

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.

Unity, Discipline, Rule of Law Vital to Democratic Nation

Some individuals may be swayed by the incitement and agitation of destructive elements, lacking critical thinking and sound judgement, and in doing so undermine national stability.

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 sent a message to the ceremony to mark the

52nd Anniversary of Mon State Day. The full text of the translated message is as follows: —

Esteemed national brethren in Mon State,

On the auspicious occasion of the 52nd Anniversary of Mon State Day,

which falls on 19 March 2026, I extend my heartfelt wishes and loving-kindness for all Mon ethnic brethren in Mon State and across various regions, as well as for all ethnic peoples of the Union throughout the country, to enjoy good health and physical and mental well-be-

ing, and to have all their good intentions and aspirations fulfilled.

The Mon State Day is an honourable and auspicious day with significant identities for Union-born Mon ethnic people.

SEE PAGE 3

Myanmar, Thailand prioritize border stability

Myanmar and Thailand emphasized the need to further strengthen cooperation between their two militaries.

State Security and Peace Commission Chairman and Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received a delegation led by General Ukris Boontanondha, Chief of Defence Forces of the Royal Thai Armed Forces, at Zeyathiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

They cordially discussed the long-standing and positive diplomatic relations and friendly cooperation between the two countries and their armed forces, the further promotion of cooperation between the two militaries, and the maintenance of regional stability and

peace, as well as stability and tranquillity in border areas.

They also exchanged views on the further promotion of cooperation between Myanmar and Thailand and the two armed forces, the plans to hold the High-Level Committee meeting of the armed forces of Myanmar and Thailand, and the cooperation in training measures between the two armed forces.

Moreover, both sides' discussions focused on combatting illegal trade through the border regions of both countries, conducting the operations of drug eradication, environmental conservation,

SEE PAGE 4



SSPC Chairman and Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and General Ukris Boontanondha exchange commemorative gifts.

NATIONAL

Stronger National Education Vital for Peace, Stability and Sustainable Development

- ❖ National education must be enhanced by ensuring that each citizen is equipped with knowledge, skills, critical thinking, and a broad understanding for a country's stability, peace and sustainable development.
- ❖ The critical thinking, analytical ability, and problem-solving skills gained through education are core personal competencies that greatly support various fields, including politics, administration, defence, economy, and social affairs.

(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

Republic of the Union of Myanmar National Defence and Security Council

Fifth Amendment to the Union Judiciary Law (National Defence and Security Council Law 20/2026)

1st Waxing of Tagu, 1387 ME
18 March 2026

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

- This Law shall be called the Fifth Amendment to the Union Judiciary Law.
- Subsection 2 of Section 23 (c) of the Union Judiciary Law shall be deleted.

I hereby sign this law under Section 427 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar:

Sd/ Min Aung Hlaing
Senior General
Acting President

EARTHQUAKE

(Issued at 7:25 pm MST)

A slight earthquake of magnitude 3.5 Richter Scale with its epicentre inside Myanmar (about 11 miles southwest of Thaton), latitude 16.78 °N, longitude 97.29 °E, depth 10 kilometres, about 34 miles northwest of the Mawlamyine Seismological Observatory was recorded at 19 hours 7 minutes 00 second MST on 18 March 2026. — DMH



170-year-old Maha Min Htin Monastery in Mandalay to be restored within 9 months

THE renovation of the 170-year-old Maha Min Htin Wooden Monastery in Mandalay, which was damaged by the Mandalay earthquake, will be completed within nine months, according to the Department of Archaeology and National Museums (Mandalay Branch) under the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture.

The restoration will be carried out with donations from the Japanese people and Aeon Corporation (Japan), and nine months have been set for the

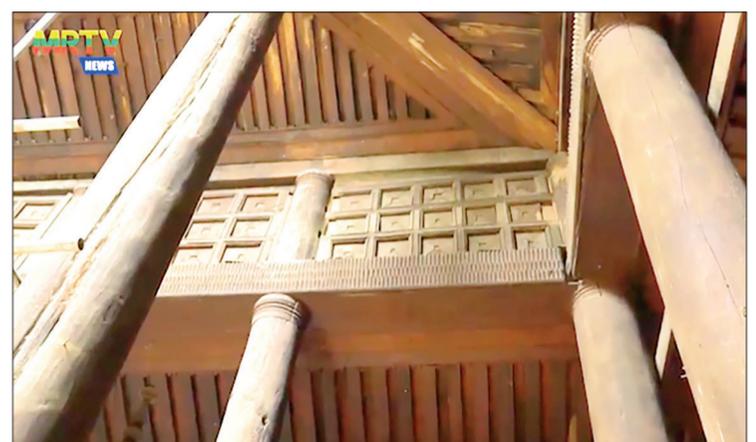
renovation and conservation work, according to U Aung Kyi Soe, a central executive member of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI).

Under the close supervision of the Mandalay Region Government and the Department of Archaeology and National Museums (Mandalay Branch), the project will be implemented with a donation of K850 million from AEON Co Ltd (Japan) and the Japanese public, in collabo-

ration with the UMFCCI and the Mandalay Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Ancient buildings and pagodas in the areas of Innwa, Pinya, Myinsaing and Makhaya, including the Maha Min Htin Monastery, were affected by the Mandalay earthquake.

The Maha Min Htin Monastery was originally built in the old town of Innwa in 1852 by Maha Min Hla Min Kyaw U Min Htin and was later relocated to Mandalay in 1876. — ASH/MKKS



This photo shows an interior view of the Maha Min Htin Monastery, an ancient building.

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)

Unity, Discipline, Rule of Law Vital to Democratic Nation

FROM PAGE 1

Mon State is located in lower Myanmar between Bago Region, Kayin State, and Taninthayi Region. The ancient name of the Mon ethnic group was “Raman” in the Mon language, which, through successive changes, came to be known as “Mon,” according to historical records. The region where the Mon people first settled, known as “Ramanya”, means a pleasant or delightful land. In earlier times, before it was designated as Mon State, the territory that now forms Mon State was part of Taninthayi Region.

In order to gain a separate Mon State, various Mon organizations including the All Ramanya Mon Association, the Mon National Asiayone, and other Mon groups, collectively made efforts and appeals so that the Mon ethnic group could preserve and promote their literature and distinct cultural heritage more widely. As a result, under the 1974 Constitution of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma, No 1 Taninthayi Division was designated as Mon State.

After the State was officially designated as a separate state by the government, Mon ethnic people within Mon State determined that 19 March 1974, the date on which the draft Constitution was submitted, would be observed as Mon State Day. From then onward, commemorative ceremonies have been held annually in a grand and lively manner, and in 2026, the celebration reached its 52nd anniversary.

Within Mon State, the majority of the population consists of Mon and Bamar people, while other ethnic groups, such as Kayin, Shan, and Pa-O, also live together in harmony and peace. The Mon are among the earliest peoples to have settled in Myanmar, and historical evidence from ancient Mon stone inscriptions and literary sources indicates that they possessed a high level of cultural development and were among the first to adopt Buddhism.

Mon State, which had been formed with 10 townships in two district was

reorganized with two additional districts starting from 30 April 2022. So, it totals 10 townships in four districts with accelerating efforts for overall development to ensure peace and stability and improve economic and social measures.

Mon State is located along the coastline and serves not only as a coastal region but also as an important hub with favourable transport routes for trade and commercial processes, including a key central port. In addition, it enjoys a pleasant climate, with scenic mountains and rivers, lush green forests, abundant natural resources, and plentiful local fruits and produce, making it a region with rich natural endowments and favourable conditions.

In terms of religion and Buddhism, Mon State is distinguished by many prominent and historically significant temples and stupas, including the revered Kyaiktiyo Pagoda, Kyaikpawlaw Hmeshintaw Pagoda, Hsandawshin Kyaikthanlan Pagoda, Kyaikmaraw Hsutaungpyae Pagoda, and Kyaikhami Mid-streamed Pagoda. These sacred sites reflect the flourishing glory of Buddhism. Owing to the dedicated efforts of religious figures and the Venerable Shin Araham, historical records clearly show that the region became a centre where the true Theravada Buddhism prospered and spread, which is a matter of great pride.

Esteemed national brethren,

At the present time, our country is in a period of transition towards becoming a nation that practises a democratic system, in accordance with the aspirations of the people, where the fundamental principles of justice, liberty, and equality can flourish. In building a democratic nation, all citizens need to uphold unity, maintain discipline, respect and abide by the rule of law, and possess sound knowledge and awareness.

