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Four Objectives of the National Defence and Security Council

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



Acting President and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives the Honorary Doctor of Public Administration (DPA honoris causa) during a special convocation ceremony at the University of Yangon.

Head of State awarded honorary doctorate for outstanding service to nation

The University of Yangon conferred a variety of honorary degrees on 72 monks, foreign leaders and prominent individuals from 1921 to 2020, including the honorary doctors of literature and law.

A special convocation ceremony to confer the Honorary Doctor of Public Administration (DPA honoris causa) upon Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing took place at the Convocation Hall of the University of Yangon yesterday

morning.

After the Senior General took a position on the platform in the convocation hall all attendees paid tributes to the national flag.

Union Minister for Education Dr Chaw Chaw Sein read the capabilities of the Senior General. She said:

SEE PAGE 3

NATIONAL



National Objectives for 79th Union Day 2026

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

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

Mottos for 79th Union Day 2026

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

Eld's Deer at Mt Popa National Geopark draw strong visitor interest

VISITORS have been continuously travelling to Mount Popa National Geopark, Myanmar's first nationally designated geopark. Among its attractions, both local and foreign travellers show particular interest in the Eld's Deer found in the sandalwood forest within the geopark.

As one of the highlights of Mount Popa National Geopark, known for its rich biodiversity and scenic landscapes, the Eld's Deer draw special attention from visitors. The visitors can also enjoy exploring the green forests, various bird species and wildlife, oasis-like lakes, picturesque mountain scenery, sandalwood forests, medicinal plants, natural volcanic features of the extinct volcano, and rare animals such as the Eld's Deer and the dusky leaf monkey.

"During the upcoming long public holiday, as children will have finished their examinations, we expect a heavy flow of visitors to Popa. In previous holidays as well, there was a continuous arrival of travellers climbing Mount Popa and visiting the sandalwood forest

of Eld's Deer. Most visitors go up Mount Popa, have meals at resorts, and then visit the sandalwood forest to feed the deer and others, take photographs, and enjoy the natural scenery. In Mount Popa National Geopark, the most visited sites are Geosite 1: Mount Popa Taung Kalat, Geosite 6: Herbal Plantation and Science Gallery, and Geosite 7: Sandalwood Forest and Myanmar's Golden Deer Farm. We warmly invite visitors to come

during the holidays," said Daw Khin Myo Htwe, staff officer of Mount Popa National Geopark.

Eld's Deer are even-toed ungulate mammals classified under the order Artiodactyla, family Cervidae, and species *Cervus eldi*, with three recognized subspecies. They were first recorded in 1838 by British army officer Percy Eld in the Manipur Valley of India, and the species was named "Eld's Deer" after him. As their population has de-

clined and they face the threat of extinction, Eld's Deer are being protected at the national level. They are found in Myanmar and India, while a related subspecies, *Cervus eldi siamensis*, is found in China, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam, where declining populations have led to captive breeding efforts. The golden deer are protected in Shwesettaw Wildlife Sanctuary, Chatthin Wildlife Sanctuary, Alaungtaw Kathapha National

Park and Mount Popa National Geopark in Myanmar.

Habitats vary among species. In Myanmar, Eld's Deer are found in laterite indaing forest, dry forest, and deciduous forest. In India, they live in marshy forests, while in Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam, they are found in deciduous forests. Mount Popa Geopark opens daily, and the local and foreign visitors can observe the park and Eld's Deer. — Thitsa (MNA)/KTZH



Images capture Eld's Deer in the sandalwood forest of Mount Popa National Geopark, with a visitor feeding them. **PHOTOS: MOUNT POPA NATIONAL GEOPARK**



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)

Head of State awarded honorary doctorate ...



The commemorative group photo of the special convocation ceremony marking the conferment of Honorary DPA to the Head of State.

FROM PAGE 1

The conferment of an honorary doctorate on the Head of State is due to his demonstrated abilities to take the lead in addressing the challenges and difficulties encountered amid the political transition of the country and to manage them systematically and effectively. Throughout each phase of political transformation, he has confronted and resolved political pressures, economic sanctions, domestic peace and national reconciliation efforts, and reforms aimed at aligning with the international community. At the same time, he has also worked to promote the socioeconomic development of the people, maintain national stability and peace, and uphold the rule of law. Amid these challenges, the successful conduct of free and fair general elections, eagerly awaited by the

public, stands as a testament to the Head of State's leadership, marking a historical milestone in Myanmar's political leadership.

Regarding peace, the government has consistently kept the door to peace open in line with the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) framework, and the government, Tatmadaw, and the people have been actively cooperating in national reconciliation and peacemaking efforts. In terms of diplomacy, Myanmar has established cordial relations with major world powers today, including Russia, India, and China, and has been able to protect the country's national interests while navigating the rivalries among these powerful nations, effectively employing diplomatic engagement strategies.

To revive the national econ-

omy, the leaders have endured international economic blockades and guided the implementation of policies aimed at increasing the production of substitute goods, boosting exports to generate higher revenue, and ensuring domestic food security. These efforts reflect the Head of State's dedication and benevolence to continuously improve the socioeconomic well-being of the people. Recognizing education as a key sector in building a modern nation, during the critical period of the COVID-19 pandemic, measures were taken to reopen basic education schools and higher education universities as usual. Similarly, efforts to enhance educational standards were actively pursued, leading to the establishment of Naypyitaw State Academy and Naypyitaw Polytechnic University, while guidance was provided to

expand Polytechnic Universities in regions and states across the country. For the country's primary economic sectors, such as agriculture and livestock, human resources have been strengthened through the opening and teaching at industrial, agricultural, and livestock high schools. Moreover, special attention has been given to nurturing outstanding young athletes so that a new generation of nationally recognized sports talents can emerge.

Regarding the health sector, a policy of "Nothing is more important than human life" was established, providing guidance to implement projects that improve the health sector and increase the life expectancy of the people. Financial support was also provided to allow the study of modern medical sciences. Similarly, guidance was given

for the development of the road and transport sector as well as Myanmar's railway system. In the area of religion and faith, a remarkable achievement of the Head of State was the construction of the Maravijaya Buddha Image within the Nay Pyi Taw Council area, which stands as a significant religious landmark.

For security and defence, foundations were established to enable the testing, development, and production of modern defence technologies to protect the country and maintain regional stability. Regarding natural disaster management, rapid reconstruction efforts were carried out in areas affected by Cyclone Mocha and Cyclone Nargis. Similarly, reconstruction work following the major Mandalay earthquake was expedited through active guidance and support. Damaged schools and universities were prioritized for repair and restoration. In commemoration of the 100th anniversary of Mandalay University, the main building of Mandalay University was restored and reconstructed in accordance with its original design.

