

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.

OPINION

Discuss the voices of people at Hluttaw sessions

PAGE 8

NATIONAL PAGE 5



Ministry to oversee affordable CNG vehicles aimed at enhancing public services

NATIONAL PAGE 6



Myanmar Theatrical Association holds awareness seminar for theatrical artistes

NATIONAL PAGE 7



EPS-TOPIK exam passers requested to extend job application in March

Aquatic animal disease research conducted off Taninthayi Coast



Survey of fishery resources in the coastal waters of the Taninthayi Region using the research vessel MV SEAFDEC 2.

PHOTO: KHAING HTOO (IPRD)

The Department of Fisheries has been conducting a survey on fishery resources in the coastal waters of the Taninthayi Coast using the research vessel MV SEAFDEC 2 from 22 February to 22 March 2026.

The Department of Fisheries has more than K3.5 billion allocated as a research fund and is currently carrying out research activities, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.

At present, the department is conducting research on the incidence of diseases affecting aquatic animals as part of its fisheries-related projects.

Since outbreaks of fish diseases in aquaculture can cause extremely high financial losses, the research is being undertaken to help fish and shrimp farming operations in the Taninthayi Region prevent the introduction of external fish diseases and to provide effective support for disease control.

In addition, the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department is upgrading facil-

ities at the Kyunsu Station. Meanwhile, the Department of Fisheries has been conducting a survey on fishery resources in the coastal waters of the Taninthayi Coast using the research vessel MV SEAFDEC 2 from 22 February to 22 March 2026, and will also continue upgrading the Kalwin Station.

Similarly, a research project on the reproduction, survival, distribution and ecosystem of the cockle species

— jointly undertaken by the Department of Fisheries and the Department of Marine Science from Myeik University — has been approved and is currently being implemented. In addition, the proceedings of the forum on the development of fish, shrimp, oyster, seaweed and aquatic animal breeding and research activities, held in January 2025, will also be published in book form. — ASH/KNN

NATIONAL

All Ethnic Groups Urged to End Armed Conflicts and Forge Lasting Peace

- ❖ The stability and peace of the State are essential for the benefit of the country and its people.
- ❖ Therefore, it is urged that all ethnic peoples uphold and protect durable peace as a national duty, by ending armed conflicts and building genuine, long-term peace throughout Myanmar, so as to ensure the stability and permanence of the Union.

(An excerpt from the message sent by Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission 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 Order 13/2026

13th Waning of Taboung 1387 ME
(15 March 2026)

Substituted appointment of Security and Border Affairs Ministers

THE National Defence and Security Council has appointed and assigned duties to following Security and Border Affairs Ministers of Region or State governments as listed below.

- Security and Border Affairs Minister, Kayin State Government**
BC 32835 Colonel Soe Moe Win instead of BC 27238 Colonel Min Thu Kyaw
- Security and Border Affairs Minister, Ayeyawady Region Government**
BC 30339 Colonel Soe Min Oo instead of BC 30107 Colonel Khant Mon Swe

By order,
Aung Lin Dwe
Executive Chief

Myanmar Gazette

Assignment to Duties of Permanent Secretary/Director-General

THE National Defence and Security Council has assigned U Aung Khaing Tun, Director-General of the Union Minister's Office of the Ministry of National Planning, to the duties of the Permanent Secretary and Director-General of the same organization.

Union Tax Law 2026 enacted

THE National Defence and Security Council of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar issued the Union Tax Law 2026 as the National Defence and Security Council Law 18/2026 on 15 March. The Law will come into effect, starting from 1 April 2026. — GNLM

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7 pm Sunday 15 March 2026)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is generally fair over the Northeast Bay and Central Bay of Bengal and a few clouds over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL MORNING OF 16 March 2026: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Kachin and eastern Shan states, scattered in Yangon and upper Sagaing regions and northern Shan State and isolated in Mandalay, lower Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon and southern Shan states. Degree of certainty is 80 per cent. Weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining regions and states.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD:

The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Sagaing and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin and Shan states. The area along the cumulonimbus clouds movement, the weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied with rain, thunder, lightning and hails may occur and therefore it is recommended to be aware in advance of these phenomena.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in the Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about 3-5 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated to scattered rain or thundershowers in upper Sagaing and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Kayin, Mon and (northern and eastern) Shan states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16 March 2026: A few clouds.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16 March 2026:

Isolated light rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 80 per cent.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16 March 2026: A few cloud. — DMH

EARTHQUAKE

(Issued at 5:50 pm MST)

A slight earthquake of magnitude 4.3 Richter Scale with its epicentre inside Myanmar (about 20 miles southeast of Homalin), latitude 24.66°N, longitude 95.14°E, depth 145 kilometres, about 61 miles northeast of the Tamu Seismological Observatory was recorded at 17 hour 33 minute 1 second MST on 15 March 2026. — DMH

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)

MIC approves 35 new projects expected to create over 5,000 jobs

THE Myanmar Investment Commission approved 35 new investment projects expected to create more than 5,000 jobs at its third meeting of 2026, held in Nay Pyi Taw.

The meeting was attended by MIC Chairman and Union Minister U Mya Tun Oo and commission members.

The approved projects include four foreign investment projects in the manufacturing and electricity sectors, as well as 31 Myanmar citizen investment projects across the manufacturing, hotel and tourism, services, electricity, agriculture, transport and communications sectors.

The total investment amounts to US\$41.003 million



The third meeting of the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) is in progress yesterday, attended by Union Minister U Mya Tun Oo.

and K1,955,526.955 million, and the projects are expected to

create 5,064 job opportunities.

Key projects include com-

mercial vehicle manufacturing, electricity generation, ag-

riculture- and livestock-based production, hotel and tourism services, electric vehicle assembly and sales, port construction and services, mobile phone assembly and distribution, solar panel production, livestock feed manufacturing and garment factories.

As of the end of February 2026, investments in Myanmar have come from 53 countries and regions. The largest investors are Singapore, China and Thailand. Among the 12 economic sectors, the electricity sector accounts for 28.27 per cent of total investment, followed by the oil and natural gas sector with 24.62 per cent and the manufacturing sector with 14.67 per cent. — MNA/KZL

Training courses expanded to develop technicians for growing public EV usage

THE EV Mechanics Course 1/2026 graduation ceremony was held on 14 March in a hybrid format at the Technical, Vocational and Trainer Training College (Belin).

The Chairman of the Working Committee on EV Research, Development, and Technology Deputy Minister for Science and Technology Dr Aung Zeya attended the graduation ceremony via videoconferencing from Nay Pyi Taw, along with the director-general, deputy directors-general, and officials from the Department of Technical and Vocational Education

and Training.

The deputy minister stated that, due to the significant growth in the use of electric vehicles (EVs) by the public, trainees must address the technical needs to ensure the safe long-term use of EVs, while also disseminating knowledge among the public and colleagues and continuously studying the technologies covered in training to become skilled EV technicians who can contribute to the country's development.

He also urged course instructors to offer courses consistently, ensuring they meet



The EV Mechanics Course 1/2026 graduation ceremony in progress yesterday in a hybrid format at the Technical, Vocational and Trainer Training College (Belin) on 14 March 2026.

quality standards, and encouraged them to stay updated with rapidly developing EV technology, while also emphasizing the importance of regularly reviewing and improving their EV technology skills and training capabilities.

The principal of the College presented the completion certificates.