In line with the objective of the National Defence and Security Council, and to advance along the democratic path desired by the people, the multiparty democratic general election 2025 was

successfully held in three phases. The Pyithu Hluttaw convened on 16 March 2026, and the Amyotha Hluttaw on 18 March 2026. Hluttaw sessions, including the process of electing the President, are being carried out according to schedule, and in the near future, a new Union Government led by the newly elected President will emerge.

Esteemed national brethren,

In order to effectively and successfully implement national tasks within a short period of time, I would like to earnestly urge intellectuals and intelligentsia from various sectors, and ethnic peoples across the country, to actively and unitedly cooperate with the new government that will emerge.

In promoting national economic development, efforts are being made to implement key and fundamental sectors such as education, healthcare, the rule of law, and the improvement of transport. In carrying out production activities, it is essential to ensure the development and success of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), which form the most basic foundation of the economy.

To commemorate the 79th Anniversary of Union Day this year, a Union-level MSME Products Exhibition and Market Fair was held in Nay Pyi Taw, with ethnic entrepreneurs from various states and regions, including Mon State, participating to display and sell their products. Beyond economic development alone, the event brought multiple benefits, including fostering friendship and closer relations among entrepreneurs from different regions, strengthening unity, promoting mutual assistance, exchanging traditional customs, cultures and knowledge, establishing market linkages, and enhancing the ability to produce value-added domestic products capable of entering international markets. Given that Mon State possesses favourable natural conditions and abundant resources, expanding the agriculture, livestock, and production sectors would increase the income of

local people, reduce poverty, and further improve socioeconomic living standards. Therefore, I would like to strongly urge that these activities be carried out with emphasis on integrating technology to produce value-added products.

Esteemed national brethren,

To promote the development of the education sector, the State is implementing compulsory education up to KG+9, intending to foster a society enriched with knowledge and well-rounded in the five strengths. Efforts are being made to increase school enrollment rates among all school-age children, ensure students achieve academic proficiency, improve grade transition rates, and facilitate the transformation from basic schooling to broader knowledge and intellectual development. I would like to urge continued emphasis on these priorities.

At present, it is necessary to nurture young people who represent the strength of the future by enhancing their character and capabilities so that they become well-rounded and capable individuals. In addition, systematic efforts are required to cultivate good moral conduct among youth, instil patriotism, and encourage a sense of responsibility to safeguard the nation and uphold its dignity.

It can be assessed that the internal conflicts and the lack of national stability experienced over successive periods have stemmed, in part, from weaknesses in education among those concerned. When knowledge and awareness are lacking, individuals may follow incitement and agitation by destructive elements without critical thinking or sound judgment, thereby undermining national stability. The State is therefore prioritizing efforts to ensure equal access to education across the country, including in ethnic regions.

Accordingly, I would like to urge Mon State as well to work in cooperation towards achieving progress and success in the education sector in line with set objectives.

SEE PAGE 4

NATIONAL

Unity, Discipline, Rule of Law Vital to Democratic Nation

FROM PAGE 3

Esteemed national brethren,

In the health sector, the State has been consistently undertaking measures to ensure that all citizens have access to basic healthcare services, including supplying hospitals with adequate medicines and medical equipment, providing free medical treatment, and appointing healthcare personnel.

To improve the socioeconomic conditions of all citizens, the government has also been upgrading the transport sector. As part of efforts to promote all-round development in Mon State

and facilitate the flow of goods both domestically and internationally, two key bridges – the new Gyaing (Zathabyin) Bridge and the new Attaran Bridge – were inaugurated on 8 March. With the opening of these two bridges, travel will become more convenient, enabling easier access from Mon State and Kayin State to the Mawlamyine Special Economic Zone and the Dawei Deep-Sea Port, as well as to other parts of the country, thereby accelerating the flow of goods both domestically and abroad.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize that, as history teaches us, unity among ethnic groups is critically

important for preserving the Union, maintaining national stability and peace, and upholding the rule of law. Achieving peace and unity is essential to ending armed conflicts and violent disturbances so that all ethnic peoples can live safely and securely within the Union. As the ethnic brethren in Mon State participate in building a Union based on democracy and a federal system – the system desired by all ethnic peoples – I urge them to act with a spirit of national solidarity and patriotism, ensuring that the interests of the State, the region, and the entire nation and its people are upheld. Moreover, I extend my heartfelt

wishes that Mon State and all Mon ethnic peoples may always enjoy lasting peace, prosperity, and happiness, and I respectfully pay tribute on the occasion of the 52nd Anniversary of Mon State Day.

Senior General
Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu
Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma
Min Aung Hlaing
Acting President,
Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Chairman,
State Security and Peace
Commission

Myanmar, Thailand prioritize border stability

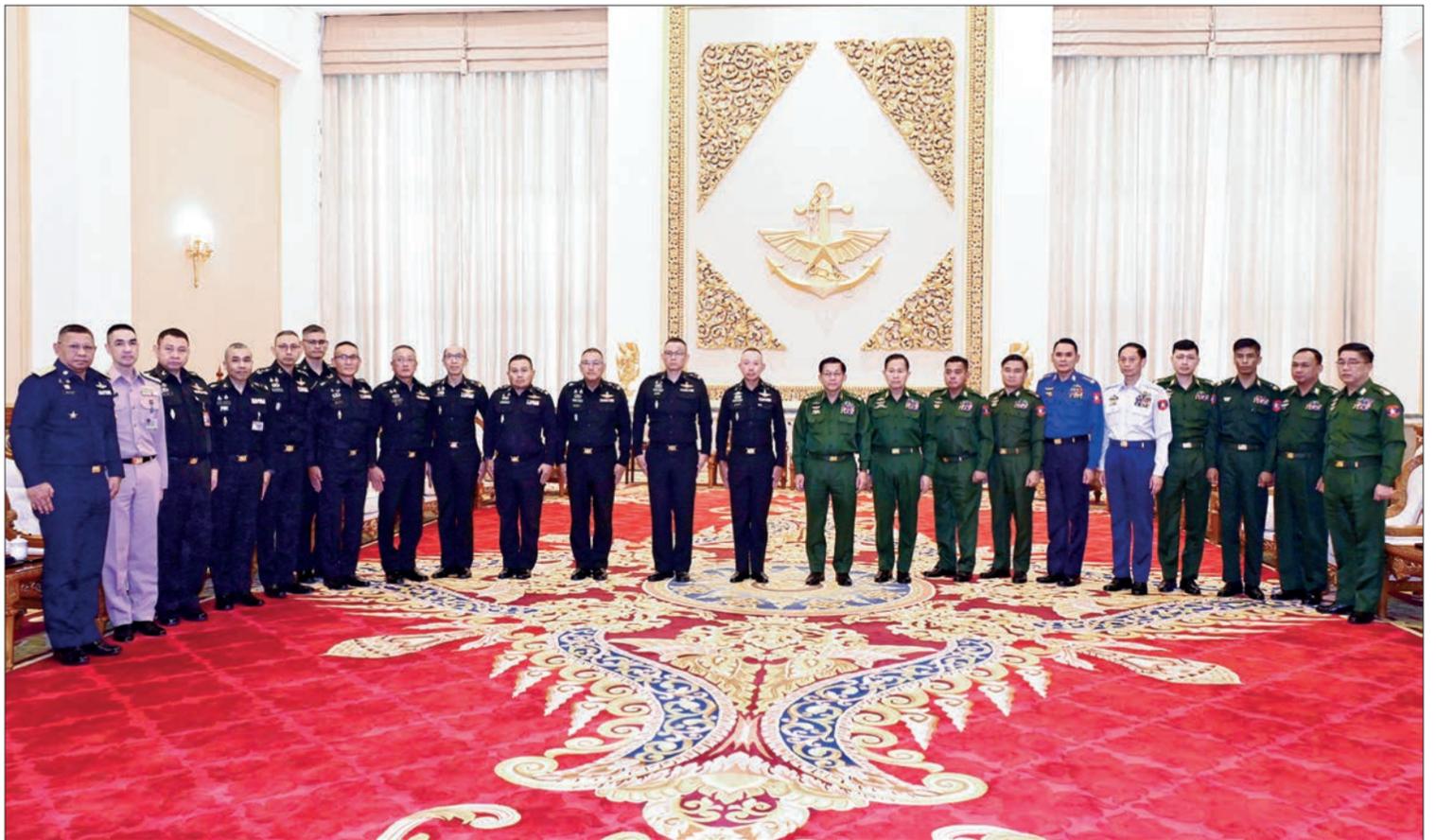
FROM PAGE 1

efforts to reduce the trans-boundary haze pollution, and cooperation in effectively preventing telecom fraud.

