiopian official said on Monday.

Zelege Temesgen, commissioner of the Ethiopian Investment Commission (EIC), remarked at a panel discussion entitled "Ethiopia: The New Investment Destination."

Temesgen said the country has attracted a total of US\$18.6 billion in FDI over the past five years, ranking second on the continent after Egypt.

"Ethiopia attracted the highest in East Africa and the second highest FDI in Africa, bringing

\$4 billion in the 2024/2025 Ethiopian financial year ending on 7 July 2025. This showed a 22.7 per cent increase compared to the previous year, with Chinese companies investing the highest in the country," he said.

The commissioner attributed the increased FDI to the government's shift towards an open-door investment policy, which allowed foreign investors to participate in key sectors, including export, import, retail and wholesale businesses that were previously restricted for foreign investors.

He added that the EIC issued 1,477 new investment permits to foreign nationals during the previous five years. — Xinhua

Australian central bank raises interest rates

AUSTRALIA'S central bank on Tuesday raised its key interest rate by 0.25 percentage points for the second consecutive month.

The Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) said that the Monetary Policy Board decided to increase the cash rate target from 3.85 per cent to 4.10 per cent at its meeting on Tuesday, matching a 0.25 percentage point rise at the start of February.

It marks the first time that the central bank has lifted the cash rate target in consecutive months since June 2023.

Economists and banks had widely forecast that the Monetary Policy Board would increase rates at its meeting on Tuesday, following a spike in inflation in December and January and the expected economic impact of the ongoing Middle East conflict.

According to the latest

official data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the consumer price index rose by 3.8 per cent in the 12 months to December and January, exceeding the RBA's target range of 2-3 per cent.

In its decision statement, the Monetary Policy Board said it judged that there is a material risk that inflation will remain above target for longer than previously anticipated. — Xinhua

Pakistan's ICT export remittances surge nearly 20% in first 8 months of financial year

PAKISTAN'S information and communications technology (ICT) export remittances surged 19.7 per cent in the first eight months of the current fiscal year, official data showed.

According to figures shared by the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication on Monday, ICT export remittances reached US\$2.97 billion during July-February of financial year 2025-26, up from \$2.48 billion

recorded in the same period last year.

In February alone, exports stood at \$365 million, marking a 19.3 per cent year-on-year increase, the data showed.

The sector also posted a trade surplus of \$2.55 billion during the period, accounting for 86 per cent of total ICT export remittances, highlighting its position as the top-performing segment within Pakistan's services sector. — Xinhua

Nissan to cut output by 1,200 units as shipments to Middle East delayed

A subsidiary of Nissan Motor Co will reduce production this month as shipments to the Middle East have been delayed due to heightened tensions in the region, people familiar with the matter said Tuesday.

To secure storage space for its Middle East-bound vehicles, production of automobiles for other regions will be cut by roughly 1,200 units at Nissan Motor Kyushu Co's plant in the southwestern prefecture of Fukuoka.

The company produces the X-Trail sport utility

vehicle, including those sold overseas under the Rogue name, and the Serena minivan.

Nissan Shatai Kyushu Co, another group company which manufactures the large Patrol sport utility vehicle for the Middle East, has no plans to cut output, the sources said.

A Nissan official said that the company is "making necessary adjustments" to output and logistics in response to the current situation in the Middle East without elaborating.

Meanwhile, Nissan Motor said Tuesday it

will begin importing its US-manufactured Murano sport utility model to Japan in early 2027, using a simplified import procedure introduced as part of a tariff agreement with the United States.

The Japan-US tariff deal allows cars manufactured and certified as safe in the United States to be sold in Japan without undergoing additional safety testing.

Nissan did not disclose the price or sales target for the left-hand drive Murano that will be imported from its Tennessee plant. — Kyodo



Supplied photo shows Nissan Motor Co's US-manufactured Murano sport utility model. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Nvidia unveils new AI technologies at annual developer conference

US chipmaker Nvidia unveiled a series of artificial intelligence (AI) innovations spanning graphics, computing infrastructure and software at its four-day annual GTC developer conference, which opened Monday in San Jose, California.

Among them was a new AI graphics rendering technology called DLSS 5, which Nvidia founder and CEO Jensen Huang said



Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang speaks during his keynote address at the company's annual GTC developers conference at the SAP Center in San Jose, California, on 16 March 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

can significantly enhance image realism while reducing computational workload. According to Nvidia, DLSS 5 delivers an AI-powered breakthrough in visual fidelity for games. The system combines traditional 3D graphics data with generative AI models that can predict and automatically fill in missing visual details, enabling GPUs to render richer and more lifelike images. — Xinhua

Libyan oil firm announces two major gas discoveries in offshore waters

THE National Oil Corporation (NOC) of Libya on Monday announced two significant gas discoveries estimated at around 1 trillion cubic feet (28.32 billion cubic metres) in offshore waters in the northwest of the country.