Since 2022, the Working

Committee has been offering EV technology courses at the Government Technical Institute (Insein) and the Technical, Vocational and Teacher Training College (Belin) under the Department of Technical and Vocational Education and Training, as well as at the Vehicle Research Institute (PyinOoLwin) under the Department of Technology Promotion and Co-

ordination. Initially, in 2022, only one course was available, with 35 graduates. Since last year, the programme has expanded to offer nine EV technology courses, producing 900 graduates to date. To keep pace with evolving technical demands, customized courses are regularly developed based on the needs of the public and EV entrepreneurs. — MNA/TH

NATIONAL

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Statement 3/ 2026

THE Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC) was initially established on 5 September 2011 by Notification 34/2011 issued by the Union Government, with the objective of promoting and protecting the fundamental rights of citizens as enshrined in the Constitution (2008) of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. In order to enable the Commission to function in a systematic and robust manner, and to enhance the comprehensiveness of its work in the promotion and protection of human rights, the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Law (2014) was enacted on 28 March 2014 as Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law No 21. During the drafting of the Commission Law, efforts were made to ensure compliance with the Paris Principles relating to the status and functioning of national human rights institutions for protection and promotion of human rights. In this regard, advice and legal opinions were sought from subject matter experts and legal advisors of international organizations, including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Asia-Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (APF), and the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (RWI) in Sweden. The drafting process for the Commission Law (Bill) took approximately one year and six months and included consultations with relevant domestic government institutions, as well as discussions with national legal experts, subject-matter specialists, civil society organizations, and non-governmental organizations.

Since its establishment in 2011, and over the course of its fifteen years of operation, the Commission has formulated and implemented framework of action plan, long-term strategic plans, and annual operational plans in order to effectively carry out its mandate of promoting and protecting human rights.

With regard to human rights promotion and education, the Commission has organized educational talks, delivered lectures, conducted training courses and workshops, and produced and disseminated human rights education bulletins and videos for responsible personnel within various State mechanisms as well as for members of the public at different levels. In addition, the Commission translated and disseminated the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), which contains the human rights standards to be upheld by all peoples and nations, into Myanmar language and 30 ethnic languages, and also produced Braille editions for persons with visual impairments.

In relation to human rights protection, the Commission has received and screened complaints concerning alleged human rights violations, coordinated with relevant organizations to facilitate remedies for grievances raised in such complaints, and conducted on-site investigations where necessary. The Commission has also undertaken inspections of prisons, jails, lock-ups, and detention centres across the country and submitted recommendations accordingly. As a result of the implementation of the Commission's recommendations by the relevant authorities, efforts have been made to enable prisoners, detainees, and persons in custody to more fully enjoy their fundamental rights.

Following its establishment, the Commission also urged and recommended that Myanmar accede to international human rights instruments, including the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (CRC-OP-AC). Myanmar acceded to these instru-

ments in 2015. The Commission has further submitted recommendations from a human rights perspective to relevant authorities to promote the alignment of existing domestic laws and draft laws with international human rights standards, contributing to certain progress. In addition, the Commission translated seven of the nine core international human rights treaties and five optional protocols into Myanmar language and published and disseminated them.

In order to keep the public informed about its human rights activities and perspectives, the Commission has issued public statements through state-run television and newspapers, the Commission's website, and the Myanmar National Portal. These statements have addressed, inter alia, the rights of vulnerable groups including children, the elderly, women, and persons with disabilities; statements encouraging stability and peace, observations on human rights situations relating to citizens' rights to education, health, and life; statements regarding the Commission's activities in promoting and protecting human rights, and statements commemorating international human rights observances. Commemorative ceremonies for International Human Rights Day have also been held annually, including four ceremonies conducted at the State level.

Pursuant to Section 22 (g) of the Commission Law, the Commission has engaged in cooperation with United Nations human rights bodies, regional and international human rights institutions, and international non-governmental organizations. Such cooperation has included participation in meetings, workshops, seminars, training courses, and the hosting of relevant events. In October 2025, the Commission signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with the High Commissioner for Human Rights in the Russian Federation to collaborate on matters relating to the promotion and protection of human rights.

The Commission has also undertaken election monitoring from a human rights perspective, which is among the recognized functions of national human rights institutions, during all three phases of the recently concluded multiparty democracy general elections. Reports containing recommendations concerning the citizens' rights in the context of the elections were compiled and submitted to the relevant authorities.

Since its inception, the Commission has submitted annual reports containing recommendations regarding the human rights situation in the country as well as the Commission's activities and functions to the President and the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. Special reports on human rights matters have also been submitted to the President when necessary.

Over the fifteen-year period of its operations, the Commission has faced a number of challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic, natural disasters such as Cyclone Mocha and the major Mandalay earthquake, as well as states of emergency and internal conflicts within the country. Notwithstanding these circumstances, the Commission has continued to carry out its mandate of promoting and protecting human rights. The Commission hereby reaffirms its commitment to further strengthening its efforts to safeguard the fundamental rights and human rights of all citizens.

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission
Date: 15 March 2026

Advertise

with us/ Hotline:



09 454237515, 09 255597511

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 aungthuya@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

Ministry to oversee affordable CNG vehicles aimed at enhancing public services

THE Ministry of Energy held a work coordination meeting yesterday to ensure the public benefits from the sale of compressed natural gas (CNG) at CNG stations, aimed at supporting the public transportation sector.

At the meeting, the Union Minister for Energy U Ko Ko Lwin stated that the government is addressing the current fuel crisis by conserving fuel, increasing reserves, exploring alternative fuel import routes, and collaborating with international organizations, emphasizing that improving the efficiency of the public transportation sector is key to fuel conservation, while since 2007, the Ministry of Energy has been supplying natural gas (CNG) to YBS vehicles and taxis, essential to the public transportation sector, at a fixed price of K273.25 per kilogramme — approximately half the international rate, with CNG costing about one-third the price of gasoline



The coordination meeting to ensure the public benefits from the sale of compressed natural gas (CNG) at CNG stations, aimed at supporting the public transportation sector in progress in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

and diesel for the same distance in vehicles with the same engine power. The Union Minister called for public cooperation to ensure that CNG taxis continue to benefit from state-subsidized pricing,

warning that if taxi drivers take advantage of rising gasoline and diesel prices to demand higher rental fees, the government will remove these vehicles from the CNG programme; he also stated

that YBS vehicles must operate only on approved public transportation routes, announced that a metering system will soon be installed on CNG vehicles with distribution monitored using

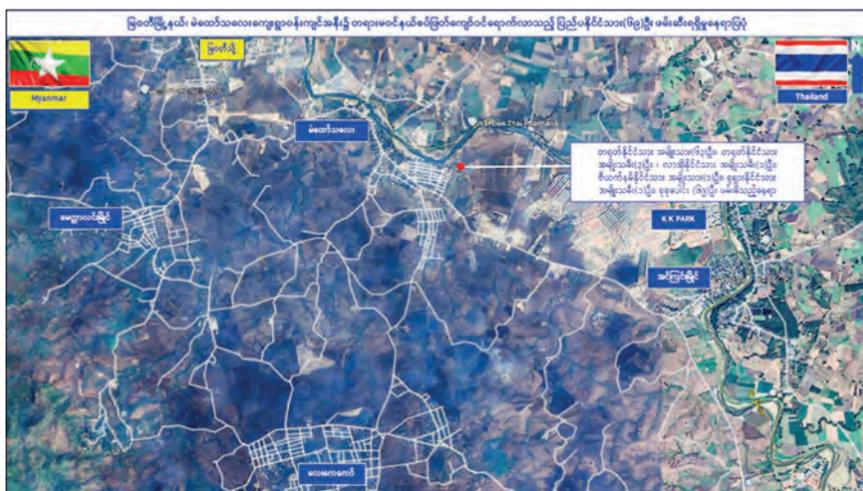
technology, and emphasized that the Ministry of Energy is working to increase the availability of CNG for vehicles.

The Minister for Natural Resources of the Yangon Region discussed the monitoring of CNG vehicles in collaboration with relevant organizations to ensure they provide effective and efficient services in the public transport sector. The attendees shared suggestions, and the Union minister coordinated the implementation of necessary measures.

