

The

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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.



Prime Minister U Nyo Saw addresses the first meeting 2026 of the Union government in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Plans finalized to transfer State responsibilities to new government

Illegal trade and the production, distribution, and sale of narcotic drugs pose a threat to national security, and effectively combatting these issues will, in one way or another, help contribute to national stability and peace, said Prime Minister U Nyo Saw at the meeting 1/2026 of the Union government at the Union government office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

He continued to say that transnational crimes will continue to be thoroughly investigated and eradicated as a national duty, and that effective penalties will also be imposed accordingly.

Concerning the election process, the Prime Minister noted that the it has successfully held a multiparty democratic general election in line with the will of the people, enabling the country to proceed along a genuine and disciplined democratic path, and that it will continue to facilitate the transfer of State responsibil-

ties to the newly emerging government so that it can carry out its duties to the best of its ability.

He recounted that international election observation groups also remarked that, in this election, voters were able to cast their ballots without any interference to their voting rights; that polling station staff conducted voting and vote counting in accordance with the prescribed election laws and regulations, enabling the entire electoral process to be carried out fairly and transparently; that the use of Myanmar electronic voting machines helped make the voting and counting processes faster and produced accurate and reliable results; and that comprehensive security arrangements allowed voters, polling personnel, and all other relevant parties to carry out their duties safely and with confidence. Based on these observations, it was concluded that the election was free, fair, and conducted with dignity.

The Prime Minister underlined that in efforts to promote peace and reduce and resolve conflict in the country, the signing of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) between the government and ethnic armed organizations remains significant till today for the advancement of the peace process. Therefore, it was stated that the NCA provisions must be practically implemented and carried forward, and that youth participation should also be enhanced in both the peace process and national-building efforts.

In the measures of combatting telecom fraud and online gambling activities, the Prime Minister stressed that the Government has been taking measures to completely suppress online gambling and organized criminal activities to prevent their resurgence. The current efforts have been publicly communicated through news media,

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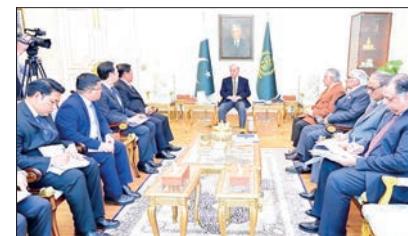
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Kyonkapyin-Tapseik becomes winter haven for endangered yellow-breasted buntings

NATIONAL



National Objectives for 79th Union Day 2026

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

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

Mottos for 79th Union Day 2026

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



Public Travel Advisory on Nipah Virus

Although no Nipah virus infections have been detected in Myanmar to date, special emphasis is being placed on Nipah virus disease surveillance activities as the region is home to a large number of fruit bats or flying foxes, which are the host species, and shares borders with neighbouring countries where infections frequently occur.

- Therefore, the public should avoid unnecessary visits to areas where the Nipah virus is currently spreading (for example, India, West Bengal State).
- Those currently in areas where the disease is occurring should avoid unnecessary visits to hospitals in affected areas or places with high numbers of sick individuals.
- Those who have recently travelled to areas where the disease is occurring and experience suspected symptoms such as severe fever and headache, cough and difficulty breathing, confusion, or drowsiness upon returning to their country must promptly report to the airport health department or on-duty health staff at border entry and exit points without fail.
- If one suffers from any of the aforementioned suspected symptoms within 14 days of returning from an affected area, it is necessary to immediately contact the nearest health department and be sure to inform the doctor regarding the travel history to the affected area so that one can receive the necessary test and treatment promptly.
- If family members returning from affected countries show suspected symptoms, or if unusual animal deaths (pigs and bats) are observed in the environment, immediately notify the nearest health department.

Ministry of Health

Republic of the Union of Myanmar National Defence and Security Council Office

Order 3/2026

10th Waxing of Tabodwe 1387 ME
27 January 2026

Reassignment to Original Military Duties

THE National Defence and Security Council has reassigned Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung, Union Minister for Home Affairs, to original military duties under Subsection (b) of Section 427 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

By order,
Aung Lin Dwe
Executive Chief

Republic of the Union of Myanmar National Defence and Security Council Office

Order 4/2026

10th Waxing of Tabodwe 1387 ME
27 January 2026

Appointment of Union Minister

THE National Defence and Security Council has appointed Lt-Gen Phone Myat as Union Minister for Home Affairs under Subsection (b) of Section 427 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

By order,
Aung Lin Dwe
Executive Chief

Daily newspapers available online

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

NATIONAL

Residents Urged to Prioritize Public Safety Amid Armed Terrorist Threats

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

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

MoFA Union Minister pays courtesy call on Prime Minister of Pakistan



Prime Minister of Pakistan Mr Mohammad Shehbaz Sharif receives Union Foreign Affairs Minister U Than Swe yesterday.

THE Myanmar delegation, led by Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe, paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister of Pakistan Mr Mohammad Shehbaz Sharif at the Prime Minister's Office yesterday during the official visit to Pakistan at the invitation of Deputy

Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, Mr Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

At the meeting, both sides discussed enhancing Myanmar-Pakistan relations, expanding multi-sectoral cooperation, and promoting collaboration in mutually beneficial

areas such as economy, trade, agriculture and livestock, energy, tourism, and culture. They also exchanged views on strengthening cooperation between the two countries at regional and international levels, including within ASEAN. — MNA

Plans finalized to transfer State ...

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press conferences held for diplomats based in Yangon, and representatives from UN agencies, providing clear explanations of the situation. Transnational crimes are also being thoroughly investigated and eradicated as a national duty, with effective penalties being imposed.

He added that since illegal trade and the production, distribution, and sale of narcotic drugs pose a threat to national security, effectively combating these issues will, in turn, contribute to national stability and peace. Therefore, it is necessary to carry out efforts to eradicate illegal trade and narcotics production in collaboration with both the public and international organizations, ensuring these issues are effectively prevented and controlled at their root.

The Prime Minister also highlighted the measures for the development of the State economy as well as the agriculture and livestock sectors.

Regarding the education sector, the Prime Minister emphasized that the Ministry of Education stated that, in developing curricula, primary, middle, and high school curricula must be designed in accordance with the provisions of the Basic

Education Law and the National Education Law. Instruction in core languages such as Myanmar and English is essential, as it provides the foundational skills necessary for students to continue learning in advanced education, technical fields, and vocational studies.

Moreover, the Prime Minister highlighted that it is necessary to systematically plan and allocate funds for the implementation of national development projects. Relevant ministries and organizations must also strive to successfully carry out their responsibilities within their respective sectors. Additionally, expenditures must be used strictly in pursuit of financial regulations, issued directives, and established procedures, without any waste or deviation.

At the meeting, the minute 6/2025 of the government meeting was approved. Union ministers discussed undertakings in relevant sectors and plans.

Later, the Prime Minister coordinated discussions by Union ministers and gave concluding remarks.

The meeting was also attended by the chief ministers of regions and states through videoconferencing. — MNA/TTA

CBM Governor receives Thai Ambassador

CENTRAL Bank of Myanmar Governor Daw Than Than Swe met Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Mongkol Visitstump, who has completed his tour of duty, at the

Central Bank of Myanmar meeting room in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

They discussed the trade and investment cooperation between Myanmar and Thai-

land.

Deputy governors of the Central Bank of Myanmar and departmental officials were also present on the occasion. — MNA/MKKS



The Thai ambassador calls on CBM Governor Daw Than Than Swe yesterday.

NATIONAL



The ongoing oral hearings in The Gambia-Myanmar case at the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

ICJ hearing in Gambia-Myanmar case continues

ORAL hearings in the case between The Gambia and Myanmar are being held at the International Court of Justice in The Hague, the Netherlands, from 12 to 29 January, with The Gambia's second round of submissions having begun at 10 am local time on 26 January.

In addition to the 14 judges who previously attended the hearing, Chinese Judge Mrs

Xue also attended, bringing the total number of judges to 15.

The Gambia's lead lawyer and legal team have accused Myanmar of having the intent to carry out ethnic cleansing against the Bengalis, and The Gambia's second round of arguments continued from 10 am to 1 pm local time yesterday, according to reports. — MNA/TH

Yangon rally backs Myanmar delegation's ICJ submissions



This image shows the Yangon rally supporting the Myanmar delegation at the ICJ.