In addition, efforts have been made to completely eradicate telecom fraud that poses major threats to domestic and international security. The Senior General has demonstrated exceptional dedication and capability across all sectors to ensure the stability of the country's sovereignty and to build a modern, developed new nation, often sacrificing personal interests for the public good. In recognition of these outstanding contributions to the State and the people, Yangon University has conferred upon the Senior General the Honorary Doctor of Public Administration (DPA honoris causa).

SEE PAGE 5

NATIONAL

National Development Hinges on Citizens' Education Quality

Education extends far beyond classrooms, serving as the foundational pillar that shapes a nation's future and destiny.



Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivered a commemorative speech at the ceremony to confer Honorary Doctor of Public Administration (DPA honoris causa) on him at the University of Yangon yesterday. The full text of the translated speech is as follows: -

I extend my greetings to all those attending today's honorary doctorate conferral ceremony, including members of the Yangon University Thahaya Club, members of the National Security and Peace Commission, Union-level dignitaries, senior military officers, the Chief Minister of Yangon Region, Deputy Ministers, rectors, specially invited rectors from international universities, honorary professors, professors, and all distinguished guests.

In accordance with the fine traditions of the University of Yangon, I

am deeply honoured and delighted to receive the Honorary Doctor of Public Administration conferred upon me in this convocation hall. I regard this not only as a personal honour, but also as a significant milestone of great importance in advancing the nation's future education sector. Moreover, together with this honorary doctorate, I feel that I now bear even greater responsibility in the task of building the future of the nation. It also serves as a source of strength for the journey ahead.

I have known that different honorary

degrees were conferred on a total of 72 prominent individuals, including monks, foreign leaders and civilians, in this convocation from 1921 to 2020. I understand that the degrees conferred were Honorary Doctor of Literature degrees and Honorary Doctor of Law degrees. I understand that Honorary Doctor of Literature degrees were conferred upon members of the Sangha – Aggamaha Pandita Bhaddanta Silananda Bhivamsa, Bhaddanta Mārābhivamsa, and Bhaddanta Nyanissara – and those Honorary Doctor of Law degrees were conferred upon international leaders, namely Yugoslav President Marshal Tito and Vietnamese President Ho Chi Minh.

I am especially proud and delighted to have been conferred the first-ever Honorary Doctorate in Public Administration by the University of Yangon, which celebrates its 106th anniversary in 2026. I also recall that I studied law as my major at this great university during the 1972-73 academic year.

In 1972, I was at Ramanya Hall during my first year of study, and in my second year, I attended the Department of Arts. In January 1974, I transferred to the Defence Services Academy for the cadet course. I fondly remember the fresh and lush Gangaw (Mesua ferrea) plantations, the teachers who taught us with full dedication and energy, my classmates, and the large university's library. Likewise, I also recall beginning my military life as a trainee in the No 1 University Training Corps (No 1 UTC) during 1972-73.

Founded on 1 December 1920, the University of Yangon, now over a century

old, is a priceless legacy of the nation's rich educational heritage. Throughout history, it has been renowned as one of the most prestigious and distinguished universities in South East Asia. Beyond academics, it has also been a stronghold of Myanmar's struggle for independence, nurturing patriotism and a spirit of national pride, and has produced numerous national leaders.

Prominent leaders, including the national hero General Aung San, as well as other notable figures in Myanmar's struggle for independence and eminent scholars, are all intellectual treasures nurtured by the University of Yangon. Likewise, experts in various fields – administration, economics, social affairs, and politics – have, through the training and education provided by their alma mater, been able to faithfully carry out the nation's responsibilities within their respective sectors.

Distinguished guests,

Just as building strong physical infrastructure is essential for nation-building, it is even more important to construct "intellectual infrastructure". With this in mind, during my tenure, I placed special emphasis on education, guiding policies to develop effective teaching and learning, and to cultivate the necessary teaching workforce to produce valuable human resources for future generations. When the government first took on the responsibility of the State, it faced a period marked globally by the COVID-19 pandemic and domestically by political instability and intense disruption.

SEE PAGE 6



Acting President and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing speaks on the special convocation occasion (top), with attending dignitaries pictured at yesterday's event (above).

NATIONAL

Researchers' creative capacity key to nation-building, says Senior General

THE creative capacities of researchers in their respective fields are truly a powerful force that can greatly contribute to nation-building and national development, said Action President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

The Senior General said so at the opening ceremony of the 25th Arts and Science Research Conference of the Myanmar Academy of Arts and Science and Science Fair (2026) held at the University of Yangon yesterday.

In his opening speech, the Senior General said that since the establishment of the Myanmar Academy of Arts and Science in 1999, the Academy has organized research conferences to promote the development of arts and science education across universities in Myanmar, and now it has reached its 25th anniversary.

He added that research means carefully studying and discovering knowledge about a subject. Developed countries give high priority to research and invest in it. As Myanmar is a developing country, research in all sectors is very important for national development and national interests. Therefore, there would be success through the review, research, and innovation in each sector. The creative capacities of researchers in their respective fields are truly a powerful force that can greatly contribute to nation-building and national development.

Education is the foundation of the development of the country. It is impor-



Acting President and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing tours exhibits presented by various universities at the 25th Arts and Science Research Conference yesterday.

tant to improve knowledge and skills across the country and to develop skilled professionals who can support production and industry. New technologies and innovations are needed for the country to be a modern nation and develop. He stated that education, science and technology are closely connected, and the combination of research and innovations brings a huge impact on a prosperous

society.

He also highlighted the need to conserve the cultural values of the country while building a modern and developed nation, keeping abreast with the modern technologies of the 21st century.

He mentioned the national objectives, the need to promote the production of quality products and penetrate into new markets, and exploring mod-

ern technologies for MSMEs through research.

He said that research is the life-blood of universities. Through research, one can become more knowledgeable. New technologies from research should be applied in the industrial sector, and all should make efforts to be reliable and quality universities for the country.

SEE PAGE 7

Head of State awarded honorary doctorate ...

FROM PAGE 3

This conferment is a source of pride and joy for both the Ministry of Education and Yangon University.

Director/Principal Professor Andrey Dragomirovich Khlutkov of Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration, Saint Petersburg and First Vice-Rector Professor Kaigorodov Evgeny Viktorovich of Altai State Pedagogical University of the Russian Federation, Vice-President Dr Thatchaveeelawat of Thailand's Mahidol University and Vice-President Dr Ly Thein Trang of Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology of Vietnam spoke words of honour.

