

## Four Objectives of the National Defence and Security Council

1. To steadfastly strive for emergence of political forces and the people's representatives who can implement a genuine, disciplined multi-party democratic system while constantly emphasizing on the national interests of the State.
2. To persistently strive for promoting the socio-economic life of the people through the development of agro-based industries in improving the agricultural sector, the vital foundation of the economic growth of the State.
3. To put emphasis on enhancing the national education and health sectors for sustainable development of the State.
4. To implement multi-party democratic system, with the participation of the people, to ensure the success of multi-party democratic general election process and successfully moving towards with the multi-party democratic system aspired by the entire people.

# New Convocation (Multi-Purpose) Hall facilitated for Naypyitaw State Academy

Research is a vital investment that enhances citizens' socioeconomic well-being, improves education and health standards, and supports the adoption of evidence-based policies.



Acting President and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing poses for the commemorative group photo alongside participating dignitaries during the inauguration event of the new Convocation Hall at the Naypyitaw Academy.

**A**cting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said so at the opening of the Convocation Hall (Multi-Purpose Hall) of the Naypyitaw State Academy in Ottarathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area

yesterday morning and formally opened it.

On his arrival at the academy, the Senior General viewed the display of traditional ethnic food fair.

Commission Vice-Chairman Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Commission Member Prime Minister U Nyu Saw, Commission Secretary General Ye Win Oo,

Union Minister for Education Dr Chaw

Chaw Sein and Union Minister for Construction U Myo Thant cut the ribbon to open the convocation hall.

The Senior General unveiled the plaque of the convocation hall and visited there. After hearing the reports of officials, the Senior General gave neces-

sary guidance.

The Senior General and attendees watched a documentary on the development of the academy.

Next, the Senior General delivered a speech, saying that the Government is enhancing the education sector in order

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# NATIONAL



## National Objectives for 79<sup>th</sup> Union Day 2026

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

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

## Mottos for 79<sup>th</sup> Union Day 2026

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

## Bagan Archaeological Museum opens exhibits to the public

THE Bagan Archaeological Museum was first opened in 1904 near the northern stairs of Ananda Temple in Old Bagan, and it is recognized as Myanmar's first museum. In October 1979, an octagonal-shaped archaeological museum was additionally constructed and opened to the south of Kandawpalin Temple. The present world-class archaeological museum was officially opened on 17 April 1998.

The museum features ten exhibition halls, including the Main Special Exhibition Hall, the Bagan-period Architecture Gallery, the Bagan-period Arts and Crafts Gallery, the Bagan-period Palace Gallery, the Bagan-period Literature Gallery, the Bagan-period Daily Life Gallery, the Bagan-period Buddhist Art Gallery, the Bagan-period Buddha Image Gallery, the Bagan-period Temple Mural Painting Gallery, and



Exhibits are on display amid the interior setting of the Bagan Archaeological Museum.

the Bagan-period Wall Painting Gallery.

In 2017, a Children's Museum was opened in the octago-

nal-shaped building located to the north of the main museum.

In the Main Special Exhibition Hall, a large three-di-

mensional panoramic mural depicting the Bagan landscape is displayed, along with eight sandstone-carved panels illus-

trating major episodes from the life of the Buddha, and bronze statues of four renowned kings of the Bagan period. Visitors can also observe the richly decorated ceiling, which is adorned with traditional Myanmar artistic works, including gilded lacquerware, gold-thread embroidery, wood inlay, wood carving and stucco floral designs.

The eight panels depicting episodes from the life of the Buddha include the Birth of the Buddha by Queen Maya, the Enlightenment beneath the Bodhi Tree, the First Sermon of the Dhammacakkapavattana, the Subduing of the mad elephant Nalagiri, the Descent from Tavatimsa Heaven, the Miracles performed before the Sakyamuni relatives, the Buddha's sojourn in the Parileyyaka Forest, and the Buddha's Parinibbana. — Dipa Lin/MKKS

# 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)*

## New Convocation (Multi-Purpose) Hall facilitated ...

### FROM PAGE 1

to build a prosperous future for the State with intellectuals and intelligentsia. As part of implementing this plan, the international-level Naypyitaw State Academy was established on 9 November 2022. It is a comprehensive university where students can pursue arts, science, economics, law, medical science, social science, diplomacy and sports subjects.

Currently, people and offspring of State service personnel can learn higher education at Naypyitaw State Academy and Naypyitaw State Polytechnic University in addition to the universities of agriculture, veterinary science and forest in Nay Pyi Taw.

The already-commissioned convocation hall will be used to confer degrees on 230 graduates for the first time.

The University is a venue to turn out qualified human resources as well as to initiate research based on innovation and technologies. Hence, universities are of great importance in development initiatives for various sectors, including agriculture, livestock and production and for the enhancement of the socioeconomic life of the people.

As such, the Naypyitaw State Academy has been facilitated with modern teaching



Acting President and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing explores the exhibition at yesterday's event.

aids, international-level laboratories and reference books to effectively implement the student-centred teaching system within three years. Moreover, the academy is filled with lecture halls, hostels, the convocation hall, the library, the recreation centre, the stadium, dormitories for faculty members, and the staff house. A plan is underway to create a greening environment for students to enjoy uni-

versity life.

At the time of its establishment, the academy admitted 12 specialized subjects, and at present, to enhance the innovative capacity of young people. Currently, the Academy has expanded its offerings to include subjects such as industrial chemistry and nuclear physics, tourism and hospitality management, and social sciences; library and information science; and diplomacy, totalling 24 subjects.

The Senior General stressed the need to conduct research work as the lifeblood of the university, in addition to extending the majoring subjects to be taught. Conducting the research is an investment for the enhancement of the socioeconomic life of the citizens, education and health standard as well as adopting the research result-based policies.

The Naypyitaw State Academy encourages paper-reading

sessions and research projects of students, which can create an environment of research for professionals while managing youth talk shows, exhibitions and contests, on-job observation plans, job opportunity shows and talks to enhance the capacity of youth with high critical thinking.

The Senior General urged that students be trained and nurtured to become a new generation of young people who are well equipped with knowledge, skills, and moral integrity, and who possess a strong sense of responsibility and accountability, and that efforts be made to produce educated graduates capable of leading the nation – individuals who have genuine patriotism, high morale, discipline, and a full foundation of knowledge and skills. The Union Minister for Education presented a gift to mark the opening of Convocation Hall to the Senior General. The Union minister for Construction handed over documents related

to the convocation hall to the Union Minister for Education.

After the ceremony, the Senior General and party observed the job opportunity booths and gave necessary guidance to officials.

Also, present at the ceremony were commission members, Union ministers, Union-level dignitaries, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, chief ministers of regions and states, officials, faculty members and students.

The Convocation Hall (Multi-Purpose Hall) of the Naypyitaw State Academy was built under the guidance of the Head of State. It is a building with 302 feet in length and 218 feet in width. It is a structure of more than 167,000 square feet of area, and it is a three-storey RC building. The hall aims to accommodate 1,204 attendees to enjoy convocation ceremonies as well as other ceremonies and entertainments. — MNA/TTA

### Salient points from the speech delivered by the Senior General at the opening of Convocation Hall at NSA

- It is necessary to conduct research work as the lifeblood of the university in addition to extending the subjects to be taught.
- The already-commissioned convocation hall will be used to confer degrees on 230 graduates for the first time.
- Naypyitaw State Academy admitted 12 specialized subjects, and at present, it expanded to 24 for students, including industrial chemistry and nuclear physics, tourism and hospitality management, and social sciences; library and information science; and diplomacy.