Both sides also emphasized Myanmar's endeavours in holding a free and fair, clean and prestigious multiparty democratic general election successfully, and convening the Hluttaw sessions at present, holding an election in Thailand recently, and the process of convening the Parliament at present.

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

Also, present at the meeting were Commission Vice-Chairman and Defence Services Deputy Commander-in-Chief Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Commission Secretary and Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Ye Win Oo, Commission Member and Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and



The Senior General and the visiting Chief of Defence Forces of the Royal Thai Armed Forces alongside attendees pose for the documentary group photo at yesterday's occasion.

Air) General Kyaw Swa Lin, and senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Command-

er-in-Chief. The Thai Chief of Defence Forces was accompanied by Chief of Joint Staff Gen-

eral Chitchanok Nujjaya and senior military officers from the Royal Thai Armed Forces,

the Military Attaché (Army) of Thailand to Myanmar and officials. — MNA/TTA

Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

www.gnlm.com.mm



CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION

(+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 255597511

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 251022355
marketing@gnlm.com.mm
subscription@gnlm.com.mm

Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.
gnlmnews@gmail.com
newsroom@gnlm.com.mm
www.gnlm.com.mm

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email aunghuya@gnlm.com.mm with your name and title.

Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

NATIONAL

Amyotha Hluttaw elects U Aung Lin Dwe as Speaker, Jeng Phang Naw Taung as Deputy Speaker

THE first-day meeting of the First Regular Session of the Third Amyotha Hluttaw took place at the convention hall of the Amyotha Hluttaw at Hluttaw Complex in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The Hluttaw session was attended by elected Amyotha Hluttaw representatives from regions and states, and Defence Services Personnel Representatives.

To supervise the meeting of the Amyotha Hluttaw until Amyotha Hluttaw representatives have elected the Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw and the Deputy Speaker, Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Zaw Zaw Myint from the Rakhine State Constituency 11 nominated Amyotha Hluttaw representative Daw Dwe Bu as the meeting chair, while Amyotha Hluttaw representative Daw Ni Ni Mar from the Bago Region Constituency 2 seconded the nomination. The master of ceremonies announced that Amyotha Hluttaw representative Daw Dwe Bu was elected as the meeting chair.

Meeting Chair Daw Dwe Bu took affirmations in front of the Amyotha Hluttaw, signed the form of affirmations and extended greetings.

Amyotha Hluttaw repre-



U Aung Lin Dwe from the Mandalay Region Constituency 11 and Jeng Phang Naw Taung from the Kachin State Constituency 2 take their oaths as Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker and Deputy Speaker, respectively, in the presence of the meeting chair.

sentatives took affirmations in the presence of the meeting chair and signed the form of affirmations.

Furthermore, since all 213 representatives from the Amyotha Hluttaw who are entitled to attend the first regular session of the Third Amyotha Hluttaw were present, it is announced that the first regular session of the Third Amyotha Hluttaw is quorate and the meeting has officially commenced.

Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Aung Tin Myint from the Ayeyawady Region Constituency 8, submitted the nomination of only one candi-

date, Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Aung Lin Dwe from the Mandalay Region Constituency 11, for the position of Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker. Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Khin Maung Tint from the Yangon Region Constituency 3 seconded the nomination. Therefore, in accordance with Rule 11 of the Amyotha Hluttaw Rules 2015, it is officially announced that Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Aung Lin Dwe from Mandalay Region Constituency 11 was elected as the Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw.

Afterwards, Amyotha Hluttaw representative Dr Kyaw Tun

from the Shan State Constituency 6 nominated Amyotha Hluttaw representative Jeng Phang Naw Taung from the Kachin State Constituency 2 as a sole candidate for the position of Deputy Speaker. Amyotha Hluttaw U Than Aung from the Taninthayi Region Constituency 2 seconded the nomination. As such, the meeting chair announced that Amyotha Hluttaw representative Jeng Phang Naw Taung from the Kachin State Constituency 2 was elected as Deputy Speaker.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe and Deputy Speaker Jeng Phang Naw

Taung took affirmations in front of the meeting chair and signed the form of affirmations.

The meeting chair transferred the responsibilities to Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe. The Speaker extended greetings.

The full text of the greetings extended by the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker is reported on page 6).

The first-day event of the first regular session of the Third Amyotha was adjourned, and the date and time for the second-day session will be announced in advance. — MNA/TTA

SSPC Members attend openings of recreational site, booths at Mon State Day ceremony in Mawlamyine



State Security and Peace Commission Member General Maung Maung Aye visits booths, local products displayed at the Mon State day ceremony in Mawlamyine yesterday.

STATE Security and Peace Commission Member General Maung Maung Aye, accompanied by Commission Member Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, Union ministers, the Mon State chief minister and relevant officials, attended the opening ceremony of the Wariyu Myitkantha recreational site on Strand Road in Mawlamyine, marking the Mon State Day yesterday.

After the ceremonial procedures, officials presented cash awards to dance troupes.

General Maung Maung Aye and party attended the opening ceremony of booths, local products and traditional food stalls on the same evening.

They also attended the handover ceremony of seeders for farmers.

At the event, Mon State Chief Minister U Aung Kyi Thein remarked, and General Maung Maung Aye and party presented seeders to farmers.

On the same morning, General Maung Maung Aye, accompanied by Un-

ion Minister for Science and Technology Dr Myo Thein Kyaw and relevant officials, visited Mawlamyine Technological University, and heard the reports and made proper instructions.

General Maung Maung Aye and party also inspected land areas of the Ministry of Home Affairs in the upper main road of Phattan Ward in Mawlamyine. Officials reported on the data of land areas upon which the General made instructions. — MNA/KTZH

NATIONAL

Representatives Urged to Put People Before Party

THE Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker extended greetings at the first-day event of the first regular session of the Third Amyotha Hluttaw yesterday. The full text of the translated greetings is as follows: -

Esteemed Amyotha Hluttaw representatives,

First of all, I would like to extend my greetings to all the Amyotha Hluttaw representatives and distinguished guests attending the first regular session of the Third Amyotha Hluttaw today, wishing you all peace of mind and good health.

Today is a proud and historic day, marking the commencement of the third Amyotha Hluttaw in accordance with the Constitution (2008) of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. I would like to express my special gratitude, happiness, and pride to the Amyotha Hluttaw representatives, on behalf of the people, for electing me as the Speaker, and I will forever remember this as a significant milestone in my life.

Elections are an indispensable process for the flourishing of a multiparty democratic system. Therefore, I would like to express my special gratitude to the government for successfully conducting free, transparent, fair, and honourable elections despite numerous challenges. Because of the successful conduct of these elections, the representatives elected by the people were able to



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe presents greeting at the first-day event of the Third Amyotha Hluttaw's first regular session yesterday.

attend the first regular session of the third Amyotha Hluttaw today.

The Hluttaw is a legislative body that derives its lawmaking authority from the people. According to Section 11 (a) of the Constitution, it is responsible for exercising the legislative, executive, and judicial powers of the State in a separated and mutually checked manner. This means the role of the Hluttaw is significant, and the role of each Hluttaw representative is equally important.

The Amyotha Hluttaw is established under Section 141 of the Constitution and consists of elected representatives from the states, regions, including the

Union Territory and self-administered zones, as well as Defence Services Personnel representatives nominated by the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services in accordance with the law. Because of this composition, the Hluttaw is expected to act with a united spirit and in harmony for the interests of the Union.

The First and Second Amyotha Hluttaws have already been held. The third Hluttaw, being convened now, is unique because it was formed under the amended Amyotha Hluttaw Election Law, combining both the systems – the First Past the Post (FPTP) system and the proportional representation system.

When carrying out Hluttaw work, Hluttaw representatives should interact with one another politely, respectfully, and in a cooperative and harmonious manner. They must respect and abide by the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Hluttaw-related laws, and procedural rules, as well as follow the regulations set by the Hluttaw. Upon entering the Hluttaw, representatives are encouraged to set aside party affiliations and focus on the interests of the people, engaging in discussion collaboratively and harmoniously.

Hluttaw representatives are the people's chosen delegates.

They must listen carefully to the voices of the citizens who elected them and perform their duties to the best of their ability. Because they are representatives entrusted by the people, they have a responsibility to prioritize public interests. To effectively promote the welfare of the people, representatives must continually improve their knowledge and skills to carry out their duties with the highest level of competence.