They stated that this honorary degree highlights a milestone in the Head of State's leadership, marked by personal

sacrifice for the public good. One of the greatest achievements was the successful and systematic conduct of the recently held multiparty general elections. This milestone established a strong foundation for stability and peace and assured a smooth transition for the country's future. Under the guidance of the Head of State, Myanmar has now demonstrated to the international community that it is progressing and flourishing.

The Rector of the Yangon University conferred Honorary Doctor of Public Administration (DPA honoris causa) on the Senior General.

The Senior General delivered a commemorative speech. (*The speech of the Senior General is reported on page 4.*)

The Rector of the university delivered a convocation speech. The registrar

announced that the speech of the rector must be kept in the archive.

Also, present on the occasion were Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, the wife of the Senior General, Commission Member Prime Minister U Nyo Saw and his wife, Commission Secretary General Ye Win Oo and his wife, commission members and their wives, Union ministers and their wives, the Yangon Region chief minister, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, the commander of Yangon Command, deputy ministers, rectors from international universities, professors and distinguished guests.

The University of Yangon conferred a variety of honorary degrees on 72 monks, foreign leaders and prominent individuals from 1921 to 2020, including

the honorary doctors of literature and law. Honorary Doctor of Literature degrees were conferred upon members of the Sangha – Aggamaha Pandita Bhaddanta Silananda Bhivamsa, Bhaddanta Mārābhivamsa, and Bhaddanta Nyanisara – and those Honorary Doctor of Law degrees were conferred upon international leaders, namely Yugoslav President Marshal Tito and Vietnamese President Ho Chi Minh.

The Senior General visited the University's Central Library, where officials reported on systematic keeping of ancient books and publications, and arrangements for students to read the books and publications. The Senior General gave necessary guidance and fulfilled the needs. He signed the guest book of the library. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

National Development Hinges on Citizens' Education ...

FROM PAGE 4

Amid these difficult challenges, we firmly regarded education as an indispensable part of nation-building. Efforts were made to ensure that students' access to learning opportunities was not lost, working tirelessly to reopen schools, from primary education to universities and colleges, as quickly as possible.

It is well known that some destructive actors targeted the education sector in an attempt to undermine the future of the younger generation. Schools were forcibly closed, teachers were pressured by the DCS, and students were threatened. Despite these challenges, the government prioritized security and management measures to ensure that the education system did not come to a halt. We acted with a firm stance that education must never be used as a political weapon. Honest and dedicated education staff, through their courageous efforts and commitment, ensured that students' learning continued uninterrupted. It is thanks to their work that the current situation has been achieved, and we are deeply grateful and proud of their contributions.

The level of development of a country directly depends on the quality of education of its citizens. Education not only enhances the critical thinking abilities of the nation's people but also serves as the only force capable of fostering unity and harmony amid diversity.

For a strong Union founded on a genuine and disciplined multiparty democratic system and a federal structure to emerge, the country must have citizens who are well-educated and skilled. Supporting and promoting education is the **"most profitable investment"** for the nation's future. By receiving today's honorary degree, I am further encouraged to continue striving in the coming years to advance Myanmar's education sector and help build a nation rich in educated and capable citizens.

Even though natural resources are extremely scarce, we must take careful note of examples where countries have become global economic powers by building their development on education. Looking at the post-World War II recovery of Japan, which rebuilt from devastation, and South Korea, which endured severe civil war damage, we see that both nations

prioritized the development of human resources over natural resources as a national strategic focus. This clearly demonstrates that a country's progress and development rely directly and proportionally on the knowledge, skills, and quality of its citizens rather than on the natural resources beneath its soil.

The government's increased funding for the education sector, upgrading of schools, and improvement of teacher capacity are all laying the foundational pillars for the nation's strength in the decades to come. All of us must continue to strive tirelessly and wholeheartedly, building on education, so that the country can stand proudly and confidently on the global stage as a modern and developed nation.

We have prioritized reopening schools and providing teachers, even in the most remote regions, to ensure that there is no educational disparity among ethnic areas. This is an investment in education aimed at national rehabilitation and fostering a strong sense of union spirit. We are particularly attentive to the fact that in some remote or security-sensitive areas, young children face obstacles in accessing education. Amid the severe teacher shortage challenges encountered since 2021, the government has firmly upheld the policy that **wherever there are students, there must be teachers, and wherever there are schools, there must be teachers**. We have worked tirelessly to fully provide the necessary security and teaching mechanisms. In areas with teacher shortages, we are also training local youth as teachers and reassigning them to help reduce educational gaps.

Looking ahead, our educational goal is to implement reforms and improvements under the principle: **"From quality education towards national strength"**. Observing most developed countries today, we see that supporting locally based vocational and technical education not only reduces unemployment but also strengthens regional production and boosts economic performance. As an agricultural and livestock-based country, we can learn from these successful models. By aligning the State's policies on agriculture, livestock, and industrial technology with regional production strengths, we can enhance domestic production from

the ground up and steadily promote the nation's economic development.

As a result, young people will gain greater employment opportunities. Expanding and opening schools focused on industrial, agricultural, and livestock institutes is intended to provide those who complete basic education but cannot continue to university with practical skills for self-reliance, while also supplying skilled workers to support the nation's production sectors.

Distinguished guests

Viewing the science and technology sector as a source of the nation's future strength, we have worked to enhance the quality of technological and computer universities. In particular, the opening of world-class institutions such as Naypyitaw State Academy and Naypyitaw Polytechnic University, along with the establishment of Polytechnic Universities in each region and state, represents a major step toward producing the highly skilled engineers and research scientists that the country needs.

Furthermore, since teacher quality is crucial for improving educational standards, educational universities and degree colleges are being upgraded. Teachers are expected not only to master modern methods and systems but also to cultivate a new generation with patriotism and strong moral character. To support this responsibility, the State will continuously provide the necessary policy guidance and socioeconomic support.

One thing I want to encourage all scholars, teachers, and administrators serving in the education sector to keep in mind is that education does not exist only within classrooms; it is the foundational pillar that shapes the nation's future destiny. The policies we set and the programmes we plan must not remain only on paper; they need to be practically implemented on the ground. In particular, teachers play a crucial leadership role in modernizing the education system. Universities must become centres that generate innovation for the nation. Therefore, educational policies at universities will place strong emphasis on developing **research-based institutions**. Universities and colleges are also encouraged to align their disciplinary research with the practical needs of the State.

Teachers have to simply teach students knowledge and skills; they must also serve as role models in fostering patriotism and strong moral character. If teachers and students work together diligently and harmoniously, a generation of well-rounded and capable young people will emerge, serving as valuable human resources for the nation.

The reforms we have implemented will serve as strong foundational pillars for the country's socioeconomic development for many years to come. In line with the honorary degree conferred upon me, I wish to express that, on behalf of the State, I will continue to actively support and promote the modernization and advancement of education as a national priority, without losing momentum.