The Naypyitaw State Academy encourages paper-reading

# NATIONAL

## Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, SSPC Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, visits booths at Union-Level MSME Products Exhibition and Market Fair

Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visited the Union-level MSME Products Exhibition and Market Fair to mark the 79<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Union Day 2026 at the Nay Pyi Taw Square yesterday afternoon.

The Senior General viewed the booth displayed by the Ministry of Commerce's foreign market linkage task force, the booth of the domestic market linkage task force, and ministerial booths where MSME businesspersons held business matching to link domestic and international markets at the exhibition and market fair.

The Senior General and the party also visited the books and salerooms and asked the booth officials about what they wanted to know.

During his visit, the Senior General was accompanied by Commission Vice-Chairman Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Commission member Prime Minister U Nyo Saw, Executive Chief U Aung Lin Dwe, Commission Secretary General Ye Win Oo, commission members, chief ministers of regions and states, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, and officials.— MNA/TTA



Acting President and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing tours the exhibition booths at the Union-Level MSME Products Exhibition and Market Fair yesterday.

## MoFA Deputy Minister receives Ambassador-Designate of Nicaragua to Myanmar



Deputy Minister U Ko Ko Kyaw and Nicaraguan Ambassador-Designate Mr Segundo Martin Calero Escorica meet yesterday.

U Ko Ko Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Myanmar, received Mr Segundo Martin Calero Escorica, Ambassador-Designate of the Republic of Nicaragua to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, yesterday at the Min-

istry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw.

The deputy minister congratulated his appointment as Ambassador of Nicaragua to Myanmar. They cordially and openly exchanged views on further strengthening the

existing friendly relations between the two countries, including the reciprocal opening of embassies, enhancement of mutually beneficial cooperation, and closer collaboration in regional and international arenas. — MNA

## MoFA Deputy Minister receives Ambassador of Nepal to Myanmar

DEPUTY Minister for Foreign Affairs U Ko Ko Kyaw received Mr Harishchandra Ghimire, Ambassador of Nepal, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

They discussed matters

relating to bilateral relations and cooperation. In addition, they also exchanged views on further promoting the long-standing ties of friendship between the two countries and peoples. — MNA



Deputy Minister U Ko Ko Kyaw meets Napali Ambassador Mr Harishchandra Ghimire yesterday.

# NATIONAL

## MSME Products Expo brings opportunities for entrepreneurs

THE Union-Level MSME Products Exhibition and Market Fair, currently held at the Nay Pyi Taw Square from 8 to 13 February 2026, will continue to participate and provide services at the Business Matching booth. At the booth, services are being provided to connect MSME entrepreneurs from various regions and states, supporting their products from the initial stage of business establishment through domestic market sales and up to export to international markets.

During the exhibition period, the MSME business owners are being assisted in connecting with relevant departments. These include obtaining export and import registration certificates from

the Department of Trade, FDA certification from the Food and Drug Administration Department, trademark registration from the Intellectual Property Department, and other necessary recommendations related to import and export processes from respective departments through the inter-ministerial coordination team. The domestic market linkage team is facilitating opportunities for MSME entrepreneurs to showcase and sell their local products at retail and wholesale outlets within the country, such as Makro, City Mart, One Stop Mart, and Aeon. For entrepreneurs starting new businesses or expanding existing ones, the investment linkage team is assisting



This photo depicts entrepreneurs actively participating in ongoing business matchmaking activities at the MSME Products Expo in Nay Pyi Taw.

in securing required capital and loans by connecting them with domestic banks, including KBZ Bank, CB Bank, AYA Bank, and SME Development Bank. Moreover, to support MSME products in entering international markets, the foreign market linkage team

is connecting entrepreneurs with 16 economic counsellors assigned to 12 countries.

On the third day of the exhibition, the inter-ministerial coordination team connected with 90 MSME entrepreneurs, the domestic market linkage team

facilitated meetings between 59 entrepreneurs and 11 retail and wholesale outlets, the investment linkage team connected 56 entrepreneurs with 14 banks and the foreign market linkage team provided services to seven entrepreneurs. — MNA/KTZH

## 4-day FDM, DDMS software upgrade workshop concludes in Yangon



The concluding day of the four-day FDM and DDMS software upgrade workshop is underway in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: KANU**

A four-day workshop on the upgrade and technical support of FDM and DDMS Software, aimed at digitally recording contract registration processes under the Registration of Deeds Law and Farmland Law, was successfully concluded yesterday. The workshop was held at the meeting hall of the Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department in Yankin Township,

Yangon.

The workshop was held from 7 to 10 February, and a total of 193 staff of the Settlement and Land Records Department from Yangon Region, Mon State, Kayin State, Rakhine State and Taninthayi Region.

The workshop focused on developing new software to enable digital recording of contract registrations and farm-

land-related documentation, aiming to facilitate online data backup systems linking offices with the head office for more efficient data management.

The workshop was being held starting 14 January in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay Region, Shan State, and now in Yangon Region. It will be held in Pathein of Ayeyawady Region from 18 to 21 February. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/KTZH



## No new COVID-19 cases

THE Ministry of Health tested 25 samples from 8 pm on 1 February 2026 to 8 pm on 8 February 2026, and no new case was found. Therefore, no new casualties were reported.

Currently, there is no need to worry about infection and deaths from COVID-19, but all need to follow personal hygiene methods, and the high-risk groups.

- Elderly people (aged 60 and above)
- People with diabetes, chronic respiratory diseases, and cancer
- Pregnant women (especially those beyond the third month of pregnancy) are prioritized to receive COVID-19 booster shots.

More detailed COVID-19 information can be found on the website of the Ministry of Health, moh.gov.mm.

Myanmar CDC  
Public Health Department, Ministry of Health

## Condition of La Nina in February 2026

Issued at 10 February 2026

THE Sea Surface Temperature (SST) over Tropical Pacific Ocean near the Equator and atmosphere phenomena is currently in a weak La Nina condition. According to the International Meteorological Agency, Numerical Weather prediction models are expected to return from weak to normal La Nina level during February.

Although the La Nina conditions occur at Pacific Ocean, more frequently occurs Easterly Waves, more low pressure areas may form over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal, decrease of night temperatures in some Regions and States, untimely rainfall will occur due to the impact of La Nina.

La Nina Condition will be updated in time. — DMH

The people are urged to receive vaccination of COVID-19 without fail as full-time vaccination of COVID-19 and receiving booster shots can effectively mitigate infection of the virus, severe suffering from the disease and increase of death rate due to the disease.

# NATIONAL

## Construction Sector Development Law

### (National Defence and Security Council Law 5/2026)

CONTINUED FROM YESTERDAY

#### Chapter XIV

##### Action in accordance with management procedures

55. The Department or the relevant department/organization may issue the following management orders against any registration certificate holder or any party in the construction sector who fails to comply with any of the rules issued under this law:

- Warning;
- Payment of fines;
- Suspension of the registration certificate for a specified period.