The company said its foreign partner, Eni North Africa, confirmed the gas reserves after completing exploratory drilling of two wells in adjacent offshore geological structures, 16 kilometre south of the Bahr Essalam gas field, a major source of Libyan natural gas.

It added that it is preparing an urgent development plan to connect the two new wells to the Bahr Essalam offshore platform, expecting the two discoveries to contribute approximately 130 million cubic feet (3.68 million cubic metres) of gas per day. According to Eni, the gas to be produced will be supplied to the Libyan domestic market and exported to Italy. — Xinhua

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ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Ministerial meeting of China-Vietnam “3+3” strategic dialogue held in Vietnam



The first ministerial meeting of the China-Vietnam “3+3” strategic dialogue on diplomacy, defence and public security is held in Hanoi, Vietnam, on 16 March 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

THE first ministerial meeting of the China-Vietnam “3+3” strategic dialogue on diplomacy, defence and public security was held in the Vietnamese capital of Hanoi on Monday.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, Minister of Public Security Wang Xiaohong and Minister of National Defence Dong Jun chaired the meeting, together with Vietnamese Foreign Minister Le Hoai Trung, Defence Minister Phan Van Giang and Minister of Public Security Luong Tam Quang.

The two sides held in-depth exchanges on developments

and changes in the international landscape, safeguarding political security, and advancing defence and law enforcement cooperation, and reached broad consensus.

Wang Yi said the “3+3” strategic dialogue on diplomacy, defence and public security between the two countries at the ministerial level represents the first strategic communication platform of its kind globally, established by both sides as a vital initiative to safeguard political system security and deepen strategic coordination. The mechanism is both an inherent

requirement for advancing the building of the China-Vietnam community with a shared future and a necessary step for revitalizing the world socialist cause, fully demonstrating the high level and strategic nature of the relations between the two parties and countries, Wang Yi noted. The stability and development of both China and Vietnam will demonstrate to the world the significant advantages of the socialist system, the vigorous vitality of the socialist cause, and the bright prospects for human development and progress, he added. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

2 shot dead in bistro near Frankfurt Airport in Germany

TWO people were shot dead early Tuesday at a bistro in Raunheim near Frankfurt Airport in Germany, local police said.

According to initial findings, an armed individual entered the venue at around 3:45 am local time (0245 GMT) and opened fire on the victims, who died at the scene from their injuries.

The suspect fled and remains at large, and the motive for the shooting remains unclear, German media reported. Police have launched a large-scale manhunt. — Xinhua

Vietnam's election results to be announced on 22 March: official

THE results of Vietnam's elections for deputies to the 16th National Assembly (NA) and members of People's Councils at all levels for the 2026-2031 term are expected to be announced on 22 March, Vietnam Television reported Tuesday, citing NA Chairman Tran Thanh Man.

Preliminary statistics show that voter turnout nationwide reached 99.69 per cent, with no need for re-voting in any constituency, he said.

Localities are continuing to compile and carefully review data before reporting the results to the National Election Council, according to the chairman. The council is scheduled to convene on 22 March to review the results, after which it will announce the official results and proceed with subsequent procedures, including verification and certification of the eligibility of elected deputies, he said. — Xinhua

IEA members could release more oil stocks “as and if needed”: IEA chief

MEMBER countries of the International Energy Agency (IEA) could release additional oil stocks “as and if needed”, despite the current coordinated release of reserves already agreed upon, IEA Executive Director Fatih Birol said on Monday.

In a video statement, Birol said that government and industry stocks held under government obligation would still amount to more than 1.4 billion barrels after the current release. He added that the ongoing release, once completed, will reduce member countries' reserves by only about 20 per cent. The 32 member countries on 11 March unanimously agreed to make 400 million barrels of oil from their emergency reserves available to the market in response to disruptions caused by the Middle East conflict. — Xinhua

Pakistan airstrike hits hospital in Kabul, killing 400: Afghan official

PAKISTAN'S air force carried out an airstrike late Monday night targeting a drug addiction treatment hospital in the Afghan capital of Kabul, killing at least 400 people and injuring around 250 others, an Afghan official said Tuesday.

Hamdullah Fitrat, deputy spokesman of the Afghan government, said in a statement posted on the social media

platform X that the airstrike, launched at around 9 pm local time on Monday, struck the Omid Addiction Treatment Hospital in Kabul.

The hospital, a 2,000-bed facility dedicated to the treatment of drug addiction patients, was largely destroyed in the attack, Fitrat said, warning that the number of casualties could further rise.