A rally in support of the rebuttal submissions made by the Myanmar delegation at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague, the Netherlands, in defence of the dignity and just cause of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, was held this afternoon at the car park in front of Yangon City Hall.

At the outset, members of the public attending the rally sang the national anthem in unison and paid respect to the national flag of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Afterwards, Sayadaw Ashin Thucitta and U Win Ko Ko Latt

delivered speeches expressing support and paying tribute to the Myanmar delegation, led by Union Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing and Union Minister and Union Attorney-General Dr Thida Oo, who are presenting rebuttal arguments at the International Court of Justice in accordance with international law.

Subsequently, U Htein Lin read out a statement in both English and Myanmar, after which participants chanted slogans together, and the rally was reported to have concluded successfully. — Aung Myint (IPRD)/MKKS

Mawlamyine people firmly support Myanmar delegation's efforts

THE oral hearing concerning the case between The Gambia and Myanmar is being held from 12 to 29 January at the International Court of Justice in The Hague, the Netherlands. The Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing for the Ministry 2 of the President's Office and Union Minister for Legal Affairs and Union Attorney-General Dr Thida Oo is standing on the side of truth for the country, and an event for expressing solidarity was held yesterday afternoon in Mawlamyine, Mon State, with the participation of ethnic people

from across the state.

The ethnic people carrying national flags marched in procession along the Strand Road from the State Hall of Mawlamyine to the Myitkantha playground, expressing their support.

At the Myitkantha playground, the people saluted the national flag and sang the national anthem in unison.

Sayadaw U Tayzavamsa and U Zaw Hein stated that they fully support the firm and lawful response, based on confidence, to the unjust accusations made against the country.

Such actions reflect the truth of Myanmar and are also an important factor in enabling the international community to better understand and place trust in Myanmar. They further expressed deep appreciation and recorded their recognition of the efforts of the Myanmar delegation, which has gone to the ICJ on behalf of the country, standing on the side of truth to safeguard the dignity, sovereignty and interests of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and their attitude standing with the policies of the country.

— Sithu (IPRD)/KTZH



People voice firm support for the Myanmar delegation at the International Court of Justice (ICJ).



NATIONAL

Statements support Myanmar delegation at ICJ

Statement of Khami National Development Party

23 January 2026

1. The Republic of the Union of Myanmar is an independent, sovereign state.
2. The issues currently facing the Republic of the Union of Myanmar are not only legal in nature but also affect the sovereignty of our country, the dignity and national interests of every citizen and ethnic group born in the Union, as well as the protection of national borders and national security. Therefore, Myanmar is appearing before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to address these matters in accordance with international legal procedures.
3. Therefore, our party strongly welcomes and supports the efforts of the Myanmar delegation before the International Court of Justice (ICJ), acting on behalf of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, to address the legal and factual issues arising from unjust accusations that affect the sovereignty of our country, the dignity of our citizens and ethnic peoples, and our national interests. The Khami National Development Party hereby affirms its position of standing in full unity with the policies and programmes being implemented by the State.

Executive Committee
Khami National Development Party

Statement of Rakhine Nationalities Party (RNP)

24 January 2026

1. It has been more than six years since The Gambia accused Myanmar of genocide at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague, the Netherlands, in connection with the 2017 conflict in northern Rakhine State.
2. This lawsuit is considered to be against the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, not against any individual, organization, or political party in the country.
3. It is clear that the ethnic nationalities in Rakhine State will be the first to bear the consequences of this lawsuit.
4. The Rakhine Nationalities Party (RNP) welcomes and expresses its sincere gratitude to the Myanmar delegation, led by Union Ministers, for defending the rights of the Rakhine people and other ethnic nationalities throughout Myanmar at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) from 12 to 29 January.

Rakhine Nationalities Party (RNP)

22 foreign nationals transferred via Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge II

AUTHORITIES transferred 22 foreign nationals involved in telecommunications fraud and other criminal activities to their respective countries through the Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge II, in accordance with legal procedures and on humanitarian and friendly bilateral grounds.

The foreign nationals had illegally entered Myanmar through border routes after transiting neighbouring countries, including Thailand, and had committed illegal online gambling, online fraud, and other criminal activities in the Myawady-Shwe Kokko area of Kayin State. They included six Ethiopians, four South Africans, four Nepalis, two Burundians, and one each from Sierra Leone, Malawi, Nigeria, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, and Togo, bringing the total number to 22.

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

Following this, a formal hand-over ceremony was held. It was attended by the Head of the District Immigration and Population Office, Deputy Director U Kyaw

Kyaw Than, embassy staff from Nepal in Thailand, including Mr Sajal Shakya, representatives from the embassies of Ethiopia, South Africa, Burundi, Sierra Leone, Malawi, Nigeria, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, and Togo, led by Mr Tana Judah Hira, as well as officials from the Tak Province Immigration Office of Thailand. Myanmar officials systematically handed over repatriation-related documents to representatives of the respective countries.

Between 30 January 2025 and 27 January 2026, authorities detained a total of 14,178 foreign nationals who had illegally entered Myawady Township. After completing verification procedures, 12,987 individuals were systematically transferred to their respective countries via Thailand in line with legal requirements. The remaining 1,191 foreign nationals are ready for transfer and are being properly cared for.

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

MR launches pilot online railway ticketing and payment system



A DEMU train is seen ready for a safe, smooth journey.

THE Myanma Railways under the Ministry of Transport and Communications is making preparations to implement an Online Railways Ticketing and Payment System (ORTP) so that railway passengers can purchase train tickets more easily and conveniently online.

As a pilot project, tickets will be sold starting from 1 February for the train services operating on the Yangon-Mandalay railway route on 7 February, such as 11 Up/12 Down (Yangon-Mandalay-Yangon) express train, 7 Up/8 Down (Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw-Yangon) DEMU train, 31 Up/32 Down (Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw-Yangon) DEMU train and No 27 Up/28 Down (Mandalay-Nay Pyi

Taw-Mandalay) express train.

Under the ORTP system, when purchasing tickets for express trains on the Yangon-Mandalay railway route, passengers travelling the entire route may buy tickets up to seven days in advance, while those boarding from intermediate stations may buy tickets up to three days in advance. Train departure and arrival times, stopping stations, and ticket fares will remain unchanged.

To use the system, users can open any preferred web browser and enter the link ortp.railways.gov.mm to access the system easily. Moreover, access is also available by scanning the QR code provid-

ed using a mobile phone. Step-by-step user guidelines for the system, along with the access link and QR code, have been announced through Myanmar Radio and Television, state-owned newspapers, the Myanma Railways website, and at railway stations nationwide.

If passengers experience any difficulties purchasing tickets online, arrangements have also been made for them to visit relevant railway stations or ticket counters, where tickets can be purchased using the same system. For further information regarding ticket purchases through the ORTP system, passengers can contact the Myanma Railways hotline at 1188. — MNA/KTZH

NATIONAL

Naval junior officer management, engineering courses conclude

THE passing-out parade of the Tatmadaw (Navy) Junior Officer (Management) Course 85, the Tatmadaw (Navy) Junior Officer (Engineering) Course 59, and the Tatmadaw (Navy) Female Junior Officer Course 10 was held at the Naval Training Command Headquarters in Thanyin yesterday.

On behalf of the State Security and Peace Commission Chairman, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Zeya Kyaw Htin Htein Win delivered a speech on the occasion.

The Commander-in-Chief (Navy) first took the salute of the graduate company and companies of honour and inspected these companies.

He then presented the awards to the outstanding officer trainees of the courses.

In his speech, the Admiral said the Naval Training Command was able to train and produce a new generation of junior officers who will serve not only



On behalf of the SSPC Chairman and Defence Services Commander-in-Chief, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Zeya Kyaw Htin Htein Win addresses the passing-out parade of the naval junior officer management and engineering courses yesterday.

Tatmadaw (Navy) but also the country and Tatmadaw. During the training period, in addition to lectures, ship-based practical training (afloat training) was conducted in conjunction with naval vessels. Trainees were also assigned to naval ships travelling abroad and participated in maritime exercises, enabling them to carry out hands-on sea training.