I will always consider myself an alumnus of the University of Yangon and, in that spirit, continue to support and assist in its development from all angles so that it can become a world-class university, honouring its past prestige. Efforts are being made not only to preserve the university's historic buildings but also to ensure that teaching and research meet international standards. This aims to create a proud educational environment for future generations. The University of Yangon will continue to stand as a **beacon of knowledge**, nurturing outstanding human resources for the nation for many decades to come.

In conclusion, I view the honorary doctorate awarded to me today not just as a personal honour, but as recognition for all the teachers and education officials who are diligently working to advance the nation's education sector. I do not accept this honorary degree as an individual achievement; rather, I see it as a new responsibility to serve the country. It inspires me to further dedicate my efforts to fulfilling educational duties for the State and the people.

If all of us work together, building the nation on education, Myanmar will surely become a strong and respected country on the global stage in the not-too-distant future. I pledge to continue striving to make the nation's and its citizens' future brighter and stronger, fulfilling the hopes of the people. I would like to conclude by expressing my gratitude to the Rector of the University of Yangon and all senior fellows for this honour. — MNA/TTA

Socioeconomic gains for rural communities reflect national progress

- ❖ “As rural residents primarily rely on agriculture and livestock businesses for their livelihoods, improving the socioeconomic life of rural communities would contribute to national economic growth and help reduce poverty.”
- ❖ “We have prioritized the improvement of the rural economy, and we will continue efforts to enhance the socioeconomic life of rural communities.”

(Excerpt from the speech delivered by Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with departmental officials and town elders in Myeik of Taninthayi Region to talk about regional development on 19 September 2025)

Acting President Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attends special convocation dinner at Yangon University

To mark the awarding of the Honorary Doctor of Public Administration (DPA honoris causa) by Yangon University to Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, The Yangon University Special Graduation Dinner to mark, was held yesterday evening at the Yangon University Convocation Hall.

The ceremony was attended by the Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, the Secretary of the Commission General Ye Win Oo and his wife, members of the Commission and their wives, Union Ministers and their wives, the Chief Minister of Yangon Region; senior Tat-



Acting President and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presents cash rewards to performing students at yesterday's dinner reception.

madaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, the Commander of the Yangon Command, deputy

ministers, the Rector of Yangon University, specially invited rectors of international universities, honorary professors, pro-

fessors, guests, and officials.

The Senior General, and those present, then enjoyed a dinner in honour of the event.

During the dinner, students from Yangon University, Yangon University of Education, YUFL, Yangon University of Economics, East Yangon University, and the National University of Arts and Culture (Yangon), along with renowned singers, performed songs and dances.

After the dinner, the Senior General was presented with honorary gifts by Professor Andrei Dragomirovich Khlutkov, Director Principal of the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration, Saint Petersburg, the Russian Federation, and Professor Kaigorodov Evgeny Viktorovich, First Vice-Rector of the Altai State Pedagogical University.

After the dinner, the Senior General and wife presented flowers and honoraria to the students and renowned artistes who performed, and extended greetings to them. — MNA/TH

Researchers' creative capacity key...

FROM PAGE 5

He continued that proper findings through research can build a better society. Countries that invest in research gain long-term benefits. Therefore, the government is supporting universities with research budgets, laboratory equipment, and research centres.

Moreover, the research-based learning system is also used at universities, and it should nurture the students to improve their scope of knowledge and critical thinking skills through various activities such as the cultural event, group activities for environmental conservation, youths' dialogue and

discussion on job opportunities.

At the conference, 312 research papers from 33 different subjects in the arts and sciences will be presented. Awards will be given for the best research and research papers. Selected high-quality papers will be published in research journals.

He then appreciated the local and foreign researchers who read out the papers and made assessments.

He also mentioned the Science Fair that is being held together with the conference, featuring subject exhibitions, science demonstrations, competitions, and AI exhibitions, market fair of different depart-

ments, ethnic sports events and fun activities.

He stated that such a science fair will increase students' interest in science and technology, including AI, nuclear technology, and entrepreneurship.

Research results from the conference and science fair will help the government develop effective policies for different sectors and regions, ensuring the development of the country and national unity.

He continued that science and innovation can benefit the manufacturing sector, job creation and sustainable economic development of the country.

The research from differ-

ent fields can also benefit food security, cyber security and response to natural disaster such as the security of the citizens, State stability and tranquility and development.

He then highlighted the role of researchers and urged them to participate in nation-building measures actively. After the ceremonial procedures, Union Minister for Education Dr Chaw Chaw Sein presented commemorative gifts to the Acting President.

The Senior General had a documentary photo taken together with the attendees, and observed the galleries of different universities at the event.

The 25th Arts and Science Research Conference of the Myanmar Academy of Arts and Science and Science Fair (2026) was held, aiming to improve education level of the country through educational research guidance and encouragement, to award the best research through discussion by encouraging to conduct international-level research for higher education research quality, and to publish selected research papers from the conference in journals. The events will be held until 7 February, and the local and foreign researchers will participate in them. — MNA/KTZH

Develop top-quality educational human resources

IT IS essential to have an abundant pool of educated human resources for a country's development. Without knowledge and skills, it is not possible to successfully carry out processes in politics, the economy, or social affairs. Therefore, for the future development of the nation, all stakeholders must work together to ensure the emergence of a large number of educated human resources with strong morale and discipline.

Educated human resources are essential for national development. Therefore, although the Basic Education Law stipulates compulsory primary education, in line with changing times and circumstances, the government during its term has made arrangements to ensure that every citizen can pursue education up to the basic education middle school level (KG+9). Achievements have

In today's era, which is an era of knowledge, only through education can one secure a stable livelihood. Every country carries out its development process through educated people, making the cultivation of a large pool of educated citizens extremely important. Therefore, for national development, it is essential that the State, together with parents, the public, and teachers, work collectively and earnestly to ensure the emergence of a strong body of educated human resources equipped with knowledge and skills.

must diligently carry out their teaching responsibilities and provide students with knowledge in both academic learning and social skills. The State, for its part, has approved annual increases in education expenditures and is providing support from all aspects to expand and strengthen the education sector, while education personnel must also make dedicated and tireless efforts within their respective fields.

In today's era, which is an era of knowledge, only through education can one secure a stable livelihood. Every country carries out its development process through educated people, making the cultivation of a large pool of educated citizens extremely important. Therefore, for national development, it is essential that the State, together with parents, the public, and teachers, work collectively and earnestly to ensure the emergence of a strong body of educated human resources equipped with knowledge and skills.