#### Chapter XV

##### Appealing

56. Any person dissatisfied with a management order issued by the Department or the relevant department/organization may file an objection with the Ministry or the relevant ministry within 60 days from the date the order was issued.

57. (a) The Ministry or the relevant ministry may amend, cancel, or confirm the objection submitted under Section 56.

(b) The decision of the Ministry or the relevant ministry shall be final and conclusive.

#### Chapter XVI

##### Prohibitions

58. No contractor, adviser, advisory group, project management team, or quality inspection team, nor any third party, shall carry out work without a registration certificate.

59. No one shall submit false or inaccurate documents when applying for permission to carry out construction work.

60. No one shall construct a building that exceeds the originally approved design in terms of height or number of floors.

61. No one shall manufacture, import, distribute, or sell construction materials without a quality certification.

62. No adviser or advisory group, nor any project management team, shall provide advice or management services that do not comply with Myanmar's building standards, guidelines, and relevant codes.

63. No quality inspection team or third party shall approve, certify, or confirm the quality of construction work if it does not meet Myanmar's building standards guidelines and relevant codes.

64. No contractor shall transfer any ongoing or completed construction, or any building, to the project owner without carrying out the necessary quality-compliant construction or rectifications to ensure it meets quality standards.

65. No one shall construct religious buildings over 68 feet in height, buildings over 12 floors or taller than 140 feet, buildings of 12 floors that include a basement, public buildings of 12 floors or fewer that cover an area exceeding 12,000 square feet and are intended for use by more than 500 people, buildings that could endanger public safety, or warehouses storing toxic, or explosive materials without permission from the Central Committee.

66. No one shall construct buildings of nine to 12 floors or 100 to 140 feet in height, religious buildings 40 to 68 feet in height, or public buildings with an area between 10,000 and 12,000 square feet without permission from the Regional Committee.

67. No architect, engineering service team, builder, or site supervisor shall, in carrying out construction work, produce designs, construct buildings, use construction materials without a quality certification that falls below Myanmar's building standards, guidelines, and relevant codes for the respective field.

#### Chapter XVII

##### Penalties

68. Anyone who violates the prohibition under Section 58 shall be punished with imprisonment of up to three years, a fine not exceeding K5 million, or both.

69. Anyone who violates the prohibition under Section 59 shall be punished with imprisonment of up to three years, a fine not exceeding K10 million, or both.

70. Anyone who violates the prohibition under Section 60 shall be punished with imprisonment of three years, a fine not exceeding K20 million, and

the demolition of any construction exceeding the originally approved design.

71. Anyone who violates the prohibition under Section 61 shall be punished with imprisonment of five years and a fine not exceeding K50 million. Construction materials found to lack quality certification shall also be confiscated as State property.

72. Anyone who violates the prohibition under Section 62 shall be punished with imprisonment of at least three years and up to five years, a fine of at least K10 million and up to K50 million, or both.

73. Anyone who violates the prohibition under Section 63 shall be punished with imprisonment of up to five years and a fine equal to twice the cost required to repair the substandard building, or both.

74. Anyone who violates the prohibition under Section 64 shall be punished with imprisonment of five years and a fine not exceeding K50 million.

75. Anyone who violates the prohibitions under Sections 65 and 66 shall be punished with imprisonment of up to five years and a fine not exceeding 30 per cent of the value of the building constructed without permission, or both.

76. Anyone found guilty of violating the prohibition under Section 67 shall be punished with imprisonment of up to five years. Depending on the inspection findings, the offender must either repair the building to meet quality standards, reconstruct it, or pay compensation to the affected party equal to the cost of the repair or reconstruction.

77. If a building constructed in violation of Myanmar's building standards and guidelines, or relevant codes, using unapproved designs or construction materials lacking quality certification, collapses, deteriorates, or becomes defective before its expected lifespan, and the offender is found guilty, the offender shall be punished with imprisonment of up to five years. Depending on the inspection findings, the offender must either repair the building to meet quality standards, reconstruct it, or pay compensation to the affected party equal to the cost of the repair or reconstruction.

#### Chapter XVIII

##### General

78. Anyone who knows that a provision of this law has been violated may report it to the relevant department or authority.

79. In cases brought under Sections 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, or 77, the lawsuit shall be filed based on the investigation report of the inspection team, and the case must be conducted by an official not lower than the Assistant Director level designated by the relevant department or authority.

80. The ministry or relevant ministry shall supervise construction activities under its responsibility, ensuring that the work complies with applicable laws, regulations, rules, procedures, and Myanmar building standards and codes, in accordance with the type and nature of the construction work.

81. In carrying out construction work, compliance is required with the latest Myanmar building standards and guidelines, field-specific standards, construction management rules, and Myanmar fire safety standards.

82. The Central Committee may obtain funding, technical support, machinery, and basic construction materials from domestic or foreign sources to develop the construction sector, in accordance with prescribed procedures and with the permission of the Union Government.

83. Non-governmental experts serving on the committees established under this law, such as the Leading Committee or Subcommittee Committee, shall be entitled to honoraria and allowances as determined by the responsible ministry, with the approval of the Union Government.

84. No member of the Central Committee, Regional Committee, Leading Committee, Subcommittee Committee, or any committee established under this law who is assigned a particular duty shall be sued for civil or criminal liability for acts performed in good faith while carrying out their official responsibilities.

85. In implementing the provisions of this law: -

- The ministry may issue rules, regulations, and procedures with the approval of the Union Government.
- The Central Committee, the ministry, and the Regional Committees may issue notifications, orders, directives, and procedural guidelines.

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

## MPA bids for dredging of Thanlwin River (Darebauk)

MYANMA Port Authority (MPA) called for local and international companies to submit a tender for the dredging work of the Thanlwin River (Darebauk) in Mon State to improve the waterway and navigation channel as the river sedimentation blocks water way and causes shallow water depth, and disrupts the port operation. Furthermore, bidding also includes the exportation of sand excavated from the dredging work.

This dredging work is far from commercial dredging. Those companies need to ensure not incur any damage to the environment and ecosystem. Moreover, dredging operations need to be under-

taken only at the specific shallow water areas designated by the MPA to reach the targeted depth. The dredging works must not affect the socio-economic conditions of the residents, and the bidders must assist and support local development works if necessary. The qualified bidders must present work and technical experiences, a strong team with expertise, equipment and financial capabilities.

Those qualified business entities that meet the technical and financial requirements can buy the application between 11 February and 6 March at the MPA, and the deadline for submission is 1 pm on 10 March.



A glimpse of the Thanlwin River in Mon State.

International companies need to establish a joint venture with the local company or

open a branch office in Myanmar if they are awarded the tender. Interested companies can

enquire about details through the MPA at 01 246380 and 09 444714377. — NN/KK

## 25 abandoned containers at MIP, AWPT to go under the hammer

THE Myanma Port Authority, under the Ministry of Transport and Communications, will bid on auctions for 25 abandoned storage containers at Myanmar Industrial Port and Asia World Port Terminal.

They were abandoned at MIP and AWPT for over one year. The goods in the containers will be bid as seen at 1 pm on 26 February 2026.