He continued that it is required to jointly undertake mar-

itime operations, riverine operations, and transportation duties, and that only by acquiring a solid fundamental understanding of naval tactics will they be able to carry out these responsibilities successfully. Therefore, a basic naval tactics course was opened. The naval knowledge imparted so far represents only the basic foundation for beginning a career as a naval officer, and in line with the concept of "long life

learning," it is especially necessary to continue studying and learning throughout the entire life of naval officers.

He mentioned the role of leadership, successful establishment of various types of naval vessels, naval training for female officers and other ranks to be fit and strong like the male ones, joint operations with Tatmadaw (Army) and Tatmadaw (Air), military operations and transport

to Rakhine State and along Ayeyawady and Chindwin rivers.

He also urged the junior naval officers to follow the orders and instructions.

The Admiral left the parade ground after taking the salute of the graduate company and other companies of honour. The Admiral met with outstanding graduate officers and their parents and spoke words of honour.

In the evening, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Htein Win and his wife, senior military officers and their wives, distinguished guests, graduate officers and their parents attended the graduation dinner.

The entertainment troupe of the Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) and the Navy Band performed songs and dances. After the dinner, the Admiral cordially greeted the graduate officers and their parents and relatives. — MNA/KTZH

Minbu ceremony honours victorious Tatmadaw members returning from frontline



This image shows Tatmadaw's triumphant troops being warmly welcomed back at the station.

A ceremony to welcome and honour frontline-returning Tatmadaw personnel who had bravely fought armed terrorist groups and organizations operating under the name of the PDF – groups that had committed violent acts causing suffering to the public and undermining regional development – and who had achieved repeated victories, was held this morning at a local battalion in Minbu Township, Magway

Region.

The event was attended by Brig-Gen Lin Naing Soe, Deputy Commander of the Central Command, responsible officials, members of the regional government, departmental officials, teachers, students, and residents warmly welcomed and honoured them with victory flowers, bouquets, garlands, soft drinks, and traditional music performances.

It was reported that the Deputy Commander delivered words of encouragement and appreciation to the victorious frontline-returning Tatmadaw personnel and presented them with honorary cash awards. — MNA/KZL

ICRC supports farmers with sustainable agriculture training across Myanmar

THE International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is providing long-term assistance to support livelihoods in Kachin, Shan and Kayin states and Mandalay Region.

The Community-Based Agricultural Production Training (CAPT) programme was conducted to provide practical training to farmers on sustainable farming methods, as well as soil conservation and fertiliser use.

As a result, farmers who attended the training in 2026 are now sharing the skills they learned with other farmers.

In addition, other farmer representatives who participated in the training have also switched to using natural fertilisers and have reported stronger crops, improved soil quality and reduced production costs, according to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). — ASH/MKKS

This photo captures a coach delivering a Community-Based Agricultural Production Training (CAPT).



NATIONAL

United strength of people can manage appropriate protection against natural disasters

- ❖ Natural disasters cannot be completely prevented, but appropriate protection can be provided through people's preparedness, diligence, and efforts.
- ❖ Planting trees and conserving forests will create shade and shelter, as well as a greener and more vibrant environment.

(An excerpt from the speech delivered by State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the national-level second tree-growing ceremony 2025 with public activity in Minbu Township, Minbu District of Magway Region, for greening 13 arid zone districts on 19 August 2025)

DICA: 7,300 companies fail to file AR in 2025

A total of 7,300 were struck off the register in 2025 as they failed to file annual returns (AR) on the online registry system, MyCO, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

DICA's report showed failure of 1,500 companies each in January and February, 900 in March to submit AR. No company can file AR in April. Some 400 companies in May, 600 in June, 1,000 in July, 400 in August, 200 in September did not file AR. No company is listed for failing to submit AR in October. Four hundred companies each failed to submit in November and December 2025.

DICA notified those companies which failed to file their ARs on the MyCO were struck

off the register from the date of the directive, under 430 (F) of the Myanmar Companies Law, according to the DICA's notification.

A total of 19,000 companies also failed to submit the AR in 2024. The registration and re-registration of companies on the MyCO website commenced on 1 August 2018, in keeping with the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

All registered companies need to submit AR on the MyCO registry system within two months of incorporation, and at least once every year (not later than one month after the anniversary of the incorporation), according to Section 97 of the law.

Under Section 266 (A) of the Myanmar Companies Law



The facade view of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) office in Yangon.

2017, public companies must submit annual returns and financial statements (G-5) simultaneously. All overseas corporations must submit ARs in the prescribed format on MyCO within 28 days of the financial year ending, under Section 53 (A-1) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

As per DICA's report, thousands of companies were suspended for failing to submit AR forms before the due date. Newly established companies are required to submit ARs within two

months of incorporation or face a fine of K100,000 for filing late returns.

DICA has notified that any company which fails to submit its AR within 13 months will be notified of its suspension (I-9A). If it fails to submit the AR within 28 days of receiving the notice, the system will show the company's status as suspended. Companies can restore their status only after shelling out a fine of K50,000 for the AR fee, K100,000 for restoration of the company on the Register, and K100,000 for late filing of documents, totalling K250,000. If a company fails to restore its status within six months of suspension, the registrar will strike its name off the register, according to the DICA notice. — NN/KK

CBM sells over US\$3.2M to edible oil importers

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold over US\$3.29 million to edible oil-importing companies on 26 January, along with a sale of over 565,900 baht.

CBM sold over \$1.96 million to edible oil-importing companies and over \$3.45 to fuel oil-importing companies on 23 January, after pumping over 4.88 million baht into the market.

CBM injected over \$1.09 million into edible oil-importing companies and over \$452,000 to fuel oil-importing companies on 22 January, in addition to injection of over 292,000 yuan and over 4.5 million baht into the market on that day.

CBM announced on 21 January that it would sell \$25 million to those engaged in the fuel oil sector. CBM continued injecting 3.95 million baht into the foreign exchange market after selling over \$649,000 to the edible oil-importing companies on 21 January.

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

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

MPIE calls for tender to procure medical raw materials

MYANMA Pharmaceutical Industrial Enterprise, operated under the Ministry of Industry, called for tender to procure 31 types of raw materials and two types of auxiliary materials for the production of pharmaceuticals at Myanmar Pharmaceuticals Factory (Insein).

Only the registered com-

panies verifying tax clearance can submit a tender.

Price proposal forms are sold starting from 23 January, and tender submission will be accepted at 4 pm on 5 February. Tenders must be submitted to the Tender Accepting and Evaluating Committee of Myanmar Pharmaceutical Industrial

Enterprise at Office 37 in Nay Pyi Taw.

Interested individuals can enquire about the standard of the items, tender rules and regulations at the Myanma Pharmaceutical Industrial Enterprise (head office) in Nay Pyi Taw via 067 3408388 and 067 3408354. — NN/KK

EPGE seeks tender to procure equipment for Yeywa Hydropower Plant

THE Electric Power Generation Enterprise under the Ministry of Electric Power invited an open tender to purchase electrical equipment for the Yeywa Hydropower Plant operated under the Department of Renewable Energy and Hydropower Plants of the EPGE in the 2025-2026 financial year.

The two types of equipment with Tender No 53(T)/EPGE (REHP)/ 2025-2026 (DDP At Site) will be purchased in kyat. Technical proposal and financial proposal must be sealed separately and submitted personally to the EPGE at 1 pm on 4 February.

The tender form is available

at the EPGE (Office 27) in Nay Pyi Taw at 4 pm on 3 February. The tender form is also posted on the web portal of the ministry, www.moep.gov.mm. Interested individuals can enquire about details by dialling 09 448533894 and 09 425304647 of the Tender Accepting and Evaluating Committee. — NN/KK

Generate valuable findings from the medical research congress

In order to advance Myanmar's health research activities in line with international standards, the 54th Myanmar Health Research Congress is being held from 26 to 30 January at the Department of Medical Research (Head Office) in Yangon Region. The theme of this year's Myanmar Health Research Conference is "Better Health through Medical Research".