Hailing the 79th Anniversary of Union Day:

The Enduring Foundations of National Unity

By Laura Htet
(UDE)

EVERY February, the month carries a special warmth for the people of Myanmar. Among the gentle breezes of late winter and the promise of approaching summer, Union Day arrives as a quiet but powerful reminder of togetherness. It is a day that does not belong to one group alone, but to all who call this land home. Union Day invites us to pause, to remember, and to reflect on the shared values that connect different communities, languages, and traditions into one living union.

Myanmar is a country rich in diversity. From the mountains in the north to the coastal areas in the south, from wide plains to deep forests, the land is home to many cultures, customs, and ways of life. Each group has its own language, traditional dress, music, and festivals. Union Day does not ask these differences to disappear. Instead, it encourages people to respect and value them, understanding that diversity is not a weakness but a strength.

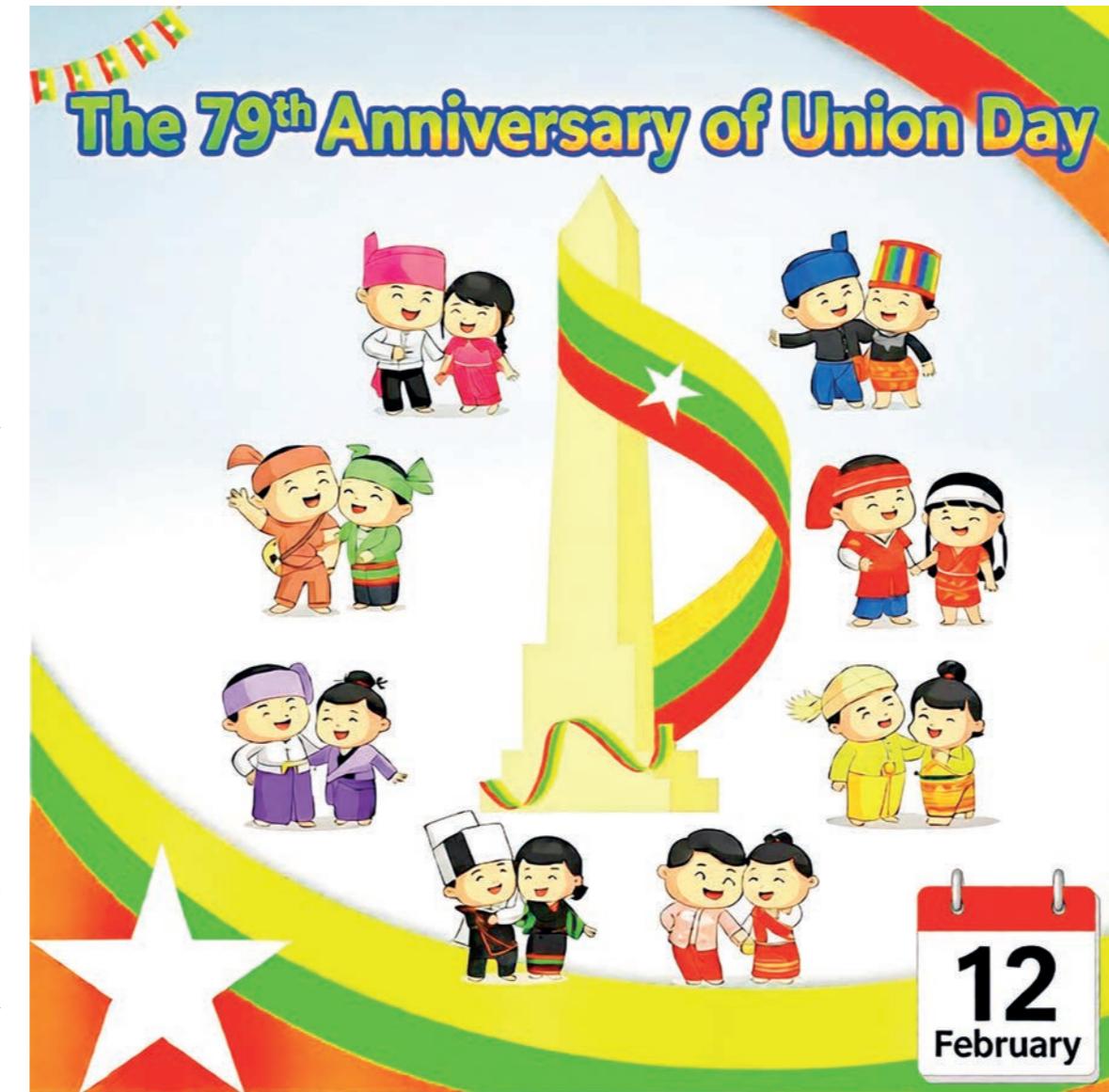
Concerning education, parents are urged to prioritize their children's education so that their children can improve their lives and enjoy a better standard of living than their own. To support the advancement of national education and to enable teachers to pursue master's degrees and higher-level studies, some education degree colleges are being upgraded into education universities. For the future of the nation, it is also necessary for teachers to work together to nurture highly qualified human resources with strong morale and discipline.

Union Day marks a historic moment in Myanmar's journey as a modern nation. It reminds

Union Day also encourages reflection on the future. While the past teaches valuable lessons, the true purpose of remembrance is to guide tomorrow.

Union Day also encourages reflection on the future. While the past teaches valuable lessons, the true purpose of remembrance is to guide tomorrow.

Only through education can people develop the ability to critically distinguish between right and wrong and between causes and effects, and thereby better contribute to the interests of their communities and the nation. Therefore, education staff



through daily actions. It appears when people listen to one another with patience, when they choose kindness over misunderstanding, and when they work together for the common good. Union Day gently reminds everyone that harmony begins not only at the national level, but also in families,

Such stories help younger generations understand that unity is built through trust and shared experience. These simple conversations, held at home, are just as important as public events in keeping the spirit of Union Day alive.

In daily life, unity often appears in small, meaningful ways. It can be seen when people of different backgrounds work side by side, when neighbours celebrate each other's festivals, or when communities come together to support those in need. These actions may not make headlines, but they quietly strengthen the social fabric of the nation. Union Day highlights the importance of

dreams. Everyone hopes for dignity, security, and a chance to live a meaningful life. Recognizing these shared hopes helps build bridges between communities and strengthens mutual trust.

The beauty of Union Day lies in its simplicity. It does not demand grand gestures. It asks for understanding, respect, and cooperation. It invites people to listen more carefully, to speak more kindly, and to act more thoughtfully. These simple values, when practised together, create a strong foundation for peaceful coexistence.

As Union Day is observed each year, it offers a moment to renew commitment to unity. It

The beauty of Union Day lies in its simplicity. It does not demand grand gestures. It asks for understanding, respect, and cooperation

these everyday efforts, reminding everyone that unity grows through consistent care.