Open tender applications and regulations are available

between 9 and 24 February 2026 at the MPA's Store Department in Botahtaung Township, Yangon. Individuals can enquire about details through 01 8610230. — NN/KK



Export-import cargo containers line the bustling terminals of the Myanmar Industrial Port along the Yangon River.

## Forest Dept notifies rubber growers to make timely payments on 30-year leases

THE Department of Forest notified rubber growers who have leased forest land for a 30-year term to make a timely payment of their lease within the set time.

Rubber growers who have granted a permit by the Forest Department in Thaton Township to grow rubber on Phapain, Danu and Kalamataung reserves in Thaton Township and Kalamataung and Mottama reserves in Paung Township are encouraged to ensure a timely payment by 10 March 2026. Late fee is set at K5,000 per year starting from the 2018-2019 financial year. Those who fail to make payment within a



This photo shows rubber tapping process being demonstrated.

30-day grace period will face contract termination and legal actions. Thus, those engaged in private rubber plantations are notified to pay their lease payment before the deadline, the Department of Forest in Thaton Township stated. — NN/KK

## CBM injects over US\$1M, CNY520K, THB2.2M on 9 Feb

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) pumped US\$945,800 in the edible oil import sector after selling \$190,000, 527,288 yuan and 2.255 million baht on 9 February.

CBM sold over \$1.366 million to edible oil-importing companies on 6 February, along with an injection of \$24,287 and over 2.54 million baht into the market.

CBM pumped \$100,000, 500,000 yuan and over 2.2M baht into the market on 5 February, in addition to an injection of over \$2 million into the edible oil-importing companies.

CBM injected over 1.939 million baht, purchased from CMP companies, into the market after selling over \$2.089 million to the edible oil-import-

ing companies on 4 February.

CBM announced on 3 February that it would inject \$28 million into the fuel oil import sector. Furthermore, CBM sold over \$691,600 to edible oil-importing companies on that day after selling 500,000 baht in the market.

CBM sold over \$1.8 million to edible oil-importing companies, along with an injection of

2.3 million baht into the market on 2 February.

CBM sold over \$43 million, 65 million baht and over four million yuan in January 2026.

CBM aims to curb the instability in the foreign exchange market and currency devaluation. According to CBM's notification on 15 March 2024, it has been collaborating with law enforcement agen-

cies to combat and prosecute those who attempt to manipulate the currency market under the existing laws. CBM allowed authorized dealers (private banks) to operate online foreign exchange trading freely as per the market rate, depending on supply and demand, starting from 5 December 2023. — NN/KK



# NATIONAL

## New JLPT rules ban late arrivals on exam day



JLPT exam takers are seen in the previous year.

UNDER the notification from the Japan Foundation, additional rules have been announced for the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) scheduled in July 2026 and those arriving late after the test will be banned, even though those who arrive in 10 minutes after the test began were allowed in previous years, said the Myanmar Association of Japan Alumni (MAJA).

Check-in time for N1 and N2 candidates is between 8 am and 8:45 am, and between 10 am and 10:45 am for N3, N4 and N5.

The check-in time will be printed on the back of the test voucher, and the exam time is set from the check-in to the end of the listening session. Including breaks, any kind of electronic

devices are allowed during the exam; if electronic gadgets are found turned on or being activated, it will be labelled as misconduct, and the exam result won't be released.

In previous years, those who were late by 10 minutes after the exam started were allowed to sit the exam, excluding the listening session; however, it has been abolished for all sessions, and all candidates must arrive within the check-in time set for the first session.

In addition to previous rules, if an applicant committed serious misconduct or caused damage in tests, including JFT basic organized by the Japan Foundation, the JLPT admission can be revoked, said MAJA. — MT/ZS

### Myanmar Daily Weather Report

Issued at 7 pm Tuesday, 10 February 2026

**BAY INFERENCE:** The weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the Westcentral Bay and South Bay of Bengal and a few clouds over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 11 February 2026:** Isolated light rains are likely in Taninthayi Region and (southern and eastern) Shan State. The degree of certainty is 60 per cent. The weather will be generally fair in Lower Sagaing Region and Chin, and Rakhine States and partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States.

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

**OUTLOOK FOR THE SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Likelihood of isolated light rain in Taninthayi Region and Kachin State.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 11 February 2026:** Partly cloudy.

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 11 February 2026:** Partly cloudy.

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 11 February 2026:** Generally fair weather. — DMH

## Nation's biggest basic education space art, cartoon and poster contest announced



This photo displays visitors exploring the Space Museum (Yangon) during a weekend.

THE Yangon Region government, the Myanmar Space Agency, and the Space Museum (Yangon) will jointly organize a basic education-level space art, cartoon, and poster competition from 27 February to 1 March at the Space Museum (Yangon) within the People's Square, according to the museum.

It aims to inspire the next

generation of youth to take an interest in space science and technology. Contestants will be evaluated based on creativity and innovation, artistic skills, and the harmony between Myanmar cultural elements and the theme of space. Themes include 'Space Hero' for primary level, 'Exploring the Universe' for middle level and 'Future

Space Technology' for high level.

Winners will receive medals and certificates of honour, while all participants will be awarded certificates and gifts. The cash prizes for first, second, third and 10 consolation awards are K500,000, K400,000, K300,000, K200,000 each for primary level (28 February), K700,000, K600,000, K500,000, K300,000 each for middle level (1 March) and K1,000,000, K900,000, K800,000, and K500,000 each for high level (27 February), respectively. The ceremony will be held on 4 March.

Interested students must register through their respective schools and submit their applications to the Yangon Region Education Officer's Office by 19 February. — MT/ZN

## C of I payment lowered to 30,000 Korean won

THE Myanmar Embassy in Seoul said on 9 February that it has changed the C of I payment to 30,000 Korean won, reducing 10,000 won.

Through verification, the embassy has issued C of I for those who want to return to Myanmar and those who lost their passports during their visit.

Previously, the C of I payment was set at 40,000 won, and now it has been changed to 30,000 won as of 4 February 2026, it said. — MT/ZS

Myanmar EPS workers are seen arriving at the Incheon Airport on 7 January 2026.



# NATIONAL

## Five colonial-era landmarks in Bahan gain heritage status



An early 20<sup>th</sup>-century Domestic Science Vocational School.

**FIVE** colonial-era buildings in Bahan Township, Yangon Region, which remain in their original form, have been officially designated as heritage buildings, according to the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture.

The ministry said the designation was made in accordance with the Protection and Preservation of Antique Objects Law, as the buildings have retained their original colonial-era architectural features and historical value.

The buildings designated as heritage sites are: a colonial-era model school built in 1910 and located on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road in Gyatawya Ward; a colonial-era Pali Tekkatho (Oak-kyau) built in 1853 on Inya Road in Shwetaungkyaw Ward 2; the Thuzitawi Ordination Hall, built in 1914, in Shwetaungkyaw Ward 2; the Aletawya Sanpya

Buddhism Learning Centre, built in 1854, in the same ward; and an early twentieth-century Domestic Science Vocational School, also located in Shwetaungkyaw Ward 2, Bahan Township, Yangon Region.

According to historical records, Yangon was originally known as Okkalapa and later as Tigon and Dagon. In May 1755, King Alaungpaya, also known as U Aung Zeya, designated the name "Yangon" to commemorate the victory that brought an end to hostilities.