The Ministry of Health has been increasing research funding on an annual basis to further strengthen research activities. In the 2025-2026 financial year, research funding totalling K1,500 million

was approved for 150 research projects. At this year's conference, research findings from studies previously conducted with Ministry of Health research funding are being submitted and presented in the form of research papers and posters.

Research findings will be generated from the presented research papers, research posters, and academic plenary sessions. In addition to enhancing the knowledge and capacity of those working in the health sector, the research findings will enable the effective application of sound methods to help citizens live longer and healthier lives.

through the collaborative participation of relevant departments. As the enhancement of the country's healthcare system also depends on the research capacity of its citizens, the ministry will continue to provide support for the further development and strengthening of research activities.

At the 54th congress, a total of 71 research papers and 45 research posters are scheduled to be submitted for presentation and display. The sound and evidence-based findings emerging from health research congresses will greatly support the formulation of health policies that are relevant and appropriate to national conditions, enhance the effectiveness and impact of health service delivery, and contribute to the implementation of major initiatives aimed at ensuring that everyone has access to quality health care.

Research findings will be generated from the presented research papers, research posters, and academic plenary sessions. In addition to enhancing the knowledge and capacity of those working in the health sector, the research findings will enable the effective application of sound methods to help citizens live longer and healthier lives.

Thanks to the conference, it will be possible to identify and address public health problems by practically applying the robust, evidence-based research findings obtained from the conference. Therefore, the 54th conference, which will enable the continuous conduct of high-quality research that meets international standards and adheres to research ethics, serves as a reliable forum for the health of the entire nation.

The Everyday Psychology of Being Human: Autonomy, Diversity, Oddness, Confidence, Timidity and Everything In Between

By Khin Maung Myint

HUMAN behaviour is a mosaic. We often talk about people as if they can be reduced to a single trait—"she's confident", "he's timid", "they're eccentric"—but psychology reminds us that each of us is a shifting constellation of tendencies. In everyday life, these traits show up not as clinical labels but as the small, recognizable ways we move through the world.

Autonomy, for example, is simply the desire to steer our own ship. Some people need space to make decisions, to think, to breathe. They are not being difficult; they are protecting their sense of self. Psychology sees autonomy as a core human need, not a luxury. When it is respected, people flourish. When it is denied, they shrink.

Diversity is not just about

ethnicity or culture. It is the everyday reality that no two minds work the same way. One person thrives in noise; another needs silence. One loves routine; another seeks novelty. Diversity is the natural state of human psychology. The challenge is not to make everyone the same, but to make room for the many ways of being human.

Then there are the traits we often whisper about. Some people are odd or eccentric—not in the dramatic sense, but in the gentle way they see the world slightly differently. They ask unusual questions, follow unusual paths, or simply refuse to blend in. Psychology tells us that eccentricity often comes from creativity, independence, or

a refusal to perform for social approval. These are not flaws; they are forms of courage.

Others are reserved. They speak less, observe more, and reveal themselves slowly. In a noisy world, their quietness is often misunderstood as aloofness. Yet many reserved people are simply processing deeply. Their silence is not emptiness; it is depth.

Some are obliging, the ones who say yes even when tired. They smooth conflicts, carry emotional weight, and keep the peace. Overconfidence is not arrogance; it is often a shield against insecurity or a habit learned from environments that reward boldness over reflection. Psychology sees it as a bias, not a moral failing.

And of course, there is flirting—that playful dance of attention and curiosity. Flirting is not always romantic; sometimes it is simply the human desire to feel seen, valued, or alive. It is a social behaviour rooted in connection.

On the other end of the spectrum is the timid person, who hesitates before stepping forward. Timidity is not weakness. It is often the result of past experiences, temperament, or a nervous system that feels the world more intensely. Psychology teaches us that timidity can coexist with bravery; courage is not the absence of fear but the decision to act despite it.

When we look at these traits through the lens of psychology, a simple truth emerges:

Human behaviour is not a set of fixed categories. It is a living, breathing negotiation between personality, experience,

culture, and context.

A person may be autonomous at work but obliging at home. Eccentric with friends but timid in crowds. Overconfident in one moment and deeply unsure in the next. We are not static beings; we are dynamic stories.

The real task is not to judge these traits but to understand them—first in others, and then in ourselves. When we recognize the psychological roots of everyday behaviour, we become more patient, more curious, and more compassionate.

In the end, the beauty of being human lies in this complexity. We are all a little odd, a little timid, a little confident, a little reserved. We are mixtures, not labels. And the more we honour that truth, the kinder our world becomes.

become mentors, counsellors, and role models. Their patience, dedication, and belief in their students create safe spaces where learning can truly happen.

Education also teaches values that go beyond academic knowledge. It helps learners develop empathy, respect, and responsibility. Through education, individuals learn to appreciate diversity, understand different perspectives,

graduation; it continues throughout life. Adults return to learning to gain new skills, adapt to changing careers, or simply to grow intellectually and personally. This ongoing journey of learning empowers individuals to remain active participants in society and to face new challenges with confidence. International Day of Education celebrates not only students in classrooms, but learners of all ages who con-

Despite its many benefits, education faces ongoing challenges. Overcrowded classrooms, limited resources, and unequal opportunities continue to affect learning outcomes. Teachers often work under difficult conditions, while students struggle with pressure, uncertainty, or lack of support. Recognizing these challenges is not a sign of failure, but a call to action. International Day of Education reminds us that improving education requires continuous effort, investment, and compassion.

Education is also deeply personal. For many, it represents hope—a way to break cycles of hardship and open doors that once seemed closed. It gives individuals a voice and the confidence to express their ideas. Education allows people to dream not only for themselves, but for a better future for others. In this sense, education is an act of faith in humanity's potential.

As the world observes International Day of Education, it is an opportunity to renew our commitment to learning for all. Governments, educators, families, and individuals each have a role to play in protecting and strengthening education systems. Supporting teachers, ensuring access for every learner, and promoting inclusive and meaningful education are responsibilities that cannot be postponed.

Education does not change the world overnight, but it changes people—and people change the world. Every lesson taught, every question asked, and every mind opened contributes to a larger story of progress and possibility. On this day, we honour not only schools and institutions but the human spirit that seeks knowledge, understanding, and growth.

International Day of Education is ultimately a celebration of hope. Hope that every child will have the chance to learn. Hope that education will continue to light the way through uncertainty. And hope that through learning, humanity can move towards a future defined by wisdom, compassion, and shared understanding.

The Heart of Human Development

By Laura Htet (UDE)

inates, and coexist peacefully. In a world where misunderstandings and divisions are common, education offers a powerful tool for building bridges rather than walls. It encourages dialogue instead of conflict and understanding instead of fear.

The modern world is changing rapidly, and education must evolve alongside it. Technology has transformed the way people learn, connect, and share information. Online classrooms, digital resources, and global communication have opened new doors for learners who were once limited by distance or circumstance. At the same time, these changes remind us that education is not only about technology, but about guidance—helping learners use information wisely, think critically, and remain grounded in human values.

Teachers stand at the heart of education. Often working quietly behind the scenes, they shape lives in ways that cannot be measured by grades alone. A teacher may be the first person to recognize a child's talent, the first to offer encouragement, or the first to listen when a student feels unheard. In many communities, teachers do far more than teach lessons; they

turn to seek knowledge.

For communities, education is a foundation for development. Educated individuals are better equipped to contribute positively to society, support their families, and participate in community life. Education helps reduce poverty, improve health, and promote social stability.

When one child receives a quality education, the benefits extend far beyond that individual, influencing families, neighbourhoods, and future generations.

Parents also play a vital role in education. Their encouragement, involvement, and support shape a child's attitude towards learning.

A simple act—listening to a child read, asking about their school day, or celebrating small achievements—can leave a lasting impact. Education thrives best when schools, families, and communities work together, sharing responsibility for nurturing young minds.

Technology alone will not define the future of work. Instead, today's investments in people will be the deciding factor. These human capital strategies determine how well businesses and societies adapt.

AI could reshape jobs globally by 2030, asserts WEF white paper

ARTIFICIAL Intelligence (AI) is set to profoundly reshape global labour markets by the end of the decade, with outcomes ranging from productivity booms to widespread job displacement, according to a new World Economic Forum (WEF) white paper released this month.