If the public is not satisfied with CNG vehicles, they can file a complaint with the Director (CNG) by calling the following phone numbers: 09 794115410 or 09 262467077.

The meeting was also attended by Deputy Minister U Kyaw Naing Win, the Minister for Natural Resources of the Yangon Region, and officials from the Ministry of Energy. — MNA/TH

Undocumented immigrant foreigners arrested in Myawady



This map shows the locations where 69 illegal entrants were arrested near Maethawtalay Village, Myawady Township.



This photo shows detained individuals who entered the country illegally through the location near Maethawtalay Village, Myawady Township.

THE Myanmar government emphasizes the elimination process of telecom frauds and online gambling, which harm the international community as well as the entire world, as a national duty. To ensure that such activities

gain no foothold in the country, the government is actively conducting suppression operations in coordination with domestic forces and the governments of neighbouring countries.

Acting on information that

foreigners were hiding in the area, a combined security team inspected a location near Maethawtalay village in Myawady Township, Kayin State on 14 March and a total of 86 individuals were arrested there.

During the operation at 12 noon on 15 March, authorities raided and arrested 69 individuals in the jungle, 650 metres east of Maethawtalay village, including 63 Chinese men, two Chinese women, one Vietnamese

man, one Malaysian woman, one Russian woman, and one Lao-tian woman. The arrestees are currently detained in Myawady, while a joint departmental team is collecting their personal data and records. — MNA/KZL

Advertise

with us/ Hotline:



09 454237515, 09 255597511

NATIONAL

Illegal timbers, industrial materials, consumer goods, electronics, unregistered vehicles seized nationwide

UNDER the supervision of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, relevant departments are taking effective action in accordance with the law to prevent and suppress illegal trade across the country.

A combined inspection team under the management of Illegal Trade Eradication Task Forces conducted inspections from 10 to 12 March. The team seized five unregistered vehicles worth K41.5 million at the Thanlwin Bridge combined checkpoint in Hpa-an Township, industrial materials valued at K1.182 billion without official documents

from two warehouses in Hpa-an Township and an unregistered vehicle valued at K16 million at the Yadanabon bridge combined checkpoint in Sagaing Township. Authorities took action under the Export and Import Law.

In Taninthayi and Bago Regions, the combined on-duty teams conducted the inspections from 8 to 11 March and confiscated illegal timbers worth K607,256 and an unregistered motorbike valued at K6.5 million in Dawei Township, an unregistered vehicle and three unregistered motorbikes valued at K19.1 million in Ottwin, Thayawady, Minhla



Confiscated unregistered vehicles in Hpa-an.

and Shwedaung townships and illegal teak and timbers worth K1.141 million in Ottwin, DawkU, Nyaunglebin and Kyaukdaga townships. The action was taken

under the Forest Law and the Export and Import Law.

Moreover, inspections were conducted on 11 March, and electronics and consumer goods

worth K117.701 million without official documents were captured at the Ngwepinlal jetty in Kawthoung Township, industrial materials valued at K13 million without official documents from a container at the Thilawa port and electronics valued at K80.80 million without official documents from a container at the Myanmar Industrial port. The action was carried out under the Export and Import Law.

During the period from 8 to 12 March, illegal goods and products worth K1.478 billion were seized in 32 cases. — MNA/MKKS

Myanmar Theatrical Association holds awareness seminar for theatrical artistes

AN awareness-raising seminar for theatrical artistes was held by the Myanmar Theatrical Association (Central) at its head office in Insein Township on 14 March.

The seminar was attended by about 300 participants, including chairpersons, secretaries and representatives from regional, state and township branches of theatrical associations across Myanmar, as well as theatre founders, managers, representatives from various professional committees and other interested theatrical artistes.

“We have gathered today to meet one another and seek solutions together. Even the Buddha did not issue the

Vinaya rules all at once. According to the teachings of senior monks, the disciplinary rules in religious literature were established only after monks reported issues and determined what was appropriate or inappropriate. Likewise, in the theatrical field, the basic regulations and organizational framework were discussed many times by scholars at the 2008 Theatrical Conference. The wording and concepts were carefully debated, and the constitution of the Myanmar Theatrical Association already exists. Laws and regulations are not fixed forever; they require amendments and adjustments over time depending on time and

circumstances. Through discussions and consultations like this, we believe improvements and revisions can be made,” said theatrical actor Pho Chit, chairman of the Myanmar Theatrical Association (Central).

The seminar was organized to ensure that theatrical artistes performing on stage avoid inappropriate or indecent performances and refrain from presentations that conflict with existing laws. In addition, participants held discussions so that the awareness-raising messages could later be disseminated through the respective regional, state and township theatrical associations. — ASH/KZL



An awareness talk for theatrical artistes organized by the Myanmar Theatrical Association (Central) in progress.

Six new investment projects approved in Yangon Region, creating more than 3,000 jobs



This photo features a meeting of the Yangon Region Investment Committee.

THE Yangon Region Investment Committee (YRIC) approved six new investment projects in March 2026 that will create employment opportunities for 3,203 workers in Yangon Region.

“The approval was granted at the YRIC meeting 3/2026 held on 14 March. The projects include one fully domestic investment project in the hotels and tourism sector and five fully foreign investment projects in

the industrial sector,” said an official from the YRIC.

During this period, there was an increase in the investment volume of existing businesses as well as new investment projects, along with a rise in the workforce. The YRIC approves new Myanmar and foreign investment projects every month in accordance with laws and procedures to create new job opportunities in Yangon Region. — ASH/TH

Gold Market Rate as of 14 March 2026

THE price of one tical (16.329325 grammes) of gold with density of 19.25 grammes per cubic centimetre and above is K7,100,000, as established by the Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee.

NATIONAL

Myanmar Embassy provides hotline number for emergency assistance on consular services

THE Myanmar Embassy to Japan said Myanmar nationals can contact its hotline number for emergency assistance on consular services if the embassy's phone is engaged.

Consular services are available from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm and passports and tax receipts are issued from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm, it said.

Myanmar nationals in Japan can call the embassy's phone number 34419291 for consular services but those who have difficulty when the phone line is busy can contact its email address tokyomyanmar959@gmail.com or hotline number 07044137383 for emergency, said the embassy on 10 March.

The embassy works for passport issuing process from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm and consular services and the issuance of passport for next day and tax receipts scheduled from 2:30 pm to 8:30 pm, it said.

The Myanmar Embassy to Tokyo works on consular services for the interest of Myanmar nationals in accordance with the law, and detailed information about consular services are being provided at the embassy website <https://www.contact@myanmarembassyTokyo.org>. — MT/ZS

EPS-TOPIK exam passers requested to extend job application in March



The labour skills training centre of the Department of Labour.

FOR those who passed in 16th EPS-TOPIK manufacturing sector first batch and haven't received job offer, the Public Overseas Employment Agency (POEA-EPS) has announced that their job applications

will need to do extension in March. Issuing and accepting job application form will be provided at POEA office from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, between 18 and 25 March, according to their test voucher

numbers.

Applicants will have to take out the job application form along with passport and text voucher, and photo in exam application form and passport must be the same as the job application form, it said.

Required documents are original passport, three passport photos, copy of Citizenship Scrutiny Card, personal bank account opened at private or state-owned bank under the name of the passport, copy of household list and copy of education certificates.

Those who have worked in the Republic of Korea will need to present their work history and return date. Personal information, contact numbers and required documents will need to be filled correctly and completely in the job application form and it is up to the applicant if misconducts are found. In addition, passport validation should have at least a year, it said. — MT/ZS

Golden deer at the Shwesettaw Wildlife Sanctuary thriving and reproducing well

GOLDEN deer are hoofed mammals belonging to the family Cervidae and the order Artiodactyla. Their scientific species is *Cervus eldi*, which has three subspecies. Biologists refer to the golden deer as Eld's deer, named after the British army officer Percy Eld, who first discovered the species in 1838 in the valley region of Manipur, India. The deer was later named Eld's deer in honour of its discoverer.