With a history of more than 260 years, Yangon is home to numerous cultural heritage sites. As urban development continues to expand year by year, the State is implementing conservation measures to ensure that these heritage buildings are preserved and protected from loss and damage. — ASH/KZL

## Toll collection on Myanmar-Korea Friendship (Dala) Bridge begins 12 Feb

THE Department of Bridges under the Ministry of Construction said that toll fees will be collected for the use of the Myanmar-Korea Friendship (Dala) Bridge starting from 12 February.

According to the prescribed toll rates, under Class 1, private passenger vehicles weighing under three tonnes (Class 1) will be charged K500 per crossing. Light trucks, Canter and Dyna vehicles (Class 2) will be charged K1,000

per crossing. Minibus-type vehicles (Class 3) will be charged K2,000, while small cargo vehicles (Class 4), including eight-wheel and six-wheel trucks, will be charged K4,000.

At present, vehicles are allowed to cross the bridge free of charge. However, agricultural vehicles, bicycles, motorcycles and three-wheeled vehicles are not permitted to use the bridge. In addition, vehicles that are not mechanically sound are also prohibited from

crossing the bridge. It is also reported that arrangements are being made to allow some public YBS bus lines to operate across the bridge within this month.

The Myanmar-Korea Friendship Bridge was opened on 6 February and has been open from 6 am to 8 pm daily until 11 February. From 12 February onwards, the bridge opening hours will be extended from 4 am to 10 pm — ASH/KNN



Vehicles are seen at the toll gate of the Myanmar-Korea Friendship (Dala) Bridge.

## MNHRC inspects Kasake Agriculture, Livestock and Vocational Training Camps, Police Lock-ups

AN inspection team led by U Tin Aung and U Than Win, members of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, conducted inspection visits to Kasake Agriculture and Livestock Breeding Vocational Training Centre in Wakema Township, and Wakema Myoma Police lock-up and Myaungmya Myoma Police lock-up in Ayeyawady Region on 3 and 4 February 2026 under Sections 43 and 44 of the Commission Law.

At the Kasake Agriculture and Livestock Breeding Vocational Training Centre, the inspection team met the pris-

oners in their dormitories and enquired into and noted down the matters relating to their fundamental rights, including whether prisoners receive an adequate food supply, and whether any tortures occurred while in custody, the receipt of necessary personal-use items, access to healthcare facilities and provision of sufficient purified drinking water, the right to practice religion in accordance with their faith, the situation of allowing family visits and the receipt of items issued by the prison. The team also investigated whether there was discrimination in the

assignment of work and the observance of occupational safety within the workplace. Moreover, the team conducted private and confidential interviews with six prisoners who requested to meet separately, and recorded their statements.

The inspection team observed the daily food preparation and provision for the prisoners and various facilities within the Vocational Training Centre, including the dormitories, prison clinic, library, kitchen, food warehouse, water storage tanks, and the cleanliness of internal and external sewage systems,

as well as the efforts to develop good moral and character development of the prisoners. Moreover, the MNHRC donated knowledgeable books to prisons to read and study.

During the inspections of the Wakema Myoma Police lock-up and Myaungmya Myoma Police lock-up, the MNHRC team inspected the conditions of detainees during the remand period, whether any torture occurred while in custody, and whether there were opportunities to meet with the family members, the arrangements for food provision during the court appearance

period, the disposal of sewage and the overall cleanliness of the facilities, the conditions of meeting with family members and access to legal assistance during the court appearance period, the arrangements of healthcare provision for the detainees as well as the team inspected whether there were adequate lighting and proper ventilation in the facilities.

The inspection team will send its findings and recommendations to the relevant department for necessary action under the Commission's law. — MNHRC

# ARTICLE/ECONOMY

## WORLD

FROM PAGE 9

A teacher is the central leader in the classroom, acting as a patient, fair, and caring role model. By learning about their students, teachers build trusting relationships and a safe environment. During lessons, they flexibly take on many roles, like organizer, facilitator, and mentor, to meet learner needs. Clear, simple rules set at the start of the year, when consistently applied and modelled by the teacher, help students understand and follow expectations.

Student grouping is another important aspect of classroom management. Learners can work individually, in pairs, in small groups, or as a whole class, and each arrangement has particular advantages. Pair and group work encourage cooperation, communication, and teamwork. They allow students to exchange ideas, respect different opinions, and support one another, which is especially helpful for shy or weaker

## Classroom Management: Creating an Effective Learning Environment

learners. Active participation in groups can also reduce discipline problems because students are engaged in meaningful tasks. To ensure success, teachers should provide clear instructions, time limits, and goals for activities, and they should change group members occasionally to develop social skills and prevent conflict.

Effective classroom discipline is positive and supportive, focusing on teaching responsibility through proactive measures like clear expectations and engaging lessons. When issues arise, teachers should respond calmly by understanding underlying causes, such as offering a tired student a modified schedule, and collaborate with parents or counsellors if needed. Consequences should be fair and related to the behaviour, avoiding punishment in favour of construc-

tive discussions, reflective tasks, and consistent guidance.

The physical setting of the classroom strongly affects behaviour and learning. A clean, bright, and well-organized room helps students feel comfortable, while flexible seating arrangements can promote interaction and movement. Displays of student work increase motivation and a sense of pride. Equally important is the emotional environment: learners should feel safe to ask questions and make mistakes. Respect, encouragement, and praise contribute to a supportive atmosphere where students are willing to take risks in their learning.

Effective communication is central to good classroom management. Teachers need to listen to students carefully, encourage dialogue, and give clear

instructions and feedback so that learners stay focused on tasks. Motivation also plays a major role in shaping student behaviour. Setting achievable goals, offering praise, giving students responsibility, and linking lessons to real-life situations can increase engagement. Reward systems such as points or certificates may also promote positive behaviour when used thoughtfully and in moderation.

Modern classrooms increasingly benefit from technology. Interactive boards, digital tools, and educational applications can make lessons more engaging and help teachers organize activities and manage time through online timers or classroom management platforms. However, technology must be used carefully. Clear rules about device use have to prevent distraction

and misuse.

Classroom management is important because it directly influences learning outcomes. Even a well-designed lesson can fail in a disorganized classroom, where time is wasted, and motivation decreases. Effective management creates a positive environment in which students understand expectations, feel respected, and recognize their responsibilities. This not only supports academic success but also helps learners develop important social and emotional skills.

To conclude, effective classroom management is essential for creating a safe, active, and enjoyable learning environment. Through clear rules, positive discipline, flexible grouping, strong communication, and thoughtful use of technology, teachers can guide their classrooms successfully. When management is strong, students are more engaged, behave appropriately, and experience greater enjoyment and success in school.

## Japan debt at record 1,342 tln yen, puts Takaichi fiscal policy in focus



Photo taken on 10 February 2026 shows the Finance Ministry in Tokyo. **PHOTO: KYODO**

JAPAN'S total debt rose to a record 1,342.17 trillion yen (\$8.6 trillion) at the end of 2025, Finance Ministry data showed Tuesday, as Prime Minister

Sanae Takaichi's pledge to expand spending cast doubt over the outlook for the country's fiscal health.