When carrying out legislative work, I encourage all Hluttaw representatives to work together in unity and cooperation in enacting laws that serve the national interest, promote the political and national objectives of the State, and enhance the well-being of the country and its citizens. They should also collaborate in amending and updating laws to align with the times and repealing laws that are no longer appropriate.

In conclusion, I would like to pledge that, while serving as the Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw, I will do my utmost to act in the best interests of the State and its citizens. I will faithfully respect and follow the Constitution, relevant Hluttaw laws and Rules, and Hluttaw traditions, serving my duties with integrity and propriety. I also urge all Amyotha Hluttaw representatives to work together in harmony for the peace, stability, and development of the nation.

UM inspects border area, human resource development activities in Mon State

STATE Security and Peace Commission Member and Union Minister for Border Affairs and for Ethnic Affairs Lt-Gen Yar Pyae attended the meeting with ethnic literature and culture associations in Mon State yesterday.

During the meeting, the Union minister explained the ongoing efforts of the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs for promoting unity, mutual respect, and cooperation among ethnic groups, fostering a strong Union spirit, ensuring that ethnic people fully enjoy their rights as prescribed by law, preserving and safeguarding the languages, literature, history, arts, cultural heritage,

and traditional customs of ethnic nationalities and improving socioeconomic conditions such as education, healthcare, and transport in ethnic regions.

Deputy Minister for Ethnic Affairs U Zaw Aye Maung briefed on the salary increase for the ethnic language teachers and activities that should be done by the literature and culture associations.

The Union minister presented cash prizes to the Mon, Bamar, Kayin and PaO literature and culture associations and staff to promote and preserve the ethnic literature and cultures.



SEE PAGE 7

Union Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae meets ethnic literature and culture associations in Mon State.

Official luncheon welcomes Thai Armed Forces Chief in Nay Pyi Taw

A delegation led by General Ukris Boontanondha, Chief of Defence Forces of the Royal Thai Armed Forces, was hosted at a luncheon by General Kyaw Swa Lin, Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air), at the Jasmine Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Upon arrival at the Jasmine Hotel, the delegation was welcomed by General Kyaw Swa Lin, who then hosted the luncheon.

Following the luncheon, the Chief of Defence Forces of the Royal Thai Armed Forces and the Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) exchanged

commemorative gifts.

The event was attended by senior officers of the Royal Thai Armed Forces accompanying General Ukris Boontanondha, as well as senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) and the commander of the Nay Pyi Taw Command, together with General Kyaw Swa Lin. — MNA/KZL

Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Kyaw Swa Lin offers commemorative gifts during the luncheon yesterday.



Capacity-Building Course on Civil Service and Financial Regulations concludes



Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw presents excellent awards to the trainee.

THE closing ceremony of the Capacity-Building Course on Civil Service and Financial Regulations was held yesterday at the Public Finance Management Academy of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue in Nay Pyi Taw.

The ceremony was attended by Dr Kan Zaw, Union Minister for Finance and Revenue, Daw Than Than Lin and U Han Win Aung, Deputy Ministers for Finance and Revenue, heads of departments, trainers and trainees.

At the ceremony, Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw encouraged the trainees to apply and implement practically relevant laws, rules, regulations, proce-

dures, and directives that they have learned in the training, including civil service and financial regulations. He also instructed that the staff of the Budget Department have responsibilities for regulating the effective and efficient use of allocated revenues and expenditures to meet the expected targets, and give priority to the use of the country's limited resources for the development of social and economic sectors in need. He highlighted that the performance of the departments will be improved only by improving staff's skills and abilities. Therefore, he urged that staff should continuously try their best with high capac-

ity by using the knowledge and expertise gained from the training. He encouraged them to effectively apply the procedures of public finance management learnt in the training in their workplaces and do their best to serve the interests of the state and the people.

The Union minister then presented awards to those who excelled in the training and presented certificates of completion.

Forty-three officials from departments under the Ministry of Finance and Revenue reportedly attended the course that lasted five weeks. — MoFR

Mon State govt seeks tender for industrial land development

MON State Government invited domestic companies to submit an Expression of Interest to invest in the industrial land development on 368.27 acres of land located behind the Khatyakhadyu Sitting Buddha Statue in Mudon Township, Mon State.

EOI applications are available at the Mon State Development Committee's office in Mawlamyine until 25 March, during office hours. Submission of tender will be closed at 4:30 pm on 26 March.

Bidders need to vow to withhold specific, detailed, and binding information from other individuals or institutions.

The tender opening date will be further announced to applicants. Interested business entities can enquire about details of the project and tender rules through the Mon State Development Committee's office by dialling 09 5232252 and 09 420701960. — NN/KK

UM inspects border area, human resource ...

FROM PAGE 6

The Union minister visited the Women's Domestic Vocational Training School in Mudon, heard reports from the relevant officials, inspected the school compound, and presented cash prizes to the staff and trainees.

Union Minister Lt-Gen Yar

Pyae also met the staff at the Mon State Development Supervisory Office. During the meeting, the Union minister urged attendees to strictly adhere to the code of conduct and to carry out border region development activities, keeping in line with the ministry's four objectives. — MNA/KTZH

Advertise

with us / Hotline



09 255597511,
09 454237515

OPINION

ARTICLE ESSAY

Grasp good opportunities to boost the economy

Farmers are striving diligently for the economic development of Myanmar and to ensure domestic consumption sufficiency. At the same time, the government is providing the necessary support to help improve productivity and meet the requirements needed to achieve target yields.

Moreover, to promote the development of the agriculture and livestock sectors, there is a need to train mid-level agricultural and livestock technicians. To develop the necessary human resources, 15 Agricultural and Livestock Institutes have been established, and 89 Basic Education High Schools have been opened to teach regular basic education in addition to industrial, agricultural, and livestock-related subjects.

The State is emphasizing enhancing crop intensification to increase farmers' incomes, ensure domestic food sufficiency and surplus, and raise agricultural production. To enable farmers engaged in cultivation to easily access and grow high-quality, high-yield seed varieties, government seed farms, seed-producing farmer groups, and seed-producing cooperative societies are collectively providing support and assistance. As such, farmers need to actively and enthusiastically participate under the leadership of the State Government to secure better economic opportunities.

Through this State Economic Promotion Fund, support is also being provided for the development of the irrigation sector, the livestock sector, and the mechanized farming sector. In addition, Rice Export Zones (REZs) are being implemented with the aim of increasing foreign exchange earnings by exporting high-quality rice and creating better opportunities for paddy farmers.

Today, in order to effectively realize the national objective of national prosperity and food security, the State must provide comprehensive support to meet the needs of farmers who are fundamentally implementing these goals, and to promote the development of scientific agricultural and livestock farming practices. At the same time, farmers themselves must place greater emphasis on striving to ensure the increased success and development of agriculture- and livestock-based industries in their cultivation and production activities.

The State is emphasizing enhancing crop intensification to increase farmers' incomes, ensure domestic food sufficiency and surplus, and raise agricultural production. To enable farmers engaged in cultivation to easily access and grow high-quality, high-yield seed varieties, government seed farms, seed-producing farmer groups, and seed-producing cooperative societies are collectively providing support and assistance. As such, farmers need to actively and enthusiastically participate under the leadership of the State Government to secure better economic opportunities.

I Say What I See: Parliament – A Platform for Turning People's Voices into Reality *Parliament: Bridging Citizens' Voices and Tangible Change*

By @Editor

TO understand parliament, let's look beyond the walls and into the voices it carries.

In my I Say What I See series, I often begin by turning to definitions – both at home and abroad – to better understand the essence of a subject. According to English-Myanmar dictionaries, a “parliament” is described as a ဝါဒစခန်း ဗွဲ့ဝင်တော် of elected representatives entrusted with

making laws and voicing the concerns of the people. Likewise, the Oxford and Merriam-Webster dictionaries define parliament as the highest legislative body in a country, a formal institution where public issues are debated and decisions are made. Yet beyond these formal definitions, a parliament is more than a chamber of speeches and statutes; it is, in its truest sense, a platform, where the voices, hopes,

and hardships of the people are expected to be transformed into tangible reality.

From what I see, the effectiveness of a parliament cannot be measured solely by the laws it passes or the debates it hosts. Its true value lies in how well it channels the aspirations and concerns of ordinary citizens into policies that shape daily life. Observing parliamentary sessions, one notices the delicate balance between rhetoric and action, between representing diverse voices and achieving consensus. In this sense, a parliament is both

a mirror and a mould: it reflects the society it serves, and simultaneously, it moulds that society through the decisions it enacts. For citizens, understanding this dual role is essential, not only to appreciate the institution but also to engage with it meaningfully.