According to the official, the airstrike triggered a large fire at the hospital. Rescue teams are working to control the fire and recover the remaining bodies of the victims. Meanwhile, Pakistan on Monday refuted the Afghan government's claim, saying the country targeted military installations and terrorist support infrastructure in Afghanistan. — Xinhua



Debris is seen around destroyed buildings after an airstrike launched on the Omid Addiction Treatment Hospital in Kabul, Afghanistan, 17 March 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

SPORTS

MNL championship set for dramatic final 90 minutes

THE 2025-2026 Myanmar National League season will conclude on 18 March, with the championship to be decided in the final round of matches kicking off simultaneously at 3:30 pm.

Defending champions Shan United and Yangon United remain locked in the title race, separated by just one point. Shan United lead the standings with 55 points, while Yangon United have 54.

Shan United will host Hanthawady United in Taunggyi, while Yangon United will face Dagon Star United at YUSC Stadium.

A win will guarantee Shan United the title, while Yangon United must secure victory and hope Shan United slips in their match.

If Shan United clinch the championship, they will claim their seventh MNL title and sixth consecutive triumph, while



The Shan United players seen during a previous football match. PHOTO: MNL

also extending their unbeaten league run to a historic 100 matches.

Yangon United, which last won the league title in 2018, are seeking their first

championship in six seasons. The outcome of the final matches on 18 March will determine the 2025-2026 MNL champions. — Shine Htet Zaw/KZL

Japan set for tactical change to counter South Korea in Asian Cup semi



Japan players observe the national anthems before the AFC Women's Asian Cup Australia 2026 football quarterfinal match between Japan and Philippines at Accor Stadium in Sydney on 15 March 2026. PHOTO: AFP

COACH Nils Nielsen said Tuesday that free-scoring Japan must change tactics in their Women's Asian Cup semifinal against South Korea as they zero in on a third continental title.

The clash in Sydney on Wednesday

will pit the two highest scoring teams of the tournament, with Japan blasting 24 goals in their four games to date and South Korea 16.

At stake is a place in Saturday's final against either hosts Australia or defending

champions China. The odds are in Japan's favour. Ranked 13 places higher at eight in the world, they are undefeated against South Korea in over a decade and have yet to concede a goal in Australia.

That record though could be under threat against a disciplined side that made the final four years ago and is desperate for a maiden Asian Cup crown.

"It will be a challenging match because South Korea have threats so we need to respect that. We can't play like we have done," said Greenlandier Nielsen, who has a squad packed with English-based players.

"We have a plan to negate their counter-attacking speed and we also have other tactics should we need them. In general, we have to focus on our all-round game instead of just about how we attack.

"We haven't had to use it much so far but we are normally quite disciplined in defending and that will ensure that we don't get caught out." — AFP

Chelsea striker Kerr sends Australia into Asian Cup final

CHELSEA striker Sam Kerr scored the winner to put hosts Australia into the Women's Asian Cup final with a tense 2-1 victory over defending champions China on Tuesday in Perth.

Kerr fired home from a tight angle in the 58th minute, her fourth goal of the tournament proving the difference in a gruelling semifinal in front of 35,170 fans on a balmy

night.

The Matildas will face title favourites Japan or South Korea in Saturday's final in Sydney. The match started at breakneck speed with Arsenal forward Caitlin Foord scoring in the 17th minute.

China levelled shortly after with Zhang Linyan converting a penalty, much to the delight of their flag-waving fans behind the

goal.

But China were unable to contain hometown hero Kerr, who ensured Australia remained on track for a second continental title to sit alongside their 2010 triumph.

China's bid for a record-extending 10th crown ended in heartbreak and they rued missed opportunities in front of goal after having 14 shots to eight. — AFP

MFF seeks coaching staff for National Football Academy (Yangon)

THE Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) has announced that it is seeking to recruit coaches for the MFF National Football Academy (Yangon).

Qualified candidates are invited to apply for positions at the National Football Academy (Yangon). The Head Coach must hold an AFC 'A' Licence, the Assistant Coach at least an AFC 'B' Licence, and the Goalkeeping Coach at least an AFC Goalkeeper Level 2 Licence. Applicants for all positions should be between 30 and 45 years old, physically and mentally fit, capable of conducting on-field demonstrations, have a minimum of three years' experience in youth football and coaching, and be proficient in Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint) and English.

Applicants must submit a curriculum vitae (CV), one passport-sized photo, copies of degree certificates or higher education qualifications, a recommendation letter from a relevant department head, a police clearance certificate, a copy of the household registration, a copy of the citizenship scrutiny card (CSC), and copies of relevant coaching licenses.

Applications must be submitted no later than 26 March during office hours in person at the Human Resources Department, Myanmar Football Federation, or via email hr.dept@mff-ma.com. — MT/ZN



This image reveals a recruitment poster for coaches for the MFF National Football Academy (Yangon).