The debt, up 24.54 trillion

yen from a year earlier, is more than twice the size of its economy and faces upward pressure due to ballooning social security, national defence and debt-servicing costs, reflecting higher government bond yields in tandem with increases in long-term interest rates.

Japan's debt surpassed the 1,000 trillion yen mark in 2013 and rose further during the COVID-19 pandemic. The ministry expects that it will reach 1,473.5 trillion yen by the end of March this year.

The data comes as concerns over fiscal health mount after the supplementary budget for the current year ending March to finance Takaichi's expansionary stimulus package reached 18.3 trillion yen, the largest since fiscal 2022 during the coronavirus pandemic. But as tax revenues are not enough to fund it, the government plans to issue 11.7 trillion yen in new bonds to cover more than 60 per cent of the total. — Kyodo



This photo taken on 9 February 2026 shows the Tanjong Pagar container terminal of Singapore. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

## Singapore economy grows 5% in 2025, outlook for 2026 upgraded

SINGAPORE'S economy grew by five per cent in 2025, easing from 5.3 per cent in 2024, the Ministry of Trade and Industry said on Tuesday, while raising its growth forecast for 2026 to a range of two to four per cent. In November, the ministry had projected economic growth of one to three per cent for 2026.

Since then, the global economy has outperformed expectations, with most major economies posting stronger-than-expected growth in the fourth quarter of 2025, the ministry said. Global trade activity

also remained resilient despite US tariffs, it added, and the momentum is expected to carry into 2026.

Singapore's growth in 2025 was driven mainly by the manufacturing, wholesale trade, and finance and insurance sectors, it said.

Within manufacturing, the electronics cluster expanded strongly, while the machinery, equipment and supplies segment of wholesale trade also posted robust growth, supported by strong demand for AI-related electronics. — Xinhua

# Honda's Apr-Dec net profit drops 42% on US tariff, stronger yen

HONDA Motor Co on Tuesday reported a 42.2 per cent drop in net profit in the April-December period, as US tariffs and a stronger yen coupled with weaker vehicle sales in key markets squeezed the bottom line.

The Japanese carmaker posted a net profit of 465.44 billion yen (\$3

billion) in the nine months ended 31 December, down from 805.26 billion yen in the same period a year earlier.

Sales were down 2.2 per cent at 15.98 trillion yen and operating profit tumbled 48.1 per cent to 591.51 billion yen.

For the year to March 2026, the automaker left

unchanged its net profit outlook at 300 billion and operating profit forecast at 550 billion yen.

But it raised its sales forecast to 21.10 trillion yen from the previous outlook of 20.70 trillion yen, as it now expects the US dollar to average 148 yen, compared with the previous assumption of 145 yen.

In April last year, US President Donald Trump imposed a 27.5 per cent tariff on cars from Japan, sharply higher than the previous 2.5 per cent, in an effort to reduce the country's massive trade deficit. The rate was later negotiated down to 15 per cent in September 2025. — Kyodo



Honda Motor Co's new Prelude coupe is displayed at the Los Angeles Auto Show in Los Angeles on 20 November 2025. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Thailand forecasts over 4 mln air passengers during Spring Festival holiday

OVER 4.11 million passengers are projected to travel through its six major airports during the upcoming Chinese New Year festival, signalling a robust recovery in the aviation and tourism sectors, according to Airports of Thailand Public Company Limited (AOT).

During the Spring Festival period, from 13 to 22 February, the airport operator expects to handle 2.6 million international passengers and 1.51 million domestic passengers across its network, with total aircraft movements estimated at 24,847 flights, said AOT President Paweena Jariyathitipong on Monday. — Xinhua

## German SMEs' interest in US market drops sharply: survey

GERMAN small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are showing a sharp decline in interest in doing business in the United States, with parts of the business community now holding negative views, a survey published on Monday showed.

US tariffs are having

a broad impact on German companies, with 12 per cent reporting direct effects and 44 per cent affected indirectly through customers and suppliers, according to a DZ Bank survey of more than 1,000 medium-sized firms.

Business sentiment among German SMEs

toward the United States has also deteriorated markedly. Only nine per cent of surveyed companies said they could imagine the United States playing a larger role in their supply chains over the next five years, down three percentage points from the previous survey. Meanwhile, 18 per cent expect the US market to play a smaller role, double the share recorded in the 2024 survey. "No other country has experienced such a sharp decline in popularity in DZ Bank's surveys since 2022," German newspaper Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung wrote in a commentary on the findings. — Xinhua



This photo taken on 18 February 2025 shows the headquarters of German Bundesbank in Frankfurt, Germany. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

### MYANMAR PORT AUTHORITY HOLIDAY NOTICE

IT is hereby announced that the bridges, warehouses and docks at Yangon Port will be closed on February 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> (Union Day holiday) and February 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> (Chinese New Year holiday) in 2026. Instead, they will be closed on February 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> (Union Day holiday) and February 17<sup>th</sup> (Chinese New Year holiday) in 2026. If you wish to load/unload or unload goods, you will have to pay a holiday Fees.

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V SITC SHENGMING VOY.NO. (2602S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC SHENGMING VOY.NO. (2602S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **11-2-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.  
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

**M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD**

### PESTICIDE TRADE NAME CHANGING

Notice is hereby given that the official trade name has been changed of New Maykha Agrochemical Co., Ltd. for the following insecticides by Hanearl Science Ltd.

No	Old Trade Name	New Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Type	Registration No.
1	Pulover 41 SL	Maykha Glypho	Glyphosate IPA 41% SL	Full	F2022-3967
2	Moonstar 10 SP	Shwin Lann	Validamycin 10% SP	Full	F2022-3975
3	Gardner 5 DC	Maykha Difen	Difenoconazole 5% DC	Full	F2022-3982

We invite objections to Co-secretary, Pesticide Registration Office, Plant Protect Division, Department of Agriculture, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon from all parties within the period of fourteen (14) days from the publication of this notice. If no objections are received within the period prescribed, parties mentioned about shall proceed with the completion of formalities recorded with the Pesticide Registration Office.

Hanearl Science Ltd.  
16-15, Cheoramgongdan-gil, Taebaek-si, Gangwon-do, Republic of Korea.

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V AS SUSANNA VOY.NO. (0039N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V AS SUSANNA VOY.NO. (0039N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **11-2-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.  
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