Consider, for instance, how public concerns about education, healthcare, or local infrastructure reach the parliamentary floor: Through petitions, discussions, and committee reviews, citizens' voices are not merely heard – they are recorded, de-

bated, and, ideally, translated into action. In my own observations, some proposals take months or even years to materialize, highlighting the patience required in democratic processes. Yet, when a community sees tangible improvements – a school built, a road repaired, or a new policy enacted – it becomes clear that parliament can indeed serve as a bridge between the people and practical change. It is in these moments that the abstract definitions found in dictionaries come alive, and the parliament transforms from a formal institution



Ultimately, a parliament's true measure lies not in its walls or procedures, but in its ability to translate the collective voices of the people into real, tangible outcomes. PHOTO: MOI

into a living, responsive platform for the public.

Ultimately, a parliament's true measure lies not in its walls or procedures, but in its ability to translate the collective voices of the people into real, tangible outcomes. It is a living platform, sometimes slow, sometimes im-

perfect, but one that holds the promise of connection between citizens and governance. Observing it closely, one realizes that every debate, every motion, and every decision carries the potential to shape lives, communities, and the nation itself. For those who engage with it thoughtfully,

a parliament is more than a legislative body; it is a reflection of society's will and a stage where the aspirations of the people can, if nurtured carefully, become reality.

A parliament is not just an institution; it is the voice of the people in action.

The annual top meetings of China's legislative and political advisory bodies were convened from 4 to 12 March 2026. A wide range of topics from domestic goals and objectives, legal reviews, accelerating development plans, advancing high-quality technology, Artificial Intelligence, quantum technology and robotics to ensuring global stability were discussed.

Because China plays a major role on the international stage, this year's Two Sessions attracted significant attention from foreign audiences. It is not only the first year of the upcoming 15th Five-Year Plan, but the meeting took place amid rising global uncertainty, economic volatility and geopolitical tensions.

Advancing technologies

As China accomplished its 14th National Five-Year Plan last year with colourful achievements, this year, the Chinese people set themselves to start the engine for transforming their innovations into next steps – from good and high-quality

technologies to hyper and very advanced techs with green development – as involved in the top priorities of the upcoming 15th Five-Year Plan of China.

In the previous Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting last year, Chinese President Xi Jinping urged promoting the peaceful development of AI, along with prioritizing to ensure

Chinese desire for a brighter shared future spotted in the Two Sessions week

safety and fairness for all people from all over the world. In fact, we have already witnessed that China's peaceful rise and peace-

ful development have contributed a lot to benefiting mankind. So, this year, since it is the initial year in transiting good and

high-quality capacity to hyper and advanced tech innovation of China, that breakthrough is also expected to provide peaceful benefits to the world.

Rejuvenation without ignoring the psychological contract

Beyond the headlines telling about trade, economic growth, science and technology, and national GDP targets, it is learned that the congress reviewed a draft law on promoting and protecting ethnic unity. Without a doubt, internal unity is considered of great importance for every nation in today's increasingly competitive and aggressive global environment.

Reports suggested that the draft law aims to strengthen the legal foundation and statutory responsibility for advancing common prosperity among the 56 ethnic groups of China. It also aims to protect the eth-

nic unity within a legal framework by ensuring the rule of law. “Targeting acts that erode ethnic unity, violent terrorism, ethnic separatism and religious extremism will face criminal liability if constituting crimes,” it reportedly said.

Thus, the proposed draft law is expected to provide a greater sense of security among ethnic minorities, which in turn allows for focus on steadfast development in the ethnic population areas, the ethnic representatives to the Congress remarked.

Multilateralism: A remedy to heal the world

Come the year 2026, time flies; global trends and directions have shifted; and the world has entered a new period of turbulence. Still, challenges remain to uphold the voice and rights of the Global South.

The collective rise of the

Global South is a breakthrough in reshaping the world. Yet, there are many challenges for the shared journey of Global South countries towards modernization including eradicating poverty, hunger, war and inequality. The role of the Global South, especially Asia and Africa, in resisting and fighting against colonialism in human history should not be denied or discredited. Sovereign equality must be respected.

The world is a shared place where countries with different behaviours, different histories, different beliefs and different colours live together. Accordingly, safeguarding peace and the well-being of the world we live in is the common interest of all nations. Unity and equality are placed as some crucial measures in balancing disparities and unfair treatment among diversities. Should major countries play a constructive role by using

their strengths? China is a large country that is highly committed to strengthening coordination with the Global South on the road to building a community with a shared future.

China's heart is with the Global South; China's root is in the Global South - Wang Yi

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, also a member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, answered questions from Chinese and foreign media on 8 March at the sidelines of the event. Echoing the Chinese FM's words during the press conference, it can be seen that China's policy on global peace, global governance, and the role of the Global South remains consistently unchanged, promoting the practices of multilateralism with values of the United Nations at the core.

SEE PAGE 10



NATIONAL/ARTICLE

YR wraps up first industrial, agricultural and livestock matric exams



Twantay students leave the final-day exam.



Taikkyi students are seen after the exam.

THE industrial, agricultural and livestock matriculation examinations, which began on 11 March, concluded on 18 March with the final Mechanical subject at four examination centres in Yangon Region, where 243 candidates sat the examination.

A total of 402 candidates took the industrial, agricultural and livestock matriculation examinations, sitting Mechanical, Agricultural and Livestock subjects at centres in Hlegu, Hmaw-

by, Dagon Myothit (South) and Twantay townships. Of these, 243 candidates – 163 males and 80 females – sat Urban Planning, Introduction to Basic Programming and Industrial Drawing in the building (BT), electronics (ET) and mechanical (MT) streams on the final day.

In the 2026 Industrial, Agricultural and Livestock University Entrance Examination, students from four exam centres in Yangon Region completed

the examination without any absences from the first day on 11 March to the final day. On the last day, Introduction to Basic Programming was held from 9 am to 12 noon, while Urban Planning and Industrial Planning were conducted from 9 am to 1 pm.

“This is the first time the Industrial, Agricultural and Livestock Matriculation Examination has been held. A total of 243 students from Yangon Region

attended all examination days without absence. As Yangon Region has the highest number of candidates, the students have worked hard to sit the examination, and we are pleased that they will be able to attend the Agricultural and Livestock University upon passing. Myanmar will also benefit from a new generation of professionals,” said U Min Oo (Education), Deputy Director of the Yangon Region Education Officer office.

The 2026 Industrial, Agricultural and Livestock Matriculation Examination was held from 11 to 18 March, with 15 March (Sunday) observed as a holiday. The Mechanical stream included subjects such as Myanmar, English, Mathematics, Combined Science, Surveying, Electrical Equipment, Welding Technology, Carpentry and Woodworking, Industrial Electric Motor Control, Machine Cutting Technology, Urban Mapping, Introduction to Basic Programming, and Industrial Drawing in the building, electronics and mechanical fields. The Agricultural stream covered Myanmar, Crop Production 1, 2 and 3, Crop Protection and Social Science, while the Livestock stream included Myanmar, Chicken Breeding and Production, Pig Breeding and Production, Aquatic Animal Production, Beekeeping, and Beef Cattle Breeding. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/MKKS

Industrial, agri & livestock matric exams enter Day 7

THE 2026 industrial, agricultural and livestock matriculation examinations continued nationwide on the morning of 18 March, according to the Ministry of Education.

A total of 41 examination

centres were opened across the country. Of the 2,134 candidates registered for the industrial technology subject combination, 2,114 sat the examination on the seventh day, while 20 were absent, resulting

in an attendance rate of 99.06 per cent.

On the seventh day, industrial stream students sat in Civil Drawing, Introduction to Basic Programming and Industrial Drawing. — MNA/KZL

Family of Myanmar traffic accident victim in Thailand receives social security

THE Labour Attaché Office has announced that the Thai Social Security Office has provided an insurance payout of 920,000 baht to the family of a Myanmar citizen who died in a traffic accident in Bangkok, Thailand.

The victim was U Min Min Tun, who died on 24 January. On 18 March, the insurance compensation was handed over to the mother of U Min Min Tun at the office.

Myanmar migrant work-

ers who wish to seek assistance can contact the Labour Attaché Office during office hours with accurate information via the following channels: call centre: 02 0030015; Labour Attaché (Bangkok): 06 18108454, 06 26890119 and 06 52206952; Labour Attaché (Mae Sot): 06 52206953; Labour Attaché (Chiang Mai): 09 45866607; Labour Attaché (Ranong): 06 34818121.