In *Four Futures for Jobs in the New Economy: AI and Talent in 2030*, the Forum outlined four plausible scenarios for how AI advancement and workforce readiness could interact to transform jobs, value chains and economic growth. The report drew insights from the Forum's Chief Strategy Officers Community and global foresight experts.

Survey data cited in the paper highlighted deep uncertainty among business leaders. Around 54 per cent of executives globally expect AI to displace existing jobs, while only 24 per cent believe it will create new ones.

Nearly 45 per cent anticipate rising profit margins from AI adoption, but just 12 per cent expect higher wages, suggesting productivity gains may not translate evenly into higher wages for workers.

The Forum stressed that technology alone will not determine the future of work.

SOURCE: ANI



NATIONAL

Para-Athletes Express Pride After Gold, Silver and Bronze Wins

By NYEIN THU (MNA)



Maj-Gen Hla Moe.



Nyi Nyi Lin Htet.



Wai Yan Min.



Aung Myint Myat.



Sithu Htet.



Yan Lin Aung.



Zaw Moe Aung.

The XIII ASEAN Para Games were held in Bangkok and Nakhon Ratchasima (Korat), Thailand, from 20 to 26 January 2026. Representing Myanmar, the Myanmar Para-athletes team, led by Major General Hla Moe, President of the Paraports Federation competed in 11 sports disciplines and won 20 golds, 19 silvers, and 20 bronzes, a total of 59 medals.

The Myanmar Para-athletes team ranked 6th among the 10 ASEAN countries and brought honour to the nation through their sporting achievements. The athletes returned to Yangon this evening, where officials and the public warmly welcomed them at Yangon International Airport. The team and officials were greeted with joy and congratulations for their achievement and for bringing national prestige through their medals.

The expressions of joy and pride of the nationally honoured para-athletes and the officials are as follows.

Maj-Gen Hla Moe (President of the Paraports Federation)

As the Myanmar Paralympic Committee, we sent 97 athletes to compete in 11 sports disciplines at the 13th ASEAN Para Games. The team won 20 gold, 19 silver, and 20 bronze medals, a total of 59 medals, placing Myanmar sixth among participating countries.

Since 2008, the Committee has worked to improve medal counts by implementing administrative reforms, changes

in coaching methods, and enhanced training programs, resulting in noticeable progress. In particular, in volleyball, the team exceeded the gold medal expectations compared to previous competitions. Thanks to intensified training in 2024, the athletes were able to achieve more gold medals than anticipated, surpassing the host nation, which is a source of great pride.

In football, although the team defeated other countries, they lost to the host by one goal and received only a silver medal. In athletics, the target was 14 golds, but the team won 11. In swimming, the target was 4 golds, but the team won 8. For the other sports, athletes received various silver and bronze medals.

The athletes trained systematically under a programme based on military-style discipline, as they are also members of the Tatmadaw. Success relies on training: expertise builds confidence, confidence builds courage, and courage leads to victory. Following this motto, the athletes trained diligently and were able to bring honour to Myanmar.

As a result, the Myanmar Paralympic Committee proudly secured 59 medals, including 20 golds, at the XIII ASEAN Para Games, elevating the nation's prestige in the field of sports.

Nyi Nyi Lin Htet (Swimming, 4 gold medallists)

I won four gold medals in swimming events: the 200 metre, 100 metre, and 50 me-

tre freestyle and the 50 metre breaststroke. This success was achieved by strictly following the coaches' guidance throughout the competition. The main rival was the host country, Thailand, and I am extremely proud to have surpassed them and secured the gold medals for the nation. I am ready to continue training and competing in future events to win more medals and bring honour to the country.

Wai Yan Min (Football, silver medallist)

In the football tournament, where a team of seven players competed, we won four matches, drew 1 match, and reached the final. In the final, we lost to the host country, Thailand, by 1-0, and therefore won the silver medal. As a lesson from the competition, we learned not to underestimate opponents and to play with even more effort and determination next time. Although we did not win the gold, I am proud on behalf of the whole team to have secured the silver medal for the country.

Aung Myint Myat (Swimming, gold medallist)

I competed in swimming events. I won 1 bronze medal in the 200 metre freestyle, 1 bronze medal in the 100-metre freestyle, and one gold medal in the 50-metre butterfly. To achieve this success, I trained for nearly eight months with the Paralympic Committee. I am extremely proud that I won the gold medal exactly as promised before leaving for the

competition.

It was not easy to surpass the host countries, the Philippines, Indonesia, and Malaysia, but I pushed myself with the determination to win gold for the country, and that effort paid off. Am I satisfied? Not completely, since I didn't win all the gold medals. However, it has given me the motivation to try even harder. I have also decided to improve my training system and methods further. I am extremely proud knowing that the country will appropriately reward our achievements, just as it did last year.

Sithu Htet (Athletics, gold medallist)

I won gold in the javelin throw and silver in the shot put in athletics events. I am extremely proud and overjoyed because, after two years of hard training for this competition, I was able to achieve the greatest goal I had ever wanted in my life.

I would also like to sincerely thank everyone who supported us along the way. I am grateful to the Yangon chief minister, who presented awards to our team at the airport.

Yan Lin Aung (Sitting Volleyball, gold medallist)

We won the gold after surpassing strong countries such as Thailand, Indonesia, and the Philippines. It had been a long time since our team had held gold. The feeling of having overcome the host country and other strong nations is an incomparable joy and pride.

We are determined to work even harder from now on. In the competitions next year, we also aim to defend our current championship.

I sincerely thank everyone, and a special thanks goes to the Myanmar fans who supported us.

Zaw Moe Aung (Sitting Volleyball, gold medallist)

Among all the competitions I have participated in, this one has been the happiest moment of my life because we won the gold fairly and deservedly. Following the guidance of the organizers and coaches, we competed as instructed, and by surpassing some of the strongest countries, we were able to win the gold medal for the nation. As a volleyball player, I am deeply proud and overjoyed to regain a gold that had been missing since 1990, in 2026, and I sincerely thank the national leaders and all responsible officials. As the Myanmar Paralympic Sports Federation, we competed as instructed, and by

surpassing some of the strongest countries, we were able to win the gold medal for the nation. As a volleyball player, I am deeply proud and overjoyed to regain a gold that had been missing since 1990, in 2026, and I sincerely thank the national leaders and all responsible officials. As the Myanmar Paralympic Sports Federation, our athletes have achieved the following gold medals in ASEAN Para Games for the honour of Tatmadaw and the nation: 36 golds in 2001 (Malaysia), 24 in 2003, 29 in 2005, 12 in 2008, 8 in 2009, 11 in the VI Games (Indonesia), 34 in 2014 (Nay Pyi Taw, VII Games), 16 in 2015, 11 in 2017, no participation in the X Games, 14 in 2022 (XI Games), 15 in 2023, and 20 in 2026 (XIII Games). Through these achievements, Myanmar Paralympic athletes have brought honour to Tatmadaw and the nation. — KZL

NATIONAL

Kyonkapyin-Tapseik becomes winter haven for endangered yellow-breasted buntings

HUNDREDS of thousands of yellow-breasted buntings, a species at risk of extinction, have arrived to winter in the Kyonkapyin-Tapseik Conservation Group (KTCG)'s area, one of its members told the Global New Light of Myanmar.

These birds require urgent conservation efforts, said environmentalists. According to the KTCG, only about 3,000 of these birds were recorded in the first survey, but that number has surged to hundreds of thousands this year.

"The yellow-breasted bunting, a rare endangered species, has arrived for the winter. We've observed them returning annually in recent years. They



This image, including an inset, shows yellow-breasted buntings wintering at the Kyonkapyin-Tapseik conservation area alongside visitors.

migrate here from abroad. Our initial surveys recorded just over 3,000 birds, but the population has grown steadily to hundreds of thousands," he stated.

They live in eastern Europe, northern Asia, and Russia. Every winter, they migrate in flocks to southern Asian countries, including Myanmar, typically arriving around October.