The Indian subspecies, *Cervus eldi eldi*, is found only in Manipur. At present, only about 200 individuals remain, and experts estimate that the species may face the risk of extinction. These deer are locally known as Sangai in the Manipuri language. Captive breeding of golden deer has been successfully carried out at the Alipore Zoological Gardens in Kolkata.

Golden deer are also bred at the Shwesettaw Wildlife Sanctuary. The sanctuary is located in Minbu (Saku) Town -



ship and covers an area of 213.4 square miles. It was established in 1985 with the aim of conserving tropical dry forests, and

the watershed areas of the Mone Creek and Mann Creek. The sanctuary was primarily created to protect the grazing grounds of Eld's deer.

Conservation of golden deer at the Shwesettaw Wildlife Sanctuary began in 2012 with five males and seven females transferred from the Nay Pyi Taw Safari Park and the Lawkananda Park. At present, the sanctuary has a total of 55 golden deer,

comprising 20 males and 35 females.

The terrain of the Shwesettaw Sanctuary consists of gently undulating hills and slopes covered with sandstone and lies at an elevation of about 300 to 600 feet above sea level. The environment has proven suitable for the deer, which are thriving and reproducing well in the sanctuary. — Zeyar Naing (Shwekanmyay)/KNN



Photos show a herd of endangered golden deer at the Shwesettaw Wildlife Sanctuary. PHOTO: ZEYAR NAING (SHWEKANMYAY)

OPINION

ARTICLE

Discuss the voices of people at Hluttaw sessions

THE free and fair multiparty democratic general election was successfully held in three phases, and dates have already been set for convening the first regular sessions of the respective third-term Hluttaws, together with the members of parliament who were elected as representatives of the people.

In the 2025 multiparty democratic general election, more than 13.14 million voters cast their ballots out of over 24.22 million eligible voters in 263 townships where the election was held. The voter turnout was 54.22 per cent. Since those elected were chosen by people who support democracy, they are expected to work

The entire people of Myanmar are hoping for the country's political situation to reach the best possible condition. With such expectations, they overwhelmingly cast their votes in the election. The ultimate objective of politics is nation-building. People with different political views and differing opinions must prioritize national interests and choose the best possible approaches in order to contribute to the development of the country. In carrying out political activities, they must act courageously for the good of the nation, free from personal bias, party bias, and feelings of favouritism or hostility.

Accommodation has also been prepared with the necessary facilities for Hluttaw representatives. The respective Hluttaw offices have also made prior preparations to ensure that the procedures and tasks to be carried out by Hluttaw representatives in each Hluttaw can proceed smoothly and conveniently.

For the successful convening of the third-term Hluttaw sessions, news media organizations recognized as the fourth estate in a multiparty democratic system must systematically comply with the prescribed rules and regulations related to news gathering on discussions about the voices of the people by Hluttaw representatives within the Hluttaw. The Ministry of Information has taken the lead, in cooperation with the Myanmar Press Council and the Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club, to systematically arrange media corners.

The entire people of Myanmar are hoping for the country's political situation to reach the best possible condition. With such expectations, they overwhelmingly cast their votes in the election. The ultimate objective of politics is nation-building. People with different political views and differing opinions must prioritize national interests and choose the best possible approaches in order to contribute to the development of the country. In carrying out political activities, they must act courageously for the good of the nation, free from personal bias, party bias, and feelings of favouritism or hostility.

for the benefit of the nation with patriotism and a spirit of love for the country. Although this election was conducted amid various difficulties, unlike previous elections, political parties enthusiastically participated and competed in the process. Likewise, voters fulfilled their responsibilities as citizens by actively and conscientiously coming out to cast their votes.

The first regular session of the Pyithu Hluttaw will commence on 16 March 2026, of the Amyotha Hluttaw on 18 March, and of the Region and State Hluttaws on 20 March. When Hluttaw representatives arrive in Nay Pyi Taw, arrangements have already been coordinated in advance with the relevant offices, departments, and organizations for transportation to and from designated locations. Accom-

Shared River, Shared Vision

By Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Ma Jia

ORIGINATING on the Qinghai-Xizang Plateau in China, the Lancang-Mekong River runs through Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam. Stretching for more than 4,000 kilometres through rugged mountains and valleys, it nourishes hundreds of millions of people across its basin and closely links China with the five Mekong countries. On March 23rd, 2016, the first Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (LMC) Leaders' Meeting was held in Sanya, Hainan, marking the launch of the LMC. Over the past decade, the LMC has transformed from a visionary blueprint into concrete actions, and from institutional foundations into comprehensive development, becoming one of the most vibrant and promising cooperation mechanisms in the region.

Over the past decade, the Lancang-Mekong countries have written a brilliant new chapter in building a community with a shared future. The six countries have earnestly implemented the important consensus reached by their leaders, constantly strengthened top-level design and institutional development, and effectively carried out the two Five-Year Plans of Action. Strategic trust between China and the five Mekong countries has grown steadily. China has successively formed a community with a shared future with Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam. Solid progress has been made in building the Lancang-Mekong community with a shared future. The LMC has gradually grown into a benchmark for South-South cooperation, bringing tangible benefits to the people of the six countries and making significant contributions to long-term development and shared prosperity in the region.

Over the past decade, a new landscape of all-round, multi-level, and wide-ranging cooperation has been shaped for the LMC. Upholding the spirit of partnership, the six countries have jointly established a three-dimensional cooperation structure comprising the Leaders' Meeting, Foreign Ministers' Meeting, Senior Officials' Meeting, and Joint Working Group Meeting. The foreign ministries of the six countries have all set up LMC National Secretariats or Coordinating Units, advancing all-round cooperation and broad participation across the countries. Practical

cooperation has been deepened in the three major pillars (political and security issues, economic and sustainable development, and cultural and people-to-people exchanges) and in the five key priority areas (connectivity, production capacity, cross-border economic cooperation, water resources, and agriculture and poverty reduction). Several institutions have been established and put into operation, including the Lancang-Mekong Water Resources Cooperation Center, Environmental Cooperation Center, Agricultural Cooperation Center, Youth Exchange Cooperation Center, Integrated Law Enforcement and Security Cooperation Center, and Global Center for Mekong River Studies. This has created the Lancang-Mekong speed featuring progress and results delivered daily, monthly and annually.

Over the past decade, noteworthy achievements have been delivered in building the Lancang-Mekong Economic Development Belt. In 2025, trade volume between China and the five Mekong countries reached a record high of 500.9 billion U.S. dollars, representing an increase more than 150 per cent compared to a decade ago. China has remained the largest trading partner of Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam for many consecutive years, and the second largest trading partner of Laos. The China-Myanmar Oil and Gas Pipelines have been operating smoothly, and the China-Laos railway continues to function as a golden corridor. Numerous projects between China and Cambodia, Thailand, and Vietnam have been successfully implemented in areas such as infrastructure connectivity, sustainable agricultural development, and artificial intelligence. With high-level flows of capital, goods, and technology among the six countries, industrial and supply chain cooperation has deepened, fostering new economic models, nurturing new growth drivers, and revitalizing the Lancang-Mekong region in the new era.

Over the past decade, people-to-people exchanges among the Lancang-Mekong countries have ushered in a new phase of mutual understanding, affinity, and harmonious coexistence. Facilitated by the "Lancang-Mekong visa" policy, exchanges between our peoples have become more frequent. Exchange events such as art festivals, photography exhibitions, and film

“Myanmar is where the LMC was first proposed. It is also an active participant and a key beneficiary of the LMC. A total of 132 projects supported by the LMC Special Fund have successively yielded fruitful results in Myanmar, spanning a wide range of areas including agricultural development, ecological protection, scientific and technological innovation, cultural tourism, and trade and investment. These achievements demonstrate the strong dynamism of the LMC in Myanmar.”