A delegation led by the Labour Attaché met the di-

rector-general of the Thai Department of Labour Protection and Welfare on 9 March. Their discussion focused on protecting the fundamental rights of Myanmar migrant workers, ensuring occupational safety and full access to health benefits, and exchanging information for better cooperation. The Thai side pledged to prioritize the safety and welfare of all workers in accordance with existing laws, without discrimination on nationality. — MT/ZN

Chinese desire for a brighter shared future spotted in the ...

FROM PAGE 9

He reiterated the vital role of the United Nations in a very hectic, aggressive and volatile international landscape. The UN remains at the position of the cornerstone to prevent the world from returning to the law of the jungle, said the Chinese FM, encouraging the Global South countries to unite and cooperate in defending their rights and interests.

Impressively, he also dismissed the rhetoric ideology of ruling the world by a few major countries, asserting that global governance should be engaged by all countries; and global affairs should be decided by all countries on an equal basis. “China has inscribed in its Constitution that it follows

an independent foreign policy and is committed to pursuing a path of peaceful development. Chinese leaders have often declared to the world that no matter how the international situation evolves and how strong China becomes, it will never seek hegemony or expansion,” he said.

Motivated to build a shared future, the FM affirmed that the 15th Five-Year Plan will not only be a new blueprint for China’s development but also a new vision of win-win cooperation with the rest of the world. To abridge, Chinese commitment to follow a community with a shared future not only for domestic prosperity but also for the global well-being is obviously observed in the recent Two Sessions event.

NATIONAL

Union Tax Law 2026

CONTINUED FROM YESTERDAY

No	Types of goods
Goods-related healthcare measures	
22	Traditional medicines
23	Mosquito repellents
24	Honey, beeswax
25	X-ray film, X-ray accessories, medical equipment affirmed by the Department of Food and Drug Administration, medical wool, medical gauze, bandage, hospital equipment kit, disposal mask, musk, surgical glove, musk for prevention of flu, household medicines, other consumer medicines and traditional medicines, (including FDA certified drugs, traditional medicine raw materials and other medicinal raw materials except prohibited drugs under the laws and bylaws
26	Condom
Goods used in religious and social affairs	
27	Various bead strings (except beads made of precious gems and jewellery items) and religious textiles
28	Fire trucks, search and rescue vehicles, hearses
Goods related to transport measures	
29	Fuel oil is sold by the Ministry of Energy to foreign embassies, UN agencies and foreign diplomats
30	Jet fuel is sold for domestic and international flights
31	Machines for aeroplanes or helicopters, machinery, and spare parts
Goods used in industries	
32	Hypochloride (only Hypochloride) raw materials to make detergent powder, soap and raw soap
33	Jute and other fibres, rubber, Sterculia (aka) gum tragacanth
34	Agricultural and livestock farming equipment, machines and parts for agricultural and livestock farms, tractors, machines and parts used in the processes of land preparations, crops winnowing and threshing, and drying by farmers along with animals, separate machinery power, machines and various parts, (except vehicles and machinery in need of registration under the Motor Vehicle Law), machinery used in livestock farming, livestock industrial machines and spare parts, quality products used in artificial insemination
35	Panels of solar energy [PV Module/Solar Module/PV Panel/Solar Panel/Solar Panel 92 Watt CIGS (Copper Indium Gallium Selenide)], solar energy controller [PV/Solar (Hybrid/Smart Array) Controller, Charge Controller for PV/Solar], solar energy inverter [PV/Solar Inverter (String/Hybrid/Battery/Bidirectional/ Central)], household installation types (installation at roof and ground) [PV/ Solar Mounted Structure, Solar/PV Mounted Frames, Solar/ PV Mounted Kits (Roof and Ground Mounted)], PV/ Solar Mounted System (Floating), PV/Solar Controller and Battery Box, PV/Solar Controller and Battery
36	Goods sent by overseas business partners for use in producing items under the contract system – whether as raw materials or components to be used directly – goods used for packaging the products produced, and machinery, equipment, tools, and their spare and auxiliary parts imported for the contract system, which are intended for use in the business and not for resale.
Goods for defence measures	
37	Arms and equipment, machinery, materials and accessories, reserve and spare parts used by all State organizations for State defence and security, gunpowders for relevant departments, dynamites and accessories, (only imported items under the permission of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), and commodities purchased for used at Tatmadaw and consumption of Tatmadaw members costed by the budget allocated for the Ministry of Defence
Gems and minerals	
38	Jade, ruby, sapphire, uncut gemstones and jewellery items sold at the local Gems Emporiums organized by the Union government
39	Oil dregs
General commodities	
40	Goods are sold at designated areas specifically set aside for passengers departing overseas.
41	Goods used by Myanmar’s foreign embassies, consulates, and their staff in accordance with reciprocal privileges and immunities between countries, which are recognized and endorsed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the approval of the Union Government.
42	Goods purchased domestically or from abroad by United Nations agencies in Myanmar, under the name of the respective organization

43	Goods purchased by organizations at home and abroad with the cash donated to the State or contributed to the State fund
44	Goods exempted from customs duties by the Union Government through notifications, in accordance with the needs of the State and with the approval of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw
45	Goods imported under the Temporary Admission or Drawback system in accordance with customs procedures.
46	Goods that are re-imported under the Repair and Return system in accordance with customs procedures, after being exported abroad for repair due to defects or damage, provided that the original goods remain intact and undamaged.

- (b) Except for the goods specified in Subsection (a), if any other type of goods is produced and sold domestically, a 5 per cent commercial tax shall be levied on the sales revenue. Similarly, if such goods are imported from abroad, a 5 per cent commercial tax shall be levied on the CIF (cost, insurance, and freight) value at the port of arrival. In the case of special goods as defined in Section 11 of this law, if they are produced and sold domestically, the 5 per cent commercial tax shall apply to the sales revenue, including the special goods tax. Likewise, if such special goods are imported from abroad, the 5 per cent commercial tax shall apply to the CIF value, including the special goods tax.
- (c) Except for transactions involving goods exempted under this law, anyone conducting the following business activities, including those related to the special goods specified in Section 11, shall be liable to pay a 5 per cent commercial tax on the sales revenue: -
- (1) Importing goods and selling them at home
 - (2) Trading
- (d) The following service activities shall be exempt from commercial tax -

No	Service types
Foreign Affairs sector	
1	Service activities carried out by Myanmar’s foreign embassies, consulates, and their staff under reciprocal privileges and immunities between countries, which are recognized and endorsed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the approval of the Union Government.
2	Service activities obtained domestically by United Nations agencies in Myanmar under the name of the respective organization
Defence sector	
3	Printing and publication service activities of the Security Printing under the Ministry of Defence.
Religious Affairs and Culture sector	
4	Cultural and fine arts services
Transport and Communications sector	
5	Car park rental services
6	Cargo transport services (by train, car, ship, air and forklift except pipelines)
7	Household moving services
8	Toll charge collection services
10	Passenger air transport service activities, in which passengers are charged a fare for domestic or international trips.
10	Public transport services
11	Postal services managed by the government
Education and Information sector	
12	Education services
13	Books, magazines, periodicals and newspapers publishing service
Health sector	
14	Healthcare services, except the body beauty business
15	Traditional physiotherapeutic services, physiotherapeutic services of the blinds
16	Animal health and care services
17	Public toilet charge collection services
Planning and Finance sector	
18	Life insurance services
19	Microfinance services
20	Investment market services
21	Monetary services under approvals of the bank and the Central Bank of Myanmar
22	Customs clearance services
23	Aung Bar Lay Lottery

TO BE CONTINUED

NATIONAL

Ngwehsaung, Chaungtha hotels fully booked for Thingyan holiday

ROOMS at some hotels in Ngwehsaung and Chaungtha beaches have now been fully booked for the Thingyan holiday.

Rooms have already been booked for the Thingyan holiday, meaning some hotels in these famous destinations are now unavailable, according to sources from the travel industry.

Due to elevated temperatures, more people are visiting the beaches to avoid the summer heat, and most of the hotel rooms have already been booked for the coming Thingyan holiday.

“Even now, the number of visitors has increased. People come here to avoid the summer heat, and the matriculation exam is near to end, so some families have now booked rooms for their vacation after the exam. And many people have already



Bungalows in villages.

booked rooms for the Thingyan holiday in April as well. Some hotels have been fully booked now. Sea view rooms are mostly enjoyed by guests,” said a tour planner.