**(ONE) OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS LINE**

# ROLLING UPDATES

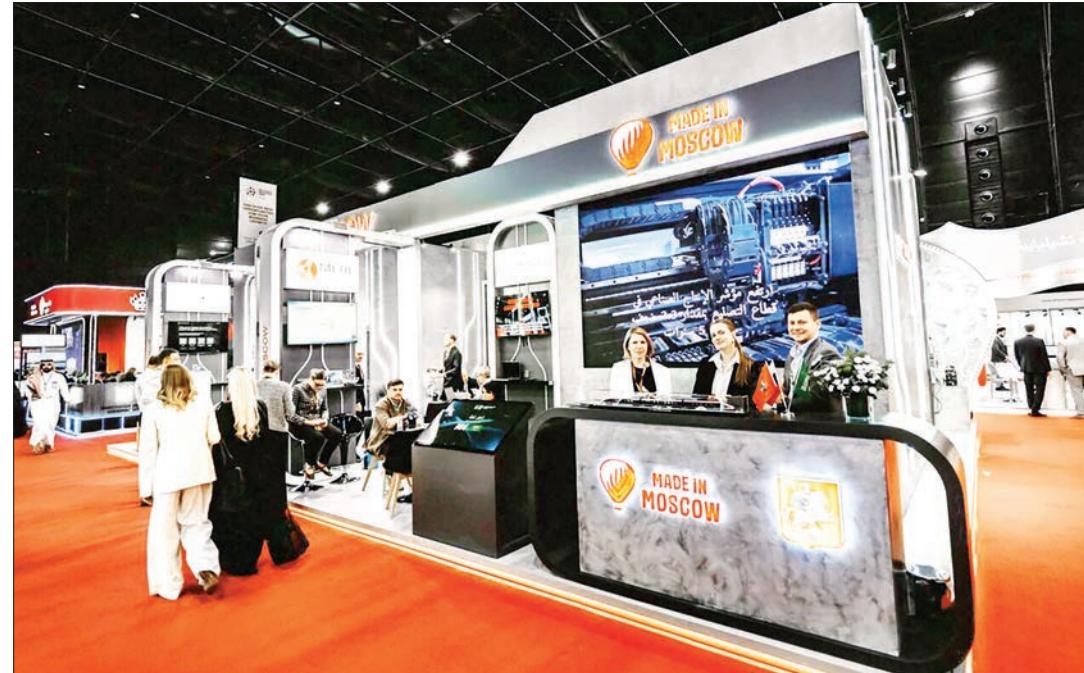


PHOTO: PRESS SERVICE OF THE MOSCOW DEPARTMENT OF INVESTMENT AND INDUSTRIAL POLICY

## Moscow deepens economic partnership with Saudi Arabia

A delegation from the Russian capital joined the "INNO-PROM. Saudi Arabia" International Industrial Exhibition in Riyadh, Moscow Government Minister and Head of the Department of Investment and Industrial Policy Anatoly Garbuzov said.

At Moscow's exhibition stand, ten export oriented companies showcased innovations across a range of sectors, including industrial automation, microelectronics, mechanical engineering, pharmaceuticals, medical technology, en-

ergy solutions, and education. Throughout the event, these enterprises conducted more than 80 business meetings with prospective partners and relevant development institutions.

During the visit, the Moscow delegation held negotiations with several leading Saudi government bodies, investment agencies, and business representatives, including the Kingdom's Ministry of Investment via the InvestSaudi and Made in Saudi programmes, as well as the Industrial Cities and Technolo-

gy Zones Authority (MODON), among others.

The Moscow stand attracted visits from prominent Saudi business and official figures, including members of the royal family.

A focal point of the exhibition was the presentation of the investment opportunities within the "Technopolis Moscow" special economic zone — a flagship platform for high tech manufacturing localization in the capital, which celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.

— SPUTNIK

## EU parliament adopts bloc's 2040 climate target

THE European Parliament on Tuesday gave its final approval to an ambitious target for cutting EU greenhouse gas emissions by 2040, a key milestone towards the bloc's goal of becoming carbon neutral by mid-century.

Lawmakers voted by 413 to 226 in favour of a 90-per-cent cut in greenhouse gas emissions compared to 1990 levels, with flexibility to use carbon credits bought outside the 27-nation EU

to help reach the goal.

The target now requires an ultimate sign-off by EU member states. In a compromise to address concerns by several countries including Italy, the final text allows for five per cent of cuts to be accounted for through carbon credits acquired for projects outside Europe.

Activist groups have accused the bloc of simply sending the climate change campaign offshore.

Further down the road, the EU could, if needed, eventually allow member states to make up a further five per cent of their targets via credits from international carbon markets. Under pressure from Poland and Hungary, the final deal also put back by one year to 2028 an emissions trading system for road transport and heating buildings, with some member states still pushing for a delay past that date. — AFP

## Iran warns of 'destructive' influence on diplomacy ahead of Netanyahu's US trip

IRAN warned Tuesday of "destructive" influence on diplomacy ahead of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's visit to Washington for talks expected to focus on US negotiations with Tehran.

"Our negotiating party is America. It is up to America to decide to act independently of the pressures and destructive influences that are detrimental to the region," said Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baqaei in a weekly press briefing.

"The Zionist regime has repeatedly, as a saboteur, shown that it opposes any diplomatic process in our region that leads to peace."

Tehran and Washington re-

sumed talks in Muscat on Friday, months after earlier negotiations collapsed following Israel's unprecedented bombing campaign against Iran last June, which triggered a 12-day war.

The United States later joined the campaign, launching its own strikes on key Iranian nuclear facilities.

Iran responded with drone and missile attacks on Israel and by targeting the largest US military base in the Middle East, located in Qatar.

"The June experience was a very bad experience. Therefore, taking these experiences into account, we are determined to secure Iran's national interests through diplomacy," Baqaei added. — AFP

## Torrential rain in Colombia kills 22, thousands displaced

TWENTYTWO people have died as a rare spell of torrential rain in Colombia left thousands of families displaced, authorities said.

Colombian officials confirmed Monday that 14 of the fatalities came in the departments of Cordoba and Sucre, with at least 9,000 homes affected.

Residents have been trying to salvage their belongings in waist-deep water and muck using motorboats and makeshift vessels.

"We've lost everything, all our belongings, all our appliances. And we are very worried because we don't know what will happen," Enid Gomez, who lives in Cordoba's capital Monteria, told AFP.

A cold front rushing in from the north of the Americas to the Caribbean coast of Colombia increased rainfall last month by 64 per cent compared to the historical average, the national weather agency Ideam said. — AFP



Members of the European Parliament (MEP) attend a debate during a plenary session in the European Parliament, in Strasbourg, eastern France, on 9 February 2026. PHOTO: AFP

# SPORTS

SHAN United and Yangon United secured victories in the 2025-2026 season Myanmar National League (MNL) as the postponed Match 16 fixture and Match 17 second day were played on 10 February.

In the postponed Match 16 played at Thuwunna Youth Training Centre, Shan United defeated Ayeyawady United by three goals to one. The match had been rescheduled due to Shan United's remaining group-stage fixtures in the ASEAN Club Championship. With a flawless performance in the postponed match, Shan United continued their close title race with league leaders Yangon United.

Despite both teams fielding most of their key players, Shan United dominated the match after scoring twice within the opening 15 minutes. Bakayoko opened the scoring from a corner kick in the seventh minute,

## Yangon United snatch late win, Shan United secure victory



Shan United and Ayeyawady United players contest for the ball during their MNL match. **PHOTO: MNL**

followed by a goal from striker Sa Aung Pyae in 15 minutes, giving Shan United a two-goal lead at

half-time. Two minutes into the second half, Ye Min Thu added the third goal, again from a

corner kick. Ayeyawady United pulled one back through Zin Min Shine in 90+3 minutes.

On the second day of Match 17, Yangon United edged Thitsa Arman by two goals to one, while Rakhine United and Maha United shared a two-all draw. Yangon United were reduced to ten men in the first half and also conceded the opening goal, forcing them to chase the game. However, they fought back to secure a late winning goal, marking their sixth consecutive victory under new head coach Yuki.

On the first day of Match 17, held on 9 February, Dagon Star United defeated ISPE FC by three goals to one, while Hanthawady United beat Yadanabon United by one goal to nil.