Currently, more than 100 bird species, including various rare types, inhabit this area. The KTCG is inviting nature enthusiasts and bird watchers to observe these beautiful guests, the coexistence of local farmers and diverse wildlife, fishermen, and the community-led conservation efforts. — MT/ZN

Star actor donates K15M for pagoda renovation, community causes in Sittway

ACADEMY Khant Si Thu and his family donated funds to the Lawkananda Pagoda, the Rakhine State Elderly Care Association, the ABC Foundation, religious missionary activities in hilly border and coastal regions, and events marking the 200th anniversary of the establishment of Sittway City in Sittway Township, Rakhine State. The donation ceremony was held at Lawkananda Pagoda in Sittway on 25 January, according to Khant Si Thu.

Khant Si Thu and his family contributed funds



This image depicts the donation activities of Academy Khant Si Thu and his family.

for the comprehensive renovation of the Lawkananda Pagoda, support for the Rakhine State Elderly Care Association, activities commemorating the 200th anniversary of Sittway City, assistance to the ABC Foundation, and religious missionary work in hilly border and coastal regions. Khant Si Thu said,

"We donated funds for the comprehensive renovation of the Aungsakyamuni Theindawmyatgyi at the Lawkananda Pagoda in Sittway and for activities marking the 200th anniversary of Sittway City. In addition, we donated cash and clothing to the ABC Foundation, which provides care for orphaned and unaccompanied children. We also donated funds for religious missionary work in the hilly border and coastal regions. The total donation amounted to K15 million". — ASH/KZL

'Super Together' Concert to celebrate 50 years of Korea-Myanmar friendship

THE Super Together Concert will be held by Korean and Myanmar singers to mark the 50th anniversary of Korea-Myanmar friendship on 28 February at Thuwunna National Stadium in Yangon, according to singer Yadana Mai, who will take

part in the concert.

A portion of the proceeds from the concert will be donated to the people of Myanmar who are still suffering from the March 2025 earthquake.

"I heard that part of the proceeds from this concert will be donated to

the Myanmar Earthquake Relief Fund. On behalf of Myanmar, I would like to express my gratitude. I invite our fans to attend this concert," said singer Yadana Mai.

A press conference for the Super Together Concert was held at

3 pm on 26 January in the Grand Ballroom of the Summit Park View Hotel. The artistes performing at the concert were present, including Yadana Mai, Hlwan Paing, DJ Mari Jane, DJ Luke and MC Hence. — ASH/MKKS

DWIR opens article contest to mark World Water Day 2026

THE Directorate of Water Resource and Improvement of River Systems under the Ministry of Transport and Communications will hold an article contest (amateur and freelance) under the theme of "Let's all equally contribute to water sector development" to mark World Water Day on 22 March 2026. The article needs to highlight the value of water, sustainable water resources and empowering women in water-related management. Those 30 years and above can participate in the freelance category, and amateur contests are for those 14 to 29 years.

Contestants need to follow the rules and criteria; submitting only one article per person, five to seven pages (A4) for freelance level and four to six pages for amateurs, using Pyidaungsu font with size 13 and 1.2 line spacing, one-inch margins on all sides (top, bottom, right, left), sending in Microsoft Word format, and avoiding plagiarism. Articles must not be printed or the same piece of writing that won in other contests. Contests are required to provide a commitment letter declaring the work is original. They must send articles (hard/soft copy) and an autobiography of the writer, including a citizenship scrutiny card, two colour photos, contact email, and address to the DWIR through mailing (post) or email research. dwir@gmail.com, sawsandawin@gmail.com or personally at 400, Lower Pazundaung Road, Pazundaung Township, Yangon via 09 254290206 and 09 794086976 at 4 pm on 20 February. Articles that do not meet the criteria and that reach the office after the deadline must not be considered anyhow. — NN/KK

ECONOMY WORLD

European Parliament delays decision on EU-US trade deal



This photo taken on 6 June 2024 shows an exterior view of the European Parliament in Brussels, Belgium. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

THE European Parliament has delayed until next week a decision on whether to restart work on the EU-US trade deal, after pausing its approval process last week, in protest over US President Donald Trump's push to acquire Greenland and his tariff threats against European allies, according to a senior lawmaker on Monday.

Confirming that no decision was taken on Monday to resume ordinary EU-US legislative procedures, Bernd Lange, chair of the European

Parliament's Committee on International Trade, said in a post on X that the Parliament's negotiating team will meet on 4 February to reassess the situation.

On 21 January, the European Parliament decided to put on hold approval of the trade deal between the EU and the United States following US threats of tariffs linked to Greenland.

Tensions eased afterward when Washington announced that a "framework deal" had

been reached on Greenland-related issues and that threatened tariffs on eight European countries would be suspended.

Under the EU-US trade deal reached in July last year, the EU would eliminate tariffs on all US industrial products and introduce tariff-rate quotas for a wide range of US agri-food products entering the EU market. In return, Washington would set a 15-per-cent tariff ceiling on most EU goods exported to the United States.

— Xinhua

Annual output value of China's bamboo industry tops 520 bln yuan

CHINA'S bamboo industry has achieved an annual output value of over 520 billion yuan (about US\$74.4 billion), with more than 15,000 types of bamboo products available, National Forestry and Grassland Administration data showed on Tuesday.

Under the three-year action plan to accelerate replacing plastic with bamboo, the

government has implemented supportive policies to foster industrial clustering, according to the administration.

Currently, China has more than 10,000 bamboo processing enterprises, supporting employment for over 29 million people along the entire industrial chain.

China contains nearly eight million hectares of bamboo

forests, producing 150 million tonnes of bamboo annually.

During the 15th Five-Year Plan period (2026-2030), the country aims to further improve its policy support to boost the circular economy and deepen integration of technological and industrial innovation to build competitive bamboo industrial clusters, the administration noted. — Xinhua

Modi says India's energy sector offers US\$500-bln investment opportunities

INDIAN Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Tuesday that the country's energy sector offers US\$500 billion investment opportunities.

Modi made the remarks while addressing via video conferencing the India Energy Week 2026 that commenced in the western state of Goa.

He urged global investors to invest in India.

"India's energy sector lies at the centre of the nation's aspirations, offering investment opportunities worth US\$500 billion. So my message is - make in India, innovate in India, scale with India and invest in India."

Modi said the country's oil refining capacity will be expand-

ed from 260 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) to 300 MTPA, and the nation is targeting \$100 billion in investment in the oil and gas sector by 2030.

Highlighting that Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) demand in India was continuously growing, he said the country has set a target to meet 15 per cent of its total energy demand through LNG.

"India is working to build the vessels required for LNG transport domestically, supported by a recently launched ship-building programme," he said. "Numerous investment opportunities have been created in constructing LNG terminals at Indian ports, as well as in regasification projects." — Xinhua

Malaysia hits record 42.2 mln visitors in 2025

MALAYSIA'S tourism sector recorded 42.2 million visitors in 2025, an 11.2 per cent year-on-year increase and 20.4 per cent higher than 2019 benchmarks, the country's state agency Bernama cited Deputy Prime Minister Ahmad Zahid Hamidi as saying.

According to the report, Ahmad Zahid hailed the performance as a "solid foundation" for the upcoming Visit Malaysia 2026 (VM2026) campaign.

Speaking after the Tourism and Culture Cabinet Committee

meeting, he emphasized that the industry has solidified its position as a primary engine for the country's economic growth and job creation.

To ensure the momentum translates into long-term fiscal strength, he said the government

is adopting a "whole-of-government" approach. This involves total mobilization of the state machinery to streamline coordination across all ministries, departments, and agencies. — Xinhua



An instructor (3rd L) teaches children to make bamboo weaving works at a study tour centre in Manhai Village, Mojiang Hani Autonomous County of Pu'er City, southwest China's Yunnan Province, 20 December 2025. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

China's Greater Bay Area GDP expected to top 15 trl yuan in 2025

CHINA'S Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) is pushing forward with integration, with its combined economic output expected to surpass 15 trillion yuan (about US\$2.15 trillion) in 2025, according to the annual session of the Guangdong Provincial People's Congress.

The GBA brings the Hong Kong and Macao special administrative regions together with nine mainland cities in the economic powerhouse of Guangdong, including Guangzhou, Shenzhen and Zhuhai. The region

is increasingly connected by faster transport and smoother cross-border flows.