Including company trip planners, many people have now prepared for the pre-Thingyan trip with their beloved family or friend groups. In addition, visitors regularly arrive at domes-



Some hotels at the Ngwehsaung Beach.

tic destinations such as Bagan, Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw, Taunggyi, Kalaw, PyinOoLwin, Inlay, Pindaya, Hpa-an, Bago and Kyauktiy, as well as famous beaches: Ngwehsaung and Chaungtha.

In addition to domestic destinations, locals have also made plans for their vacations in overseas destinations in the coming Thingyan holiday, according to sources. — MT/ZS



The office building of the Myanmar Investment Commission.

MIC announces minimum criteria to enjoy tax relief

MYANMAR Investment Commission (MIC) announced minimum prescribed criteria for investors to enjoy tax exemption or relief in exercise of the power conferred under Subsection (b) of Section 100 of the Myanmar Investment Law, according to its notification 1/2026.

Investors must have the ability to contribute at least 35 per cent of the total capital stated in the proposal and applica-

tion for endorsement in cash. If they want to invest with foreign loans, a permit letter from the Central Bank of Myanmar, along with a loan repayment plan and evidence showing the entry of foreign loan and foreign capital funds in cash through the authorized dealer (private banks), must be provided.

MIC will revise these criteria according to the State's policy requirement. — NN/KK

MIC allows yuan in foreign investment for investment facilitation

THE Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) has been allowing investments made in Yuan Renminbi to facilitate investments and meet investor needs, in addition to the US dol-

lar, when submitting proposals for permits and endorsements of the businesses, according to MIC's news bulletin 1/2026.

Investors bringing foreign capital in US dollars can con-

duct transfer payments for investments through authorized dealers (private banks) in US dollars. Those bringing yuan can also do the same, MIC announced. — NN/KK

CBM injects US\$1.55M into edible oil importers

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) injected 196,880 baht into the market on 17 March after selling over US\$1.55 million to edible oil importing companies.

CBM sold over \$2.38 million to edible oil importing companies on 16 March, along with an injection of 1.15 million baht into the foreign exchange market.

CBM also injected around 1.49 million baht into the foreign exchange market on 13 March.



The general view of the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) in Yangon.

Additionally, CBM sold over \$1.98 million to edible oil-importing companies on the same day.

CBM has been constantly injecting large number of US dollars to the edible oil sector, with \$1.85 million on 12 March, 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 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

Major Japan firms offer large pay hikes in spring negotiations

MANY major Japanese companies, including Toyota Motor Corp, on Wednesday fully met their labor unions' demands for wage hikes in annual negotiations, despite the expected increase in costs from higher crude oil prices.

Unions, however, at smaller companies could struggle to win similar wage hikes. Such firms tend to find it harder to pass on higher costs to customers, especially

with the rise in oil and other material prices caused by the crisis in the Middle East.

Seen as a trendsetter at the annual "shunto" wage talks, Toyota, the world's largest carmaker by volume, fully met its labour union's pay hike and bonus payment demands for the sixth consecutive year.

The automaker is proposing pay increases of up to 21,580 yen (\$135) per month while accept-

ing its union's request for an annual bonus equivalent to 7.3 months' pay, down 0.3 month from last year's record-high payment.

Honda Motor Co, which expects its first full-year net loss in the year ending 31 March since its listing nearly 70 years ago, accepted an 18,500 yen pay hike request, while Suzuki Motor Corp. offered a pay increase of 20,500 yen, exceeding its union's demand. — Kyodo



An official of the Japan Council of Metalworkers' Unions writes down responses from companies to its member unions in wage negotiations in Tokyo on 18 March 2026. PHOTO: KYODO

Indonesia needs to reform tourism as Mideast conflict disrupts connectivity, raises costs

INDONESIA needs to promptly reform its tourism sector to mitigate the impact of the global crisis stemming from the Middle East conflict, which is disrupting global connectivity and increasing travel costs, said the country's Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs Airlangga Hartarto on Wednesday.

The country risks losing around 5,500 international tourists and up to 184.8 billion rupiah (around US\$11.8 million) in daily foreign exchange earnings if the situation is not addressed, according

to projections by the Ministry of Tourism.

"Indonesia must immediately undertake reforms to mitigate losses from the global crisis while building a competitive, resilient, and globally competitive tourism sector and destinations," Airlangga said.

To that end, the government plans to expand its visa-free policy, with the Ministry of Tourism identifying 20 potential countries for inclusion, while also strengthening the domestic market through a micro-tourism approach. — Xinhua



People are seen on Kuta Beach in Bali, a famous tourist destination of Indonesia, 24 December 2023. PHOTO: XU QIN/XINHUA/FILE

US airlines still see strong demand as jet fuel worries loom

US carriers will face tough challenges in the months ahead if jet fuel prices stay high, but for now consumers are still booking trips in numbers, airline CEOs

said Tuesday.

"The 10 biggest booking weeks of our history have been the first 10 weeks of this year," said United Airlines chief ex-

ecutive Scott Kirby, who described current travel demand as "remarkable".

Robust travel demand represented a bright spot for airlines in

presentations Tuesday even as United and its two chief rivals, American Airlines and Delta Air Lines, each estimated a \$400 million hit to first-quarter profits because of surging jet fuel costs due to the Middle East war. — AFP

Germany targets oil firms to prevent wartime price gouging

GERMANY said Tuesday its competition watchdog will soon get more powers to target energy firms over concerns they are unfairly hiking petrol prices to profit from the

wartime oil shock.

Global oil prices have surged as the Middle East war, pitting allies the United States and Israel against Iran, has led to the near total closure of the

Strait of Hormuz to oil and gas tankers. In Germany, "it is certainly notable that prices at gas stations have risen more sharply than the European average," Economy Minister Kath-

erina Reiche told a press conference.

"The oil industry has not provided a particularly convincing explanation for this, and that is why we will take action." — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V AS SUSANNA VOY.NO. (0042N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V AS SUSANNA VOY.NO. (0042N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **19-3-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP/MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

(ONE) OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC HAODE VOY.NO. (2606S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC HAODE VOY.NO. (2606S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **19-3-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

ROLLING UPDATES WORLD

War in the Middle East: latest developments

Here are the latest developments Wednesday in the Middle East war:

- # Russia condemned the killing of Iranian security chief Ali Larijani, after ally Tehran vowed retaliation for the death of the military official whom Israel claimed to have killed in an airstrike.
- # Germany and France called for de-escalation, with Berlin's Foreign Minister Johann Wadepful warning of a "crisis of the gravest order" if global supply chains continue to be disrupted.
- # The Iranian women's national football team, including several players who withdrew an asylum bid in Australia, crossed the Turkish border back into Iran.
- # Iran was due to hold funerals in Tehran for slain security chief Ali Larijani and another powerful figure killed by Israel, Gholamreza Soleimani, the head of the Basij paramilitary force.
- # Iran executed a Swedish citizen, Sweden's foreign minister said, after Iranian authorities announced



Iraq announced it had resumed limited oil exports of 250,000 barrels per day through the Turkish port of Ceyhan. A worker controls a valve at the Iraq-Türkiye oil pipeline in Kirkuk. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

- they had carried out capital punishment for an alleged Israeli spy.
- # A new Israeli strike hit central Beirut's Zuqaq al-Blat neighbourhood, state media reported, the second on the densely populated area since the early morning.
- # An Israeli strike also hit a car in the centre of Sidon, southern Lebanon's largest city, state media reported.
- # At least four explosions were heard in the city of Erbil in the autonomous Kurdistan region of Iraq, AFP journalists reported.
- # Iraq announced it had resumed limited oil exports of 250,000 barrels per day through the Turkish port of Ceyhan, bypassing the Gulf after the country's output plunged due to disruptions in the crucial Strait of Hormuz, which Iran has effec-

tively shut.

- # Oil prices sank and stocks rose in Asia and Europe.
- # Iran's top diplomat said the repercussions of the war in the Middle East would be felt globally.
- # Iranian army chief Amir Hatami threatened to launch a "decisive and regrettable" retaliation for the killing of security chief Larijani.
- # An Iranian projectile struck near Australia's military headquarters for the Middle East in the United Arab Emirates, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said. The Saudi defence ministry said it had intercepted a ballistic missile near Prince Sultan Air Base, which houses US military personnel. The country later said it had intercepted two drones targeting the diplomatic quarter of its capital, Riyadh. Kuwait's air defences responded to a rocket and drone attack, according to authorities from both countries. Qatar's defence ministry also said it intercepted a missile attack, as blasts were heard in Doha. — AFP

Chile's new president scraps environmental protections

THE government of Chile's new President Jose Antonio Kast has halted 43 environmental protection decrees

signed by his left-wing predecessor Gabriel Boric, the environment ministry said Tuesday.