“

As the world's most important force for peace, for stability and for justice, China will always be a good neighbour, a good friend, and a good partner of the Mekong countries. We will jointly advocate for an equal and orderly multipolar world and a universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization, work toward the overarching goal of building a Lancang-Mekong community with a shared future, and promote higher-quality and higher-level development across the Lancang-Mekong region on the path to modernization.

”

weeks have further strengthened the bonds of friendship among our peoples. The 991 "small yet smart" projects supported by the LMC Special Fund have been implemented. Among these, the "Lancang-Mekong Sweet Spring Action" has established 110 water supply demonstration projects, benefiting about 13,000 people in Cambodia, Laos, and Myanmar. The "LMC Bumper Harvest Projects" have helped tens of thousands of local farming households increase production and income in sectors such as coffee, rubber, fruit, sericulture, and aquatic products. The "Lancang-Mekong Bright Project" has restored sight to tens of thousands of cataract patients. Meanwhile, the six countries have joined hands in responding to natural disasters and the COVID-19 pandemic, deepened cooperation on law enforcement and security, and safeguarded the lives and health of our people and the tranquility of the region.

Myanmar is where the LMC was first proposed. It is also an active participant and a key beneficiary of the LMC. A total of 132 projects supported by the LMC Special Fund have successively yielded fruitful results in Myanmar, spanning a wide range of areas including agricultural development, ecological protection, scientific and technological innovation, cultural tourism, and trade and investment. These achievements demonstrate the strong dynamism of the LMC in Myanmar. The projects include building poverty alleviation model villages to help the people in Myanmar shake off poverty and live a better life; implementing solar micro-grid projects to provide round-the-clock electricity to thousands of households in remote areas; and improving the quality of aquatic products to ensure they are safer and of higher quality, serving as the stock for Mohinga, a traditional Myanmar delicacy. Last August, I attended the completion ceremony of the solar mini-grid electricity supply and water supply distribution system project held in Kan Seik Village, Dedaye Township, Ayeyawady. During the event, local villagers voiced their excitement, "We had never dreamed that we could have access to electricity and clean water." These practical outcomes and touching moments not only reflect the profound China-Myanmar "Pauk-Phaw" friendship but stand as the most compelling testament to the

steady progress of the LMC.

Over the past decade, the practices of China-Myanmar cooperation under the LMC framework have demonstrated why the LMC is widely welcomed and recognized by countries and peoples in the region. The key lies in the fact that it has always promoted the LMC culture featuring "equality, sincerity, mutual assistance and kinship," upheld the LMC spirit of "development first, equal consultation, pragmatism and efficiency, and openness and inclusiveness," and taken it as its mission to benefit the peoples of the six countries. This aligns closely with the shared aspiration of regional countries for peace, development, and cooperation.

The world today is undergoing an accelerated transformation unseen in a century. Wars and conflicts occur frequently, and the law of the jungle and unilateralism have been rampant. In the face of the turbulent and changing international landscape, the six LMC countries will speak up for peace and empower development. They will build an "LMC 2.0" characterized by unity and cooperation, openness and win-win outcomes, green innovation, and peace and tranquility, jointly opening a new golden decade of the LMC.

At present, China is building a great modern socialist country in all respects and advancing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation on all fronts through Chinese modernization. As a Chinese saying goes, "One flower blooming alone does not herald spring, but hundreds of flowers bring spring to the garden." The modernization we are pursuing is not for China alone, but for all countries, including other developing countries, through our joint efforts. As the world's most important force for peace, for stability and for justice, China will always be a good neighbour, a good friend, and a good partner of the Mekong countries. We will jointly advocate for an equal and orderly multipolar world and a universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization, work toward the overarching goal of building a Lancang-Mekong community with a shared future, and promote higher-quality and higher-level development across the Lancang-Mekong region on the path to modernization.

(Views expressed in the article solely belong to the author.)

TECH/ENVIRON: WORLD

Who covers AI business blunders? Some insurers cautiously step up

As autonomous “agentic AI” systems increasingly manage business decisions, insurers are grappling with how to cover the risks these technologies create. Advanced AI is designed to replace much of human supervision, yet its errors — such as “hallucinations” where fabricated data is presented as fact — expose companies to new liabilities.

Traditionally, insurers addressed such risks through “silent coverage,” meaning AI-related losses were implicitly included under general policies. But experts like Sonal Madhok and Anat Lior compare today’s situation to the early cyber-insurance era, predicting that policies will soon explicitly define AI coverage.

Insurers are responding in varied ways. Some, like Armil-

Insurers are taking different approaches: firms like Armilla assess AI systems for weaknesses and provide tailored coverage but avoid high-risk sectors such as medical diagnostics.



Major firms like Munich Re have also acknowledged that AI possesses inherent statistical uncertainties.

PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/MUNICH RE

la, test AI models for vulnerabilities and offer specialized plans, though they exclude high-risk areas such as medical diagnostics.

Others, such as Founder Shield, now include “AI malfunction and hallucination” scenarios in professional service insurance, even covering real-world mistakes like erroneous inventory orders. Conversely, some providers insert “absolute AI exclusion” clauses to deny coverage altogether.

Global insurer Munich Re also underwrites AI developers and users, acknowledging that model errors cannot be fully eradicated. Analysts foresee huge potential in the emerging market — Deloitte projects AI insurance premiums could reach \$4.8 billion globally by 2032. — AFP

The environment, another casualty of war in the Mideast



The Middle East is rapidly transforming into a global hub for renewable energy, moving from a heavy reliance on oil to leadership in solar and wind power. **PHOTO: ISTOCK**

THE escalating conflict in the Middle East is taking a serious toll on the environment, from massive fuel use by warplanes and ships to toxic smoke from burning oil facilities.

Experts warn that military operations, the destruction of infrastructure, and post-war reconstruction together create huge greenhouse gas emissions. Research in One Earth estimated the Gaza conflict produced 33 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent—similar to the annual

emissions of Jordan — while the war in Ukraine has added more than 300 million tonnes.

Fighting near the Strait of Hormuz, a key artery for global oil shipments, has raised the risk of major pollution from attacks on refineries and tankers.

Burning oil and gas installations release deadly fumes and enormous climate costs, reminiscent of Kuwait’s oil fires in the 1990s that emitted up to 400 million tonnes of CO₂.

The conflict’s ripple effects

are also economic. Surging energy prices have pressured governments to ease climate measures, though experts note that higher fossil fuel costs could accelerate renewable adoption and electrification.

Meanwhile, strikes on industrial and military sites across Iran and neighbouring countries threaten severe air, water, and soil contamination, with experts warning of long-term risks to ecosystems and human health. — AFP

Despite reputation, bonobos are aggressive, particularly toward males: study

HISTORICALLY considered a more peaceful species than their chimpanzee cousins, bonobos are actually just as aggressive — but target their ire most often at males, according to a study published Wednesday.

Living in matriarchal societies, the gentle-eyed primates once dubbed “hippy apes” are far from violence-free, a group of European researchers reported in the journal *Science Advances*.

They studied 13 groups of bonobos and nine groups of chimpanzees — who conversely live in patriarchal systems and

are well known for their aggressivity — in zoos, seeking to find out which is more prone to attacks.

Measuring different types of aggressive behaviour, both physical and not — such as throwing objects, intimidation, or biting and slapping — they found “no overall differences in absolute aggression rates between the two species.”

However, differences emerged “in how the aggression is distributed among group members”, co-author Nicky Staes told AFP. — AFP



Bonobos live in matriarchal societies where one would expect more aggression among females, but researchers observed more hostility towards males. **PHOTO: DPA/AFP**

Cowboy boots and line dancing: country music fever grips UK young

TRINITY Smith, a 24-year-old teacher, has been breaking in her cowboy boots for a weekend of line dancing at London's C2C festival, where tens of thousands of young British fans don hats, fringe, and rhinestones at the O2 Arena — dubbed "Nashville-on-Thames". Stars like Keith Urban and Zach Top headline the UK's biggest country event, drawing 45,000 mostly 20s and 30s attendees.