Physical connectivity has accelerated in recent years. Intercity railways have shifted from isolated lines to a networked system, pushing total rail mileage beyond 4,000 kilometres, while cross-border water passenger routes have expanded to 17 lines.

Institutional connectivity is also taking shape, with 198 government services now available across borders within the GBA. Authorities have intro-

duced 267 GBA standards and issued 308 GBA certifications.

The region now hosts 84 innovation and entrepreneurship bases for young people from Hong Kong and Macao, having attracted more than 7,000 projects.

This momentum reflects Guangdong's broader economic heft. According to the provincial government work report, which was released at the annual session, the southern province ranked first nationwide in total GDP for the 37th consecutive year in 2025. — Xinhua



This photo taken on 8 December 2022 shows a view of the Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Modern Service Industry Cooperation Zone in the southern metropolis of Shenzhen, south China's Guangdong Province. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

GM reports 4th quarter loss but forecasts solid 2026 profits

GENERAL Motors reported a fourth-quarter loss Tuesday due to a big write-down of electric vehicle investments, but forecast solid profits in 2026.

Shares in the US auto giant rose in pre-market trading after GM announced a dividend increase and a new share repurchase programme.

GM reported a loss of



A sign for General Motors' Factory Zero plant is seen on 29 October 2025 in Detroit, Michigan. **PHOTO: BILL PUGLIANO/GETTY IMAGES/AFP**

\$3.3 billion in the fourth quarter following a \$7.1 billion hit on EV investments due to regulatory changes by US President Donald Trump's administration. The company had warned of the EV costs earlier this month.

Revenues dipped 5.1 per cent to \$45.3 billion on lower vehicle sales compared with the year-ago period. — AFP

Anta Sports to become largest shareholder in PUMA with 1.5 bln euros stake acquisition

CHINA'S sportswear giant Anta Sports announced on Tuesday that it will buy a 29.06 per cent stake in German group Puma SE for 1.5 billion euros, making the Chinese company the largest single shareholder in the iconic brand. The acquisition from the Pinault family's investment firm, Groupe Artemis, marks a significant step in Anta's

push to expand its global portfolio and footprint.

According to the statement, Anta Sports currently has no plans to make a takeover offer for the rest of the company. The transaction is expected to close by the end of 2026, pending regulatory approvals. Anta said it will fund the purchase entirely from internal cash reserves. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CHANA BHUM VOY.NO. (914N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CHANA BHUM VOY.NO. (914N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **28-1-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

Myanmar International Terminals Thilawa Limited (MITT) Sealed Tender Invitation for Scrap Sale of Two Mobile Harbour Cranes

MITT intends to sell scrap sale of two units of Gottwald Mobile Harbour Cranes in as is conditions and hereby invites sealed tenders from interested parties who shall offer their bids in a sealed envelope on which to be marked as "**Tender for Scrap Sale of Two Mobile Harbour Cranes**" and submit it to the address of Berth 5-9, Thilawa, Kyauktan Township, Yangon.

Tender documents *can be obtained from the MITT and conditions of the cranes can be sighted* at the above address during office hours by contacting telephone number 09977246900-02 before the tender closing date of 20 February 2026.

MITT Tender Committee

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ROLLING UPDATES

Health threat of global plastics projected to soar



This picture shows plastic bottles at a Recycle Factory in the city of Corfu on 15 October 2025. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE threat posed by plastic production, usage and disposal to human health will skyrocket in the coming years unless the world does something to address this global crisis, researchers warned Tuesday.

A British-French team of researchers attempted to cover all the different ways that plastic affects health, from oil and gas extraction during production to all the products that end up in landfills. However they said that their modelling study still does not take into account an array of other ways plastic could harm health, such as microplastics or chemicals that can leach out of food packaging.

“This is undoubtedly a vast

underestimate of the total human health impacts,” lead study author Megan Deeney of the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine told AFP.

The study, published in *The Lancet Planetary Health*, said it was the first to estimate the number of healthy years of life lost due to the lifecycle of plastic worldwide. The researchers used a measure called DALYs, which represents the number of years lost to either early death or diminished quality of life from illness.

Under a business-as-usual scenario, the number of DALYs caused by plastic was projected to more than double from 2.1 million in 2016 to 4.5 million in 2040. — AFP

Israel releases 9 Palestinian detainees following recovery of last Israeli hostage's remains

ISRAEL on Monday released nine Palestinian detainees from the Gaza Strip, who arrived at Al-Aqsa Hospital in Deir al-Balah, central Gaza Strip, hours after the Israeli army announced the recovery of the remains of the last Israeli hostage held in Gaza.

The move is part of the implementation of the ceasefire agreement reached between Israel and Hamas in October 2025.

In a press statement, the hospital said the detainees arrived through the facilitation of the International Committee of the Red Cross after their release by Israeli authorities via the Ker-

em Shalom crossing.

Earlier on Monday, the Israeli army announced the recovery of the remains of Ran Gvili, 24, a member of Israel Police's elite Yasam patrol unit, who was killed on 7 October 2023, and whose body was transferred to Gaza.

In a press statement, Hamas said it had made “significant efforts” to locate Gvili’s remains, calling on Israel to fully implement all provisions of the agreement, including reopening the Rafah crossing, allowing humanitarian aid into Gaza, and withdrawing completely from the Strip. — Xinhua

Sri Lanka keeps watch as Nipah virus cases emerge in eastern India

Sri Lanka has stepped up monitoring measures following reports of a Nipah virus cluster in India's eastern state of West Bengal, as health authorities across parts of Asia heighten vigilance over the emerging situation, the Daily Mirror reported.

Health officials said Sri Lanka is tracking developments at the regional level and remains in contact with international health monitoring systems. While no cases have been reported locally, authorities have indicated that preparedness measures are in place should the situation evolve. The alert follows confirmation by Indian authorities of at least five Nipah virus infections in West Bengal, including cases among healthcare workers. The development has prompted several countries in the region to strengthen preventive measures, particularly at international airports. — Xinhua

Iran says to give “comprehensive, regret-inducing” response to any aggression

IRANIAN Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baghaei said on Monday Iran will give a “comprehensive and regret-inducing” response to any aggression.

He made the remarks at a weekly press conference in Tehran, responding to US military movements in West Asia and its ongoing joint drills with Gulf states.

“We have been and still are faced with hybrid warfare. In the aftermath of Israel’s military aggression against Iran in June, we have been faced with new claims and threats from the United States and Israel every day over the past,” Baghaei said.

He said that countries in West Asia know that Iran would not be the sole target of regional insecurity. “Insecurity is contagious,” he said, adding that “any country that respects peace and international law should adopt a clear stance towards US threats against other states.”

Drawing on its previous experiences during the 12-day war with Israel and the Unit-

ed States, Iran would “definitely give a comprehensive and regret-inducing response to any aggression,” Baghaei added.

Commenting on US President Donald Trump’s remarks on Thursday that a US “armada” is heading towards the West Asia with a focus on Iran, Baghaei said the entry of an aircraft carrier to the region “is not supposed to affect Iran’s determination and seriousness to defend the country.”

He added the Iranian

armed forces were closely monitoring any developments and constantly improving their capabilities to protect the country’s national sovereignty, dignity and security.

Asked about potential Iran-US talks to prevent conflict, Baghaei said negotiations are only possible with a side that does not seek war or confrontation.

“We have never welcomed war and never shied away from diplomacy and negotiation. We have shown it in practice,” he said. — Xinhua



Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baghaei speaks at a weekly press conference in Tehran, Iran, 26 January 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

SPORTS

Para-athletes bring home 59 medals as Team Myanmar returns

THE Myanmar para-athletes team, led by Major-General Hla Moe, President of the Myanmar Parasports Federation, returned to Yangon International Airport yesterday at 6:35 pm after winning 20 gold, 19 silver and 20 bronze medals at the XIII ASEAN Para Games, held from 20 to 26 January 2026 in Bangkok and Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand.