Halted measures include emissions limits for power plants, the creation of national parks, and protection for the endangered Darwin's frog. **PHOTO: PIXABAY**

Among the suspended measures that were awaiting implementation are a regulation limiting thermal power plant emissions, the creation of several national parks, and an order to safeguard Darwin's frog, a tiny, endangered amphibian species found in southern Chile and Argentina.

The ministry withdrew the decrees — signed between 2023 and 2026 by the Boric administration — while they were still under review by the comptroller general's office, one step prior to their entry into force, according to a document reported by the media and confirmed by the government. — AFP

Thai top court takes up case seeking to invalidate February's election

THAILAND'S Constitutional Court issued an official announcement on Wednesday stating it has accepted a petition filed by the Thai Ombudsman seeking to declare the House of Representatives election invalid.

The Election Commission has been ordered to submit its explanation within 15 days.

The ombudsman asked the Constitutional Court to rule against the Election Commission, its secretary-general, and officials, who are accused of designing and printing ballot papers with barcodes and QR codes for the House of Representatives election held on 8 February, according to the announcement. — Xinhua

Argentina formally withdraws from WHO

ARGENTINA formally withdrew from the World Health Organization (WHO) on Tuesday, Foreign Minister Pablo Quirno said.

He said in a social media post that Argentina communicated this decision through a note addressed to the United Nations Secretary-General on 17 March 2025. In accordance with the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, the withdrawal takes place one year after that notification.

"Our country will continue to promote international cooperation in health through bilateral agreements and regional forums, fully safeguarding its sovereignty and its capacity to make decisions regarding health policies," Quirno said. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Shan United clinches 7th MNL title, extends undefeated streak

SHAN United secured the 2025-2026 Myanmar National League (MNL) championship with a 1-0 win over Hanthawady United in the final round on 18 March. Yangon United also won 4-0 against Dagon Star United, leaving Shan United one point clear to retain the title.

This marks Shan United's seventh MNL championship (2017, 2019, 2020, 2022, 2023, 2024-25, 2025-26) and their record sixth consecutive undefeated season – a historic first in league history.

Shan United finished the season with 18 wins, 4 draws, 0 losses, and 58 points, followed



Shan United players and officials celebrate victory after receiving the Championship trophy.



by Yangon United with 57 points and Dagon Star United with 39. Awards for top scorer and other honours were presented by the Shan State government and Myanmar Football Federation officials. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

YCDC Golf Course to host Disabled golf tournament



This image displays a poster announcing the disabled golf tournament.

THE Myanmar Paralympic Sports Federation will organize a golf tournament for persons with disabilities at YCDC Golf Course (Silvery).

The tournament will take place on 29 March, and participants can register by 20 March, although organizers plan to continue accepting entries until the day of the competition.

The federation has held the disabled golf tournament annually in previous years, but temporarily

suspended it during the COVID-19 pandemic. The event resumes this year.

According to federation secretary U Min Naing Oo, the tournament is organized to mark the achievements of Myanmar athletes at the ASEAN Para Games.

There is no limit on the number of participants, and persons with disabilities who can play golf are eligible to compete under the local rules set by the organizing committee. — ASH/KZL

Shan United FC announces new U20 player signings

SHAN United FC stated that new players will be recruited for its U20 team.

An audition has been arranged at No 7, Aungmingala Street, Laydaunkan Sanpya Village in Mingaladon Township from 25 to 30 March and the registration deadline is 24 March.

Shan United is preparing to compete for the Myanmar National League U20 title in 2026 with new young talent, so talented footballers who are eager to succeed can join.

Players' age limit is from 1 May 2006 to 31 December 2008. Accommodation will be provided for those from other regions and states. For details, enquiries can be made to the following numbers: 09 751505889 and 09 254442988. — MT/ZS



Shan United FC's new players recruitment.

Senegal demands 'corruption' probe over Cup of Nations decision as Morocco defend appeal

SENEGAL'S government said on Wednesday it wanted an "independent international investigation" into corruption after its national team were sensationally stripped of the Africa Cup of Nations title with the Confederation of African Football (CAF) declaring Morocco champions, two months after their chaotic final.

Several Senegalese players controversially walked off the pitch in Rabat during the final on January 18 in protest when the hosts were awarded a penalty late in second-half stoppage time.



Senegal's forward Sadio Mane celebrates with the trophy after winning the Africa Cup of Nations final football match against Morocco in January 2026. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

After Senegal's players eventually returned having been coaxed back onto the pitch by captain Sadio Mane, Morocco missed the penalty and Pape Gueye went on to

score the goal in extra time that gave his team a 1-0 victory.

After a Morocco appeal asked the governing body to study competition rules, CAF recorded a 3-0 victory in favour of the tournament hosts on Tuesday sparking uproar in Dakar. "By calling into question a result achieved at the end of a match that was properly played and won in accordance with the rules of the game, the CAF seriously undermines its own credibility", government spokeswoman Marie Rose Khady Fatou Faye said in a statement. — AFP



China has unveiled a new list of 13 major foreign-funded projects with a planned investment of US\$13.4 billion, the country's top economic planner said on Wednesday.

The new batch of projects is mainly in the manufacturing sector, including electronics, chemicals, automobiles and electrical machinery, aiming to accelerate the development of industrial clusters, according to the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC).

Amid efforts to strengthen support for the service sector and promote deeper integration between modern services and advanced manufacturing, logistics projects have been included on the list for the first time, while continued support will be given to R&D center projects in sectors such as biomedicine.

Investment sources for these projects are diversifying, with companies from Britain, Germany, Switzerland, Sweden and Türkiye involved, the NDRC noted.

China will improve follow-up services for these projects, step up support for foreign-invested enterprises, and address their concerns and practical difficulties, an NDRC official said.

So far, such major foreign-funded projects have seen cumulative investment reach US\$108 billion, the NDRC data showed.

China has intensified efforts to promote foreign investment. — Xinhua

China reveals new batch of foreign-invested projects

A unique feature this time is the inclusion of logistics projects for the first time.



Aptiv Electrical Centres (Shanghai) Co Ltd serves as the regional headquarters and a primary manufacturing hub for Aptiv's Electrical Distribution Systems (EDS) business in China. This undated photo shows a plant of Aptiv Electrical Centers (Shanghai) Co Ltd in Shanghai, east China.
PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ XINHUA

US Navy Warship said to be ferrying additional marines to Gulf region tracked off Singapore: Report

A US Navy Warship, which is believed to be carrying Marines and Sailors to West Asia amid the developments in the region, is nearing the Malacca

Strait off Singapore, CNN reported, referring to maritime tracking data.

As per the US broadcaster, amphibious assault

ship USS Tripoli was seen approaching Singapore, at the southwestern edge of the South China Sea on Tuesday morning, as per AIS tracking data seen by CNN.

Citing marinetraffic.com, CNN said that it showed a track for an "unspecified US warship" departing Okinawa on 11 March, through the South China Sea and nearing Singapore Tuesday morning at a speed of about 22 miles per hour.

It reported that while US Navy ships often move with AIS transponders turned off, revealing their positions while transiting areas with heavy maritime traffic, like the waters around Singapore, enables safer operations. — ANI



The USS Tripoli made a port call as part of routine operations in the Indo-Pacific in 2022. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ SAEED KHAN/AFP/FILE**

Scientists unveil world's first quantum battery prototype

SCIENTISTS in Australia have developed the world's first proof-of-concept quantum battery that could pave the way for long-distance charging of devices and super-fast charging of electric cars.

The prototype charges, stores and discharges energy leveraging unique properties of quantum mechanics such as superposition and entanglement, unlike chemical reactions in conventional batteries, said a statement from the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO), Australia's national science agency, on Wednesday.

The battery, engineered by scientists from CSIRO, Australia's Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, and the University of Melbourne, features a multi-layered organic microcavity charged wirelessly via laser, it said.

"Our findings confirm a fundamental quantum effect that's completely counterintuitive: quantum batteries charge faster as they get larger. Today's batteries don't function like that," said James Quach, quantum science and technologies science leader at CSIRO, who led the team that engineered the prototype. — Xinhua