Country music is exploding in the UK, the world's fastest-growing market for the genre, with an 11 per cent popularity surge last year led by younger fans discovering it anew. TikTok, Beyoncé, Morgan Wallen, Post Malone, and Taylor Swift have fuelled the trend alongside modernized up-and-coming acts. Fans like actor Lewis Pittam praise its fresh sound, while friends William Martin and Cameron Fulton love its relatable lyrics on trucks, beer, breakups, and summer parties.

Even Nashville's Alyssa Flaherty was stunned by British enthusiasm, with crowds singing her songs word-for-word at her debut UK gig. C2C expands to Glasgow, Belfast, and Manchester next year, plus

a Royal Albert Hall festival in May, cementing country's UK takeover. — AFP



Country music fans posing for a portrait wearing a cowboy hats ahead of the Country 2 Country music festival, taking place on 14 and 15 March, at the O2 arena in east London on 13 March 2026. PHOTO: BEN STANSALL / AFP

Fukushima-born Suzuki works with local firm for new sit-ski

After 2.5 years and seven iterations developed with NTS president Masahiro Namatame, 53, the chassis and seat boost performance.



Japanese Para alpine skier Takeshi Suzuki (L) poses in the sit-ski using a frame and chair designed by NTS Co. with its head Masahiro Namatame in Ueda, Nagano Prefecture, on 15 February 2026. PHOTO: KYODO

JAPANESE Para alpine skier Takeshi Suzuki, a 37-year-old Fukushima native and three-time medallist from the 2014 Sochi Games (including slalom gold), is competing at the Milan Cortina Paralympics with a custom sit-ski from local firm NTS Co. This lighter, better-balanced design — under a kilogram less than top brands — enables smoother, riskier turns on the

Tofane course.

Suzuki partnered with NTS, a motorcycle and aerospace parts maker founded in 1970, to diversify Japan's sit-ski market, dominated by Nissin Industries, Toyota, and France's Tessier SAS. After 2.5 years and seven iterations developed with NTS president Masahiro Namatame, 53, the chassis and seat boost performance. Namatame

attends races, sharing daily tweaks amid medal pressure.

The project symbolizes Fukushima's resilience, marking 15 years since the 2011 earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear crisis. Both aim to showcase a Fukushima athlete on Fukushima-made gear achieving glory. Suzuki next races men's giant slalom sitting Friday and slalom Sunday. — Kyodo

Yak hack: Kyrgyz want the world to love their blonde bovine beauties



Yaks hold deep cultural and symbolic importance in the traditionally nomadic country. PHOTO: AFP

IN Kyrgyzstan's remote, snow-swept highlands at 3,000 metres, the Akmatov family nurtures a thriving herd of 300 rare white yaks — a symbol of revival amid climate challenges. Three generations strong, 88-year-old patriarch Tashtanbek, a Soviet-era agricultural hero with top medals and a village statue, selectively bred these pale-coated animals over 15 years from darker stock. His son Baatyrbek, 52, and grandson Amantur, 30, manage the flock, which calves every other year despite -40°C nights and wolf attacks — Amantur patrols daily, his home lined with pelts.

Yak numbers crashed post-Soviet collapse but doubled to over

60,000 with government aid. Bishkek now touts them as climate-resilient: cold-hardy, drought-tolerant, they graze high pastures, easing lowland degradation worsened by overgrazing and warming, per FAO warnings. Their organic milk, meat, and dyeable white wool yield low costs on sparse forage, though the family urges pasture rotation policies.

A "Kyrgyz breed" patent is pending for export, blending cultural heritage — yaks are nomadic icons — with sustainability. Scientists probe if milky fur reflects UV rays. As silhouettes dot dusky peaks, the Akmatovs embody adaptation in a vulnerable, landlocked nation. — AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

Japan ruling party urges “careful” decision on Mideast ship escort mission

A senior Japanese ruling party official on Sunday called for a “careful” decision regarding the deployment of Self-Defence Forces to the conflict-stricken Middle East for the escort of ships to ensure safe passage.

Liberal Democratic Party policy chief Takayuki Kobayashi said during a TV programme that he will “not exclude the possibility (of escorting) from a legal standpoint,” but the deployment would be “an extremely high hurdle”.

Under the Self-Defence Forces Act, the government can order the SDF members to accompany Japan-related ships for protection as a maritime security operation, permitting their use of weapons.

SDF activities overseas have been restricted under Japan’s war-renouncing Constitution. The government has expanded the role of the SDF abroad through security legislation that took effect in 2016, but sending troops to areas where they could get embroiled in fighting remains controversial.

Mitsunari Okamoto, policy chief of major opposition party Centrist Reform Alliance, said on the same TV programme that Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi should not make a “rash promise” even if US President Donald Trump asks for SDF activities in the Middle East during their planned meeting in the United States on Thursday. — Kyodo



Under Japan’s war-renouncing Constitution, the activities of the SDF (Self-Defence Forces) abroad remain restricted. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/KYODO/FILE**

NEWS IN BRIEF

South Korea ‘closely monitoring’ Trump call to send warships to Hormuz

SOUTH Korea said on Sunday it was paying close attention to US President Donald Trump’s call for Seoul and other countries to send warships to help protect oil supplies passing through the Strait of Hormuz.

Since US-Israeli forces launched a war against Iran on 28 February Tehran has responded with attacks and threats that have nearly halted shipping in the strait, through which one-fifth of global oil supplies normally passes.

After earlier vowing that the US Navy would begin escorting tankers through the waterway, Trump said on social media on Saturday that “Many Countries” would also send warships to keep it open, naming South Korea and Japan among others.

But after a senior Japanese official said on Sunday that Tokyo maintained a high threshold for such a move, Seoul also refrained from making any explicit commitments.

“We are closely monitoring President Trump’s remarks on social media and will carefully consider the matter in close consultation with the United States,” a South Korean presidential official told AFP. — AFP



This photo taken on 15 March 2026 shows the headquarters of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in Paris, France. The Chinese and US delegations convened on Sunday morning for talks on economic and trade issues. **PHOTO: WU HUIWO/XINHUA**

China, US start economic, trade talks in Paris

China’s Ministry of Commerce announced Friday that both sides will hold consultations on key economic and trade concerns, guided by recent Busan summit consensuses and prior leader phone calls.

THE Chinese and US delegations convened on Sunday morning for talks on economic and trade issues.

Guided by the important consensuses reached between the heads of state of the two

countries during their meeting in Busan and all previous phone calls, the two sides will engage in consultations on economic and trade issues of mutual concern, a spokesperson for China’s Ministry of

Commerce said in a statement on Friday. The Chinese delegation is led by Vice Premier He Lifeng, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee. — Xinhua

Brunei expanding Muara Port capacity to strengthen logistics sector



This photo taken on 8 August 2025 shows the construction site of the expansion project of Muara Port container terminal in Brunei. **PHOTO: LI MENG/XINHUA/FILE**

BRUNEI is implementing an expansion plan for Muara Port, which is scheduled to be completed in the second quarter of 2027, a government minister said on Sunday.

Speaking during the 22nd session of the Legislative Council, Pengiran Shamhary Pengiran Haji Mustapha, Brunei’s minister of transport and infocommunications, said the

project aims to enhance the port’s operational capabilities and support the country’s logistics sector.

The project is intended to improve operational efficiency, reduce logistics costs, increase throughput rates, and provide more value-added services. The minister said that, through this project, the container terminal capacity is expected to increase from 220,000 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) to 500,000 TEUs per year.