Union Day also encourages reflection on the future. While the past teaches valuable lessons, the true purpose of remembrance is to guide tomorrow. The younger generation carries the responsibility of shaping a society based on understanding and cooperation. By learning from history and respecting diversity, young people can help build a future where unity is not only remembered once a year, but practised every day.

In an age where the world often feels divided, Union Day offers a gentle message of hope. It reminds us that despite differences in language, culture, or belief, people share common

is a time to remember that the nation's strength does not come from sameness, but from the ability to stand together while remaining true to individual identities. Unity, after all, is not about losing who we are. It is about finding common ground while honouring difference.

As the sun sets on Union Day, its message continues quietly into the days ahead. The true celebration is not limited to one date on the calendar. It lives on in daily choices, in respectful dialogue, and in shared efforts to build understanding. When people carry the spirit of Union Day into everyday life, unity becomes more than a memory. It becomes a way of living, guiding the nation forward with hope, patience, and shared purpose.

Pain, Shame, and the Evolution of Social Control: A Psychoeducational Analysis

By Khin Maung Myint

This article examines the historical origins of corporal punishment, the psychological mechanisms of shame, and the role of social norms in shaping punitive practices. Integrating research from anthropology, behavioural psychology, and moral philosophy, it argues that pain-based correction is an archaic technology of social control that suppresses behaviour without fostering insight. Shame, as a socially mediated

emotion, reinforces conformity but undermines internal moral development. Contemporary evidence supports a shift from punitive to restorative models of justice, emphasizing understanding, relational accountability, and cognitive transformation.

1. Introduction

Across cultures and historical periods, societies have relied on pain – physical, emotional, and social – as a means of regulating behaviour. Corporal punishment, public humiliation, and moral condemnation were long believed to cultivate discipline, responsibility, and moral improvement. However, modern psychological and neuroscientific research challenges these assumptions. Pain may deter, but it does not educate; shame

may enforce conformity, but it does not cultivate ethical agency. This article provides a psychoeducational framework for understanding why punitive systems persist, why they fail, and how justice can be reconceptualized as a process

of insight rather than suffering.

2. Historical Origins of Corporal Punishment

Anthropological evidence suggests that corporal punishment emerged from early human intu-

itions about power, memory, and morality. In small-scale societies, the ability to inflict pain signified authority and maintained social cohesion (Durrant & Ensom, 2012). Pain was assumed to be memorable and therefore effective

in preventing future wrongdoing. Many religious and cultural traditions interpreted suffering as a form of moral purification, reinforcing the belief that pain could correct character (Garland, 1990).

These assumptions were not grounded in empirical evidence but in survival-driven reasoning and hierarchical social structures. Pain was used because it was immediate, visible, and required no cognitive explanation.

SEE PAGE 10

ARTICLE/NATIONAL

Pain, Shame, and the Evolution of Social Control: A Psychoeducational Analysis

FROM PAGE 9

3. Behaviourism and the Limits of Punishment

Twentieth-century behavioural psychology attempted to formalise these intuitions. Skinner's operant conditioning framework demonstrated that punishment can suppress behaviour but does not teach alternative responses (Skinner, 1953). Punishment produces short-term compliance but fails to generate durable behavioural change.

Milgram's obedience experiments further revealed that individuals comply with authority under threat, not because they internalize moral principles but because they fear consequences or displace responsibility (Milgram, 1974). Neuroscientific research confirms that pain activates threat-related neural circuits, inhibiting the reflective processes required for learning and moral reasoning (LeDoux, 1996).

The empirical conclusion is clear: punishment controls behaviour but does not cultivate understanding.

4. Shame as a Social Technology

As societies became more complex, physical punishment was supplemented – or replaced – by shame, a socially mediated form of emotional pain. Shame arises when individuals perceive themselves as failing to meet social expectations or norms

(Tangney & Dearing, 2002). It is relational, contingent on the gaze and judgment of others.

Shame functions as a powerful regulator of behaviour because it threatens one's social belonging. However, its psychological effects are often maladaptive:

- It promotes concealment rather than accountability.
- It undermines self-worth rather than strengthening moral agency.
- It encourages compliance to avoid exclusion, not ethical reflection.

Shame, therefore, operates as a mechanism of social control, not moral development.

5. Social Norms as the Architecture of Appraisal

Social norms constitute an invisible courtroom in which individuals are continuously evaluated. These norms define acceptable behaviour and determine the boundaries of honour, disgrace, and legitimacy (Durkheim, 1915). Corporal punishment and shame both rely on the assumption that the group's judgment is correct and that deviation is inherently wrong.

Yet norms are often shaped by historical contingencies, power dynamics, and cultural biases. Punishment based on norms risks reinforcing inequality rather than promoting justice (Foucault, 1977). Norms can stabilize communities, but they can also per-

petuate harm.

6. Justice: Self, Others, and the Community

A psychoeducational understanding of justice requires distinguishing three domains:

6.1 Justice to the Self

This involves cultivating self-reflection, responsibility, and dignity. Punishment often damages the self by inducing fear, shame, or internalised worthlessness (Nathanson, 1992).

6.2 Justice to Others

True accountability requires repairing harm, restoring trust, and acknowledging impact. Punishment rarely facilitates relational repair; it isolates rather than reconnects (Zehr, 2002).

6.3 Justice to the Community

Communities require safety and shared values, but punitive systems often satisfy collective anger rather than collective wisdom. They prioritise retribution over rehabilitation (Braithwaite, 1989).

7. Pain as Deterrent Versus Pain as Knowledge

Pain can interrupt behaviour, but it cannot generate understanding. It activates survival mechanisms, not learning mechanisms. Sustainable behavioural change requires:

- cognitive insight
- emotional regulation

- empathy
- opportunities for restitution
- supportive relational contexts

Punishment provides none of these conditions.

8. Contemporary Rethinking of Correction

Modern justice systems, educational frameworks, and therapeutic models increasingly recognize that:

- Learning requires psychological safety (Porges, 2011).
- Insight requires reflection, not fear.
- Responsibility requires agency, not coercion.

Restorative and rehabilitative approaches emphasize dialogue, meaning-making, and relational accountability. They aim to transform behaviour by strengthening internal motivation rather than imposing an external threat.

9. Conclusion

Pain and shame are ancient technologies of social control. They suppress behaviour but do not cultivate moral understanding. Contemporary psychoeducational evidence demonstrates that justice grounded in insight, empathy, and relational repair is more effective, more humane, and more aligned with human psychological development.

Punishment controls the body; shame controls belonging; only understanding transforms

the mind.