Myanmar competed in 11 sporting disciplines, excelling particularly in track and field,

swimming, volleyball, football, blind judo, table tennis, weightlifting and goalball. The team secured the majority of the medals and finished sixth overall among the participating countries. The team won five more gold medals than at the XII ASEAN Para Games in Cambodia in 2023, making this one of Myanmar's most successful Para Games.

Upon arrival, the athletes were warmly welcomed and honoured by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein,

Deputy Minister U Zin Min Htet of the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs, regional ministers, officials, students from the Institute of Sports and Physical Education (Yangon), family members and sports enthusiasts. They were greeted with ceremonial gifts, wreaths and flowers.

In recognition of their achievements, Chief Minister U Soe Thein presented a cash award of K10 million to the victorious Myanmar para-athletes. — MNA/KZL



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein presents cash awards to the Team Myanmar chief yesterday.



Cash awards presented by KBZ Bank to Myanmar para-athletes.

KBZ Bank family rewards Myanmar para-athletes at Don Mueang Airport

ATHLETES from Myanmar's winning para-athletics team were honoured at Don Mueang Airport with donations in Thai baht sent by U Aung Ko Win, chairman of KBZ Bank, and his family, sources said.

Myanmar competed in 11 sporting disciplines and won a total of 59 medals at the XIII ASEAN Para Games, held from 20 to 26 January 2026 in Bangkok and Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand. The medal haul included 20 golds, 19 silvers and 20 bronzes.

For each gold medal (individual or team), THB100,000 was awarded; for each silver medal, THB50,000; and for each bronze

medal, THB30,000. The prizes were presented by Ambassador U Zaw Zaw Soe, Brig-Gen Win Thu Lin and Minister counsellor U Soe Thu Hein, respectively. The total prize for the 20 gold, 19 silver and 20 bronze medals amounted to THB3.55 million, which was handed over at Bangkok's Don Mueang Airport.

At the XIII South-East Asian Games held last December, Myanmar athletes received THB900,000 for three gold medals in traditional Chinlone and billiards events, bringing the total donation from the KBZ Bank chairman and his family to THB4.45 million. — MNA/KZL

Alcaraz sweeps into maiden Melbourne semi as Gauff gone in 59 minutes

CARLOS Alcaraz warned he was improving all the time as he swept into his maiden Australian Open semi-final Tuesday and a clash with Alexander Zverev, while Ukraine's Elina Svitolina faces Aryna Sabalenka in the last four.

Spanish world number one Alcaraz silenced a partisan Melbourne crowd in brushing aside home hope Alex de Minaur 7-5, 6-2, 6-1 at Rod Laver Arena.

The 22-year-old Alcaraz is yet to drop a set as he arrows in on a first Australian Open crown.

"I'm just really happy how I'm playing every match, each round my level is increasing," he said, in a warning to his rivals.

"Today I felt really comfortable, playing great tennis that I am really proud of," added Alcaraz, who had never previously



Alexander Zverev of Germany celebrates scoring during the men's singles quarterfinal match between Alexander Zverev of Germany and Learner Tien of the United States at the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne, Australia, 27 January 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA

gone beyond the quarter-finals in Australia in four previous visits.

The Australian Open is the only Grand Slam that Alcaraz has not won.

Should he beat Zverev and then win Sunday's final, he would

surpass compatriot and legend Rafael Nadal as the youngest man to win all four majors. Nadal was 24 when he did it. In a statement of his own, Zverev said he was playing without pain for the first time

in 12 months after last year's runner-up blasted past young American Learner Tien.

Zverev sent down 24 aces in a 6-3, 6-7 (5/7), 6-1, 7-6 (7/3) victory.

World number three Zverev is desperate to finally win a Grand Slam at age 28, having lost three major finals including being well beaten in last year's title decider by Jannik Sinner.

The German's 2025 season fell away after that, winning just one title in an injury-hit campaign and he also struggled with his mental health, taking a one-month break after losing in the first round at Wimbledon.

"The last 10 days I felt healthy, which is very nice, and pain-free, which I haven't felt in a long time. Probably in 12 months," he said after disman-

ting Tien.

Gauff's epic racquet smash

Coco Gauff folded in 59 error-strewn minutes as Svitolina set up a semifinal against Sabalenka.

Belarusian world number one Sabalenka tamed 18-year-old American Iva Jovic 6-3, 6-0 in 38 degrees Celsius temperatures on Rod Laver Arena.

In the evening, with the roof on because of the suffocating heat, 12th seed Svitolina stunned third seed Gauff 6-1, 6-2.

Television images showed Gauff repeatedly smashing her racquet in the bowels of the stadium afterwards.

The Ukrainian, who is on a 10-match win streak after a title-winning run at Auckland this month, added: "It means the world to me". — AFP

Health threat of
global plastics
projected to soar
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INDIA and the European Union announced Tuesday the “mother of all deals”, a huge trade pact to create a market of two billion people, reached after two decades of negotiations.

EU chiefs and Prime Minister Narendra Modi hope the pact will help shield against challenges from the world’s two leading economies, the United States and China.

The agreement will cut or eliminate tariffs on almost 97 per cent of European exports, saving up to four billion euros (\$4.75 billion) annually in duties, the 27-nation bloc said.

“A mother of all deals,” Modi said Tuesday in the capital New Delhi, where he met with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and European Council President Antonio Costa.

“This deal will bring many opportunities for India’s 1.4 billion and many millions of people of the EU,” Modi said, adding the agreement “represents about 25 per cent of global GDP, and one-third of global trade”.

The EU has eyed India — the world’s most populous nation — as an important market for the future.

“Europe and India are making history today,” von der Leyen said in a statement, a day after she and Costa were feted as guests of honour at India’s Republic Day parade.

“We have created a free trade zone of two billion people, with both sides set to benefit.” — AFP

EU, India agree ‘mother of all’ trade deals



India’s Prime Minister Narendra Modi (C) poses for a photograph with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen (R) and European Council President Antonio Costa before their meeting at the Hyderabad House in New Delhi on 27 January 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

UN push to get hundreds of thousands of Gaza children back to school

THE United Nations announced Tuesday a major push to get hundreds of thousands of children across the war-scarred

Gaza Strip back to school. Since the start of the war sparked by Hamas’s October 2023 attack on Israel, nearly 90 per cent

of schools in Gaza have been damaged or destroyed and more than 700,000 school-aged children have been left unable to access formal education, according to the UN children’s agency UNICEF.

“Almost two and a half years of attacks on Gaza’s schooling have left an entire generation at risk,” agency spokesman James Elder told reporters in Geneva.

UNICEF was now dramatically scaling up its education initiative in the Palestinian territory, Elder said, in what he described as “one of the largest emergency learning efforts anywhere in the world”. The organization currently supports more than 135,400 children receiving education at over 110 learning spaces in Gaza — many of them in tents, he said. — AFP



Palestinian children, many of whom are part of displaced families, sit on the floor as they attend class, at the UNRWA Deir al-Balah Joint School, west of Deir al-Balah, in the central Gaza Strip on 6 December 2025, under the first phase of the fragile US-brokered ceasefire between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip. **PHOTO: AFP**

UN chief calls for restoration of intl rule of law

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Monday called on member states to recommit themselves to the full respect of international law.

“The rule of law is a cornerstone of global peace and security. The key to friendly relations among the countries and regions of the world. And the beating heart of the United Nations Charter,” he told a Security Council open debate on international rule of law. “For 80 years it has helped humanity avoid a third world war and eased the human toll in countless smaller conflicts.”

The UN Charter and other instruments of international law have contributed to a collective security system that is robust and resilient. The system prohibits the threat or use of force, and binds all states, large and small, to the same rules, and respects the principles of sovereignty, political independence and territorial integrity of states, Guterres said.

“For smaller and less-powerful countries, and those suffering from historical inequities and the damaging legacies of colonial rule, international law is a lifeline promising equal treatment, sovereignty, dignity and justice. And for powerful countries, it is a guardrail defining what is acceptable, and what is not, in times of disagreement, division and outright conflict,” Guterres said.

The founders of the UN understood that global problems can only be solved by wielding not the weapons of war, but the tools of diplomacy, supported by a system based on international law; by dialogue, not the zero-sum rhetoric of division, and by collaboration, not geopolitical competition, he said. — Xinhua