The third day of Match 17 will be held on 14 February, with Yadanabon set to face Shan United at Thiha Dipa Ground, while Ayeyawady United will take on Dagon Port at Thuwunna Youth Training Centre. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

## Liverpool need 'perfection' to reach Champions League, admits Slot

ARNE Slot conceded on Tuesday that his side are "not performing to the standards of Liverpool" and need to be nearly perfect for the remainder of the season just to qualify for the Champions League.

The defending English champions sit sixth in the Premier League, four points outside a place in the top five, which is likely to secure Champions League football for next season.

The Reds conceded twice in a dramatic finale to lose 2-1 to Manchester City on Sunday, but it is a wider trend that is most concerning for Slot.

Liverpool have won just six of their last 20 league games dating back to September and only one of seven in 2026.

"They know what the standards of Liverpool mean, and we are not performing to the standards of Liverpool at the moment, and they feel that disappointment," Slot said in his pre-match press conference ahead of Wednesday's trip to Sunderland.

"Every game, it feels as though we are going to win it, but it doesn't happen. That is probably more difficult than when you play a game and throughout the whole game you feel like the other team is better and you're just not good enough."

"But that's not what they feel. They feel performance-wise that they can compete with any other team in any league in the world." — AFP

## Olympic chiefs offer repairs after medals break

WINTER Olympics organizers said Tuesday that athletes whose medals had broken at the Milan-Cortina Games could hand them in for repair after a string of embarrassing glitches.

Women's downhill gold medallist Breezy Johnson was among the first to encounter the problem when she showed her broken medal at her post-event media conference on Sunday.

The American skier's medal came apart from its ribbon clasp as she celebrated her win in Cortina D'Ampezzo.

US figure skater Alysa Liu, who won gold in the team event, and German biathlete Justus Streblow, who took bronze in the mixed relay, also suffered medal malfunctions.

Games operations communications director Luca Casassa told reporters at an International Olympic Committee press conference on Tuesday a solution had been found.

"A limited number of medals have a number of problems, but the organizing committee has been working closely

with the Italian mint, who are responsible for the medals," he said.

"A solution has been identified and athletes who have (broken) medals are invited to give them back so they can be repaired. Milano Cortina 2026 confirms our commitment that the medals will meet the highest quality of standards.

"As a precaution, we are recalling some of the medals to ensure all athletes' joy (upon winning a medal) can be '360 degrees'. This is important for them and important for us". — AFP

## Olympics: Japan's Murase wins women's big air gold at Milan Cortina Games

JAPAN'S Kokomo Murase added Olympic gold to her medal collection on Monday in the women's snowboard big air final at the Milan Cortina Games.

The reigning world champion scored 179.00 points at Livigno Snow Park to win the Olympic title and improve on the bronze medal she won as a 17-year-old four years ago at the Beijing Games.

"The bronze medal felt heavy, but gold is different," Murase said. "It's not just the weight, it feels like everything I've worked for up until now is packed into it. It's incredibly heavy in that sense".

Kiwi Zoi Sadowski Synnott overcame a crash in her first attempt to win silver on 172.25, while Yu Seung Eun of

South Korea took bronze on 171.00.

Murase put down two 1440s to secure the two highest scores of the final — an 89.75 on her first jump and an 89.25 on her third — to claim a dominant win.

Murase's gold is the first in snowboarding for a Japanese woman and the second for the nation at the 2026 Olympics.

"It still doesn't feel real, almost like I'm dreaming. I'm unbelievably happy," said Murase.

Murase said Kira Kimura's men's big air gold, won on Saturday in Livigno, gave her further motivation.

"When I touched a gold medal for the first time, not this one, but earlier, I remember thinking, 'I really want this.' That feeling stayed with me." — Kyodo



Japan's Kokomo Murase performs her third run in the Milan Cortina Olympics women's snowboard big air final at Livigno Snow Park in Livigno, Italy, on 9 February 2026. **PHOTO: KYODO**

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# WORLD

## US delegation says Trump's claims on Greenland "not true"



A man leading a sled with a child on walks past a supermarket in Nuuk, Greenland, an autonomous territory of Denmark, on 8 February 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

A US congressional delegation visiting Greenland on Monday dismissed US President Donald Trump's claim that the island is "all over" with Russian and Chinese vessels, calling the assertion "not true".

Speaking at a press conference in Nuuk, Greenland's capital, Independent Senator Angus King of Maine said that based on the delegation's on-site observations and briefings from Denmark's Joint Arctic Command, Trump's remarks about the presence of Russian

and Chinese ships near Greenland were unfounded. King also rejected Trump's suggestion that Greenland's defence relies mainly on "sled dogs", stressing that "the security and defence capacity of Greenland is strong and growing stronger", in response to a question from Xinhua.

The delegation arrived in Nuuk on Saturday with the stated aim of "repairing relations" and "rebuilding trust" with Denmark and Greenland. The group is led by Republican Senator Lisa

Murkowski of Alaska and Senator Angus King, and includes lawmakers from both the Republican and Democratic parties.

Murkowski said Trump's recent comments about taking over Greenland and related threats have caused harm to the people of Greenland. "It hurts my heart," she said, adding that Trump's "few words have eroded and undermined trust built since World War II".

The purpose of the visit, Murkowski noted, is to "work to rebuild that trust". — Xinhua

## Putin holds phone conversation with South Africa's Ramaphosa – Kremlin

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin held a phone conversation with South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, the Kremlin said on Tuesday. "Russian President Vladimir Putin had a telephone conversation with President of South Africa Cyril Ramaphosa," the Kremlin said in a statement.

The conversation touched

upon the situation around Ukraine, as well as focused on the development of cooperation in

trade, economic and investment fields between the countries, the statement read. — SPUTNIK

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa is greeted by Russian President Vladimir Putin during the official welcome ceremony for heads of delegations of countries taking part in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Russia-Africa Summit and Economic and Humanitarian Forum at the ExpoForum Congress and Exhibition Centre in Saint Petersburg, Russia. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

Russia says it won't initiate escalation after nuclear treaty expiration

RUSSIA will not be the first to take steps towards an escalation after the expiration of the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START), Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said Tuesday.

In an interview with Russia's NTV, Lavrov said Moscow will closely monitor US actions following the expiration, and it will approach the situation "with full responsibility".

Russia does not expect any further response from the United States to its proposal to maintain the treaty's restrictions, Lavrov said, adding that the treaty had effectively not been functioning in recent years. He also noted that it would be difficult to imagine long-term arrangements on strategic stability without taking into account the nuclear capabilities of Britain and France. — Xinhua

## New study finds vegan, vegetarian babies grow healthy

ISRAELI researchers have found that infants from vegan and vegetarian households grow at nearly the same rate as children who eat all types of food, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in Israel said in a statement on Monday.

The researchers, from the university and the Israeli Health Ministry, examined whether a plant-based diet can support the rapid growth needed in the first two years of life. They analyzed a decade of records, between 2014 and 2023, of nearly 1.2 million children, covering about 70 per cent of all Israeli infants.

The results, published in JAMA Network Open, showed that infants from vegan and vegetarian households had similar weight, length and head growth compared with omnivorous children. — Xinhua