European allies resist Trump's call for military mission in Strait of Hormuz

Multiple European nations and the European Union (EU) on Monday voiced reluctance or outright opposition to US President Donald Trump's call for a military mission to ensure safe shipping in the Strait of Hormuz.

Stressing the need for diplomatic solutions and warning against further regional escalation, European leaders underscored that the current conflict should not evolve into a NATO mission or draw the continent into a broader war.

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz ruled out any military involvement in protecting oil tankers in the strait, emphasizing that NATO is a "defence alliance" rather than an "intervention alliance".

Merz said Germany will not participate in military measures to ensure freedom of navigation as long as the conflict continues, adding that no viable concept for such an operation has been presented so far. His remarks were echoed in Brussels by EU Foreign Policy Chief Kaja Kallas. After a meeting of EU foreign ministers, Kallas stated the bloc has no appetite for expanding its existing naval mission "Aspides" to the Strait of Hormuz.

"We are working on the diplomatic



Children play by the shore at Kumzar Village in Oman, 19 February 2025. Kumzar, a remote fishing village in the Musandam Peninsula in northern Oman, located in a sheltered harbour near the strategic shipping lane of the Strait of Hormuz. PHOTO: XINHUA

solutions for the Strait of Hormuz," she said, adding, "This is not Europe's war."

In Southern Europe, Portuguese Foreign Minister Paulo Rangel said Portugal "is not and will not be involved in this conflict."

Rangel also dismissed threats from the Trump administration regarding NATO members unwilling to back Washington, saying they deserved "absolutely no reaction". Italian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Antonio

Tajani also expressed doubts, noting that existing missions like "Aspides" and "Atalanta" are primarily designed for defensive escort and anti-piracy operations, making their extension to the high-risk Strait of Hormuz difficult. — Xinhua

EU admits talks with Russia on Ukraine and security are inevitable

THE EU will need dialogue with Russia on Ukraine and European security in the future, EU Council President Antonio

Costa said on Tuesday.

"I think that in the future we will need to talk with Russia. Not on energy

issues, but on issues of European security and peace in Ukraine. That day will come. But not now," Costa said, quoted by the Europa Press news agency.

At least two European countries have already expressed a willingness to pursue some kind of deal with Russia on Ukraine.

Switzerland's Foreign Ministry has backed the Belgian prime minister's call for the EU to begin negotiations with Russia on Ukraine, stating that it supports any diplomatic initiatives aimed at achieving a "just and lasting peace".

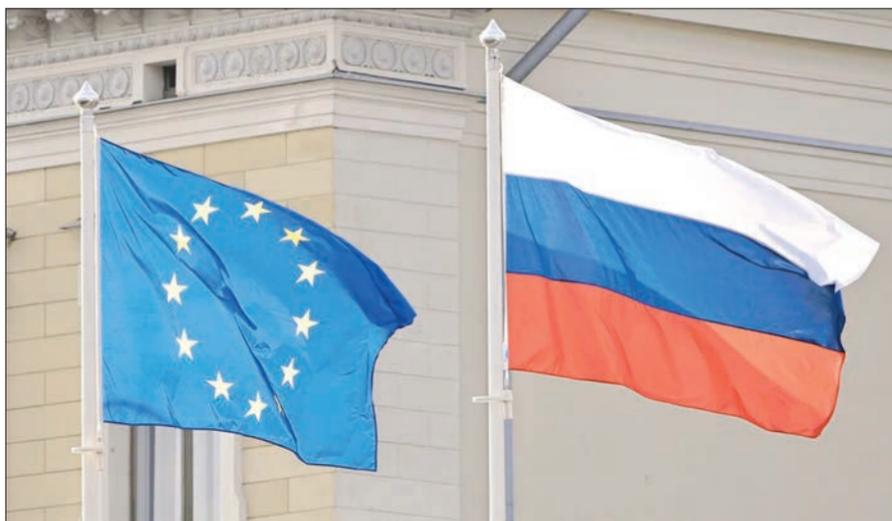
Earlier, Belgian Prime Minister Bart De Wever called for reaching a deal with Russia.

He also noted that the US is "not at all on Ukraine's side. Sometimes it seems to me that they are closer to Putin than to Zelensky." — SPUTNIK

China, US in communication regarding date of Trump's visit: spokesperson

CHINA and the United States are in communication with each other regarding the date of President Donald Trump's China visit, and there is no further information available at present, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson said here on Tuesday.

Spokesperson Lin Jian made the remarks at a daily press briefing in response to a related query. Earlier on, certain media reported that Trump said his visit to China might be postponed if China doesn't provide assistance in escorting the Strait of Hormuz. "We noted that the United States has publicly made clarifications on the misguided media reports, calling them completely false," Lin said, adding the US side stressed that the visit is not linked to the issue over the Strait of Hormuz. — Xinhua



EU and Russian flags. PHOTO: SPUTNIK