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MPI to scale up pharmaceutical manufacturing to meet domestic demand



The Production Department of the Pharmaceutical Factory (Inyaung) is seen processing dosage forms.

THE Myanmar Pharmaceutical Industries under the Ministry of Industry will ramp up its pharmaceutical manufacturing to meet domestic demand.

The pharmaceutical factories (Insein, Inyaung, and Ywathagy) operated under the Ministry of Industry have been increasing their production lines' productivity year over year. The overall output has met 20 per cent of local demand, up from 10 per cent.

Furthermore, the Ngahsutaung Pharmaceutical Industrial Zone is

being planned on the plots of land owned by the Ministry of Industry in Hlegu Township, Yangon Region, and the leading pharma companies from the US, Spain and Japan will be part of the zone. Upon completion of the zone, it will help fulfil the domestic needs of pharmaceuticals to a certain extent.

Myanmar brings in pharmaceuticals and medical equipment worth K400 million every year. The project of the Ngahsutaung Pharmaceutical Industrial Zone is slated to finish in two years. The zone is

aimed at meeting fifty per cent of the local demand.

Additionally, Tatmadaw set up a Hmawby pharmaceutical factory. The private pharmaceutical factories, such as AA and Silver Shine International, are also helping meet the local need.

The pharmaceutical factory (Inyaung) will also join hands with the private sector to increase production of ointment and balm. The factory has called for interested business entities to submit an open tender. — ASH/KK

NATIONAL

Prime Minister attends cultural performance of Chinese New Year

PRIME Minister U Nyo Saw and his wife attended the cultural performance commemorating the Chinese New Year at the National Theatre in Yangon yesterday.

It was also attended by the Union ministers, deputy ministers, regional ministers, departmental officials and invitees.

The Prime Minister and party viewed the galleries marking the Chinese New Year.

After the opening ceremony, the video clip of the Culture of China Festival of Spring was screened.

Speaking at the event, the Prime Minister said the "Pauk-Phaw" friendship between Myanmar and China, which has existed since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, has reached its Diamond Jubilee and continues to remain strong and flourishing to this day. He said by adhering to the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence and by fostering mutual respect and understand-



Prime Minister U Nyo Saw poses for the documentary group photo alongside the Chinese ambassador and attendees at yesterday's event.

ing, the two countries have been able to cooperate closely across various sectors, broadening and deepening the bilateral partnership. He added that mutually beneficial cooperation would continue to be strengthened.

During the meeting between Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and SSPC Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and Chinese President Mr Xi Jinping in 2025, they discussed the enhancement

of bilateral relationship based on the existing Pauk-Phaw friendship, sector-wise cooperation, accelerating the building of community by standing through thick and thin and collaboration in regional stability and peace.

He also expressed gratitude to the Chinese government for providing rehabilitation assistance, standing as a good neighbour during the natural disaster, and appreciated constructive support not only in Myanmar's peace processes, but also in the international community.

He continued that, as 2026 is the Year of the Horse according to the Chinese calendar, it represents challenges could be successfully overcome with wisdom and skill, leading to further development and progress. He expressed his willingness to overcome any challenges through the cooperation of the people of the two countries.

Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Ms Ma Jia highlighted the Chinese cultural norm, the intention of the new year ceremony and extended wishes for the people.

The Prime Minister and attendees enjoyed the Chinese cultural performance and attended the dinner event. —MNA/KTZH

MPI opens tender for partnership at Pharmaceutical Factory (Inyaung)

THE Myanmar Pharmaceutical Industries (MPI) under the Ministry of Industry has invited tenders for partnership in ointment production expansion and new drugs production at the Pharmaceutical Factory (Inyaung).

The open tender has been invited for the ointment production department.

The tender form will be

sold on 4 February during office hours, and submission will be closed by 4 pm on 27 February. The application will have to be submitted to MPI's building 37 in Nay Pyi Taw. For more details, enquiries can be made to the following numbers 067 3408140 and 067 3408370 during office hours, according to the Ministry of Industry.

The Pharmaceutical Factory (Inyaung) was founded in 2003 near Hanmyintmo village in Kyaukse Township, Mandalay Region, and the factory manufactures 40 kinds of pharmacies: 22 injections, five infusions, seven pharmaceutical powders, three kinds of syringes, one eyedrop and two kinds of pharmaceutical liquids. — MT/ZS



The Pharmaceutical Factory (Inyaung).

122 workers cleared for OWIC, overseas job training



The workplace in Japan where Myanmar workers are working.

A total of 122 Myanmar workers have been allowed to attend the overseas job training course and apply for the Overseas Worker Identification Card (OWIC), said the Safe Migration under the Ministry of Labour.

The ministry released the list of 122 workers who are going to work in Japan under the management of licensed overseas employment agencies, who are eligible to attend the training course and apply for OWIC, on 4 February.

Among workers, two are

men, and 120 are women, according to the list. Eligible workers will have to attend the training course on 5 February and do the OWIC application on 6 February. They will need to resubmit if they are unable to do so by the schedule, it said.

Agencies will need to resubmit an Excel soft copy of the list of sending workers, a copy of the passport and a copy of OWIC within a week from the departure date to the Department of Labour: dolmigrationjapan@gmail.com. — MT/ZS

NATIONAL

Republic of the Union of Myanmar National Defence and Security Council

Construction Sector Development Law

(National Defence and Security Council Law 5/2026)

3rd Waning of Tabodwe 1387 ME
4 February 2026

CONTINUED FROM YESTERDAY

- (p) The term **constructor (contractor)** means an individual, company, or organization that is qualified and authorized to carry out construction-related activities such as building, expansion and renovation, maintenance and repair, or demolition, and has been issued a registration certificate by the department or relevant department or authority.
- (q) The term **consultant or consulting team** means an individual, a company, or an organization that meets the required qualifications and has been issued a registration certificate by the department to provide technical advice and consulting services.
- (r) The term **project management team** means a company or an organization that meets the required qualifications and has been issued a registration certificate by the department to carry out services related to construction projects, including planning, supervising during construction, and evaluating after completion, so that the contractor can implement the project effectively.
- (s) The term **quality control team** means a company or an organization that meets the required qualifications and has been issued a registration certificate by the department to inspect whether a construction or related service project is carried out according to the design, in compliance with Myanmar's building standards and guidelines, relevant construction sector standards, and proper construction procedures.
- (t) The term **architectural and engineering service team** means a service company or an organization, composed of individuals who meet the required qualifications and have been certified by the Myanmar Architects Council and the Myanmar Engineering Council, to carry out tasks such as producing architectural and structural designs, estimating construction costs, conducting soil testing, or performing geotechnological foundation works.
- (u) The term **third-party organization** means a company or an organization, composed of experts in construction-related fields, that has no affiliation or relationship with the project owner, contractor, consultant or consulting team, quality control team, or the relevant authorities, and is registered and certified by the department to carry out tasks such as reviewing designs, inspecting and public-use buildings and infrastructure, and conduct necessary inspection during the construction period.
- (v) The term **overseer** means a registered engineer or a supervisor assigned by the project owner at relevant construction sites.
- (w) The term **certificate of quality assurance** means a certificate issued under the law on establishing standards and specifications, confirming that construction materials have been tested in an accredited laboratory and found to comply with the required standards and specifications for quality assurance.
- (x) The term **accredited laboratory** means a laboratory that has received official accreditation under the law on establishing standards and specifications, authorizing it to test construction materials for compliance with standards and to issue certificates of quality assurance.