The project plans to include the development of a 3.62-hectare port trade zone within the container terminal, which aims to facilitate the import, production and export processes for businesses within the terminal, thus enhancing logistics and trade. — Xinhua

Major projects to play key role in China's development over next five years: expert

CHINA'S rollout of a series of major projects will play an important role in advancing the country's development over the next five years, an expert said on Friday.

Hou Yongzhi, a researcher at the Development Research Centre of the State Council, made the remarks during the

latest episode of China Economic Roundtable, an all-media talk show hosted by Xinhua News Agency.

China has mapped out 109 major projects over the next five years in areas including the development of new quality productive forces, modern infrastructure, urban-rural integration, and the improvement

of people's well-being.

These projects span all aspects of China's modernization drive, Hou said, adding that they balance short-term and long-term priorities, combine "hard investment" with "soft development," and promote both material and cultural-ethical advancement. — Xinhua



A drone photo taken on 13 January 2026 shows the construction site of a 20-megawatt offshore wind turbine unit in the coastal waters of southeast China's Fujian Province. PHOTO: LIN SHANCHUAN/XINHUA

European wind power giant to build Japan assembly plant by FY 2029



The facility to be established by Danish company Vestas Wind Systems A/S with support from the Japanese government will assemble nacelles, the housings atop wind turbine towers. PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ VESTAS

A European wind power giant will build a plant in Japan by fiscal 2029 to assemble turbine components, as the country seeks to expand its use of renewable energy.

The facility to be established by Danish company Vestas Wind Systems A/S with support from the Japanese government will assemble nacelles, the housings atop wind turbine towers that contain major machinery such as the generator and gearbox.

A memorandum of cooperation was signed Monday with Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and In-

dustry, which is working to build a robust domestic supply chain for offshore wind power.

"The move will lead to restructuring of the domestic wind turbine industry and reduction of power generation costs in the future," said Kenji Yamada, senior vice minister of the ministry, during the signing ceremony.

Vestas, based on discussions with the ministry, has also formulated a road map toward the establishment of a fully integrated nacelle manufacturing base in Japan by fiscal 2039. — Kyodo

Advertise

with us/ Hotline:



09 255597511
09 454237515

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY.NO. (0B807S1NC)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY.NO. (0B807S1NC)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **16-3-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S CMA-CGM SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BEYPORE SULTAN VOY.NO. (26008)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BEYPORE SULTAN VOY.NO. (26008)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **16-3-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S CONNEXT SHIPPING PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V AREZOO VOY.NO. (SCY1198)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V AREZOO VOY. NO. (SCY1198)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **16-3-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S LAND AND SEA INTERMODAL LOGISTICS
SDN BHD LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BAL XIAMEN VOY.NO. (099W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BAL XIAMEN VOY.NO. (099W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **16-3-2026** 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Vietnam opens polls for 16th NA, local council elections

Voters will elect 500 deputies to the 16th NA from 864 candidates, while also voting for members of People's Councils at the commune and provincial levels.



Voters cast their ballots at a polling site in Nghe An province, Vietnam, on 15 March 2026. **PHOTO: VNA VIA XINHUA**

VIETNAM opened polls on Sunday to elect deputies to the 16th National Assembly (NA) and members of People's Councils at all levels for the 2026-2031 term, Vietnam News Agency reported.

Polling stations nationwide opened at 7 am local time and will close at 7 pm, with nearly 79 million voters expected to cast their ballots at 72,195 polling stations across the country. Voters will elect 500 deputies to the 16th NA from 864 candidates, while also voting for members of People's Councils at the commune and provincial levels. NA Chairman Tran Thanh Man noted that election results must be announced no later than 25 March, Vietnam News Agency reported.

Vietnam's 16th National Assembly is projected to convene its first session starting on 6 April 2026. — Xinhua

Orban supporters rally in Hungary pre-election showdown

TENS of thousands joined a Budapest rally in support of Hungarian premier Viktor Orban on Sunday, just four weeks before elections that pose an unprecedented challenge to his 16-year rule.

Later Sunday, opposition leader Peter Magyar is set to stage a rival march, also in the country's capital, as both Magyar and Orban push allegations of foreign interference in the 12 April elections.

While Orban has sought to portray the opposition leader as a "puppet" of Brussels and lately Kyiv, Magyar has accused the Moscow-friendly premier of seeking the Kremlin's help to stay in power. — AFP

Eurozone industrial outlook clouded as energy risks return

THE outlook for the eurozone industry has become increasingly uncertain as production fell in January and rising energy prices linked to the Middle East conflict threaten to derail the eurozone's fragile manufacturing recovery, according to an analysis by Dutch-based multinational financial institution ING on Friday.

Eurozone industrial production dropped 1.5 per cent month-on-month in January, following a decline of 0.6 per cent in December. The January reading marked the lowest level of industrial output since December 2024, indicating that recent optimism among manufacturers has not yet been reflected in actual production data, according to the analysis. — Xinhua

Venezuela leader urges US to lift all sanctions

VENEZUELA'S interim leader Delcy Rodríguez asked US President Donald Trump on Friday to totally lift the sanctions imposed on her country, as the countries begin to restore diplomatic ties.

American officials are seeking greater access to Venezuela's oil and mineral wealth since a US military operation ousted leftist leader Nicolas Maduro 3 January.

The US Treasury began imposing sanctions in 2014 that have crippled Venezuela's economy, which saw inflation soar to 475 per cent in 2025. — AFP

War in the Middle East: latest developments

Here are the latest events in the Middle East war:

IRAN'S Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi urged other countries to refrain from any action that could widen the scope of the war with Israel and the United States.

- ◆ A British minister said it was essential to calm the situation in the Middle East after US President Donald Trump demanded that other nations help protect world oil supplies passing through the Strait of Hormuz.
- ◆ Overnight strikes in southern Lebanon killed at least four people, Lebanese state media and the government said, as Israel said it was pressing its campaign against Iran-backed Hezbollah.
- ◆ Israel's military said it began a broad wave of strikes on western Iran, more than two weeks into the US-Israeli war against the Islamic republic.
- ◆ Iraq warned that drone attacks near Baghdad airport threatened the security of the nearby prison housing Islamic State group suspects recently brought from Syria.
- ◆ Ukraine does not want to lose US support for its struggle against Russia as a result of Washington's war with Iran, President Volodymyr Zelensky has told journalists.
- ◆ Iran's Revolutionary Guards vowed



Some shops and restaurants have been ordered to stay open despite the war. This image shows a camel resting on the beach with modern skyscrapers in the background, a scene captured in Dubai on 10 March 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

on Sunday to "pursue and kill" Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, according to their website Sepah News.

- ◆ The Pentagon released the identities of six US crew members killed during the crash of a refuelling aircraft in western Iraq earlier this week, which authorities said was not caused by "hostile fire".
- ◆ South Korea is evacuating 204 of its citizens and seven other nationals

from the Middle East using a military aircraft, the foreign ministry said, calling the operation "unprecedented".

- ◆ Explosions rang out over Bahrain's capital of Manama early on Sunday, two AFP journalists said.

Bahrain said it had intercepted 125 missiles and 203 drones since the start of Iran's attacks, which have killed two people in the kingdom and 24 others in neighbouring Gulf nations. — AFP

SPORTS



Shwe Hti (YMA) and Ye Khaung (Ahpuyauung Thwaythit) compete at the 2026 Myanmar Fight next-generation traditional Lethwei competition in Yangon yesterday.

Myanmar Fight showcases next-generation Lethwei in Yangon

THE 2026 Myanmar Fight next-generation traditional Lethwei competition was held at 1 pm yesterday at Theinbyu Gymnasium in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Yangon.

The event was jointly organized by the Department of Sports and Physical Education, the Myanmar Traditional Lethwei Federation and Myanmar Martial Art Group (MMAG), with sponsorship from Myanmar Economic Holdings Public Company Limited. A total of 10 three-round bouts were contested. Several matches ended in draws after intense exchanges, while Kaung Set Min defeated Kyaw Gyi by knockout in the second round.

Other bouts saw Tun Lin Aung win after Francis retired in the third round, and Tein Hlwa secure victory when the referee stopped the fight against Saw El Do in the third round. The matches were held under a three-round format of three minutes per round with two-minute breaks. — Bala/KZL

Shiffrin claims Are World Cup slalom victory

THREE-TIME Olympic champion Mikaela Shiffrin secured her 109th World Cup victory after winning the slalom event in Are, Sweden on Sunday.

The 31-year-old American, who won slalom gold last month in the Milan-Cortina Games, has been almost unbeatable in the event this season, winning eight out of the nine World Cup races in the discipline.

Having already secured the Crystal Globe in her speciality for the ninth time, Shiffrin is also closing in on a sixth overall World Cup trophy.

Having racked up 1,282 points, she leads German Emma Aicher by 140 points. Aicher finished second in Sunday's slalom, 0.94sec behind with Switzerland's Wendy Holdener third at exactly one second. — AFP

Myanmar futsal squad gears up for ASEAN Championship

THE Myanmar men's national futsal team began training on 14 March to prepare for the 2026 ASEAN Futsal Championship to be held in Thailand in April.

The squad includes 26 players selected based on performances in the domestic league. Head coach Pattaraya Pikhun has prioritised young and new players.

The team will travel to Thailand on 29 March for further training and friendly matches ahead of the tournament.

The 2026 ASEAN Futsal Championship will take place from 6 to 12 April in Thailand. Myanmar are in Group A with Thailand, Vietnam and Timor-Leste. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



Myanmar men's national futsal team seen during a training session. PHOTO:MFF

Arsenal wins and Manchester City draws as Gunners stretch lead in Premier League



Arsenal's Swedish striker (14) Viktor Gyokeres (C) celebrates with teammates after scoring the opening goal of the English Premier League football match between Arsenal and Everton at the Emirates Stadium in London on 14 March 2026. PHOTO: BEN STANSALL / AFP

VIKTOR Gyokeres scored a late goal as Arsenal scraped past Everton 2-0 with a result that opens a nine-point lead at the top of the Premier League after Manchester City was held to a 1-1 draw away to West Ham.

Mikel Arteta's side struggled with a dogged Everton defence and although Arsenal had over 20 shots in the game, they only managed a handful on target.

Gyokeres finally put Arsenal in front from close range in the 89th minute after a cross from Max Dowman and the teenager gave the result extra sheen when he hit Arsenal's second in the 97th minute.

The goal allowed Dowman to make history as the youngest player to ever score in the Premier League, aged just 16 years and 73 days. — Xinhua

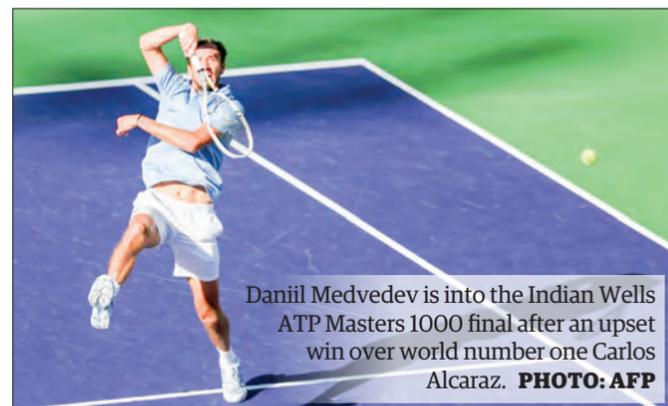
Medvedev snaps Alcaraz win streak, sets Indian Wells final with Sinner

DANIIL Medvedev ended Carlos Alcaraz's perfect start to 2026, stunning the world number one 6-3, 7-6 (7/3) Saturday to book an Indian Wells title clash with Jannik Sinner.

Medvedev avenged losses to Alcaraz in back-to-back Indian Wells finals in 2023 and 2024, using an impressive service display and aggressive play from the baseline to keep the Spanish star on the back foot throughout.

"Super happy to beat someone as strong as he (is)," Medvedev said. "It's a great feeling."

He'll have his work cut out for him again in Sunday's clash with four-time Grand Slam champion Sinner, who beat fourth-ranked Alexander Zverev 6-2, 6-4. — AFP



Daniil Medvedev is into the Indian Wells ATP Masters 1000 final after an upset win over world number one Carlos Alcaraz. PHOTO:AFP



Sophon Zaram from Bhumjaithai elected Thailand's new House speaker

Sophon Zaram joined Bhumjaithai in 2008, served as Transport Minister (2008-2011), and has been Caretaker Deputy Prime Minister since September 2025.

SOPHON Zaram, a member of parliament (MP) from the Bhumjaithai Party, was elected the new speaker of the House of Representatives of Thailand on Sunday.

Under the Thai constitution, the House speaker will also be the president of the National Assembly. The new speaker will officially take office after the royal endorsement.

During the first parliamentary session following last month's general election, Sophon ran for the House speaker post against People's Party candidate Parit Wacharasindhu.

In a secret ballot vote, Sophon received 289 votes to become the new speaker, compared to 123 votes for Parit, acting Speaker Pairoj Lohsunthorn announced.



Sophon Zaram (C) waves after being elected the new speaker of the House of Representatives of Thailand in Bangkok, Thailand, 15 March 2026. **PHOTO: RACHEN SAGEAMSAK/XINHUA**

Sophon Zaram joined the Bhumjaithai party in 2008, and served as the country's transport minister from 2008 to 2011. He held the position of Thailand's caretaker deputy prime minister since September 2025. — Xinhua

Iran vows to target US-linked oil assets if its energy infrastructure under attack

IRAN'S Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi on Saturday warned that any attack on Iran's oil and energy infrastructure would trigger retaliation against re-

gional facilities linked to US companies.

In an interview with US broadcaster MS Now, Araghchi responded to Friday's US strike on Kharg Island, Iran's

southern strategic oil terminal, and to President Donald Trump's threat to target the island's oil infrastructure if shipping through the Strait of Hormuz is disrupted.

"Our armed forces have already stated that they will retaliate if our oil and energy infrastructure is attacked. They will strike any energy facility in the region that belongs to or is partially owned by an American company," Araghchi said.

He also claimed that Friday's US strikes originated from two locations in the United Arab Emirates: Ras Al-Khaimah and an area near Dubai, cautioning that using densely populated regions to launch attacks on Iran is highly dangerous.

"All oil, economic, and energy infrastructure linked to US interests will be destroyed and reduced to a pile of ashes," spokesman Ebrahim Zolfaghari told the official IRNA news agency. — Xinhua

Sri Lanka rolls out QR code system for fuel distribution

SRI Lanka on Sunday began distributing fuel through a mandatory QR code system for vehicles, as authorities moved to manage reserves amid supply disruptions linked to the ongoing military situation in the Middle East, the Ministry of Energy said in a press release.

The ministry said the system took effect at 6:00 am local time, and fuel stations will no longer issue fuel to vehicles without a registered QR code.

Under a weekly fuel quota announced by the ministry alongside the system, buses will receive 60 litres, motorcycles 5 litres, cars 15 litres, vans 40 litres, lorries 200 litres, land vehicles 25 litres, three-wheelers 15 litres, special purpose vehicles 40 litres, and quadricycles 5 litres.

The ministry said disruptions to fuel supply routes and a sharp rise in domestic demand had made it necessary to carefully manage existing fuel stocks to keep economic activities running. — Xinhua



A Brent crude oil price chart displayed on a mobile screen (photo illustration). **PHOTO: JONATHAN RAA / NURPHOTO/AFP**