Chapter II Objectives

- 5. Objectives of this Law are as follows: -
 - (a) To establish policies and standards for the development of the nation's construction sector, so that they can be implemented consistently and effectively managed;
 - (b) To continuously study, research, and apply advances in construction technology in compliance with the country's geographical conditions in order to systematically and modernly develop the construction sector;
 - (c) To ensure that basic infrastructure emerges that is healthy and suitable for the public and users, of high quality, safe from hazards, disaster-resilient, with environmental friendliness;
 - (d) To enable systematic design, construction, repair, and inspection of infrastructure in accordance with relevant rules, regulations, and standards, and to ensure that construction materials comply with prescribed standards;

- (e) To ensure the ongoing durability of completed infrastructure through regular maintenance, emergency repairs, and operational management according to its intended lifespan.

Chapter III

Formation of the Central Committee and Its Responsibilities

- 6. The Union government shall –
 - (a) establish the **Central Committee for Construction Sector Development**, with membership including: a Vice President as Chair; the Union Minister from the ministry as Vice Chair; Union Ministers from ministries related to the construction sector; the Chair of the Nay Pyi Taw Council; Chief Ministers of Regions or States; Chairs of organizations established under laws related to the construction sector; and experienced experts in the construction sector as members, the Deputy Minister of the Ministry as the committee's Secretary; and the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry as Joint Secretary.
 - (b) reconstitute the Central Committee established under Subsection (a) as necessary.
- 7. The Central Committee may, as necessary, assign responsibilities and form leading committees, subcommittees, and other organizations to supervise and inspect whether construction works comply with standards and specifications, and to monitor and ensure the quality of construction materials imported from abroad or produced domestically.
- 8. If it is necessary to address disputes related to construction works, construction processes, standards, and quality, the Central Committee may establish an arbitration body or an investigation body led by a construction expert with experience appointed by the Union Minister of the relevant ministry as Chair; an officer from the department of the relevant ministry serving as Secretary, and other appropriate individuals as members with releasing the notification to assign responsibilities.
- 9. Responsibilities of the Central Committee are as follows: -
 - (a) Adopting policies and standards to systematically and consistently implement in the construction sector.
 - (b) Making efforts to promote the study and research of advancing construction technologies in line with the times, and facilitating the dissemination of technologies that are compatible with the country.
 - (c) Approving and rejecting the proposals submitted by relevant departments or organizations to carry out construction projects with the Union budget of the Union government or foreign loans or aids; or proposals by the relevant leading committees to construct the buildings with more than 12 flats or above than 140 feet high or above 68 feet high religious buildings or the less than 12-storey buildings with the basement or the public-use buildings with more than 12,000 square feet area to accommodate more than 500 individuals or the dangerous buildings for the public or the warehouses to store toxics and explosives.
 - (d) Assigning the relevant department or organization or third-party organization as appropriate to check the construction projects carried out with state budget, foreign loans, or grants, whether they meet standards or specifications to repair or rebuild the disqualified projects.
 - (e) Forming the inspection expert teams with engineering professionals to inspect and check the above 12-storey or above 140 feet high buildings or above 68 feet high religious buildings constructed under the private plans, the 12-storey buildings with the basement, the public-use buildings with less than 12,000 square feet area to accommodate more than 500 individuals, the dangerous buildings for the public or the warehouses to store toxics and explosives to repair or dissolve the disqualified projects.
 - (f) Assigning a relevant department, organisation, or third-party organization to supervise the repairing or reconstruction after dissolution under Sub-sections (d) and (e) and approving the proposals meeting the standards by the relevant department or organization.
 - (g) Giving guidelines for construction projects under the law, rules, regulations and standards, and to evaluate them.
 - (h) Assigning duties to the relevant ministry and relevant departments which are taking responsibilities in the construction sector of the State in order to obtain safe, secure, and standard-compliant, high-quality infrastructure at relevant construction sites.
 - (i) Systematically taking a leadership role in architectural and engineering science related to the construction sector; researching, sharing technologies, training for work proficiency, exchange of expertise and technology, and cooperation with international professional organizations and technological research organizations in the dissemination of experiences in architectural and engineering science.

TO BE CONTINUED

Myanmar's finished rattan products are overly dependent on foreign demand, accounting for 90 per cent of outputs while only 10 per cent are locally consumed, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Bamboo and rattan products are supplied from Yekyi Township, Ayeyawady Region, with over 2,500 workers engaged in this business. Over 700 types of Bamboo and rattan furniture and décor, including cane ball, keychain, hat, footwear, basket, handbag, pen cup, tissue box, dust bin, plates, trays, table, chairs, sunshade, dressing table, box, garment rack, hat rack, lamps with unique and custom designs are exported. Over 80 per cent of the products are made of rattan, and 20 per cent of the products use bamboo.

Rattan business operators with skilled rural artisans in Yekyi Township produce finished products. Yangon-headquartered companies such as Bella Interiors, Classic Home and Glorious Family open branches in Yekyi town and run a business model where they supply raw materials to skilled artisans to weave or craft those materials into finished products or supply semi-processed rattan products to Yangon, from which finished products are manufactured and exported to foreign markets.

90% of rattan products destined for export



This photo shows a store offering a variety of traditional Myanmar rattan handicrafts.

Raw materials from Ayeyawady Region and Rakhine State are designated for some furniture and locally used baskets. Top-grade and durable rattan raw materials are sourced from Taninthayi, Kachin, Chin and Sagaing areas for commercial production. Large companies from Yangon city leverage the traditional craftsmanship of local communities by supplying raw materials to artisans.

Semi-finished products are distributed in the domestic

markets of Yangon, Mandalay, Sagaing, Pathein, Nay Pyi Taw, Kyaikto and Bago cities during peak season. Finished products are placed in markets of ASEAN, the Republic of Korea, the Netherlands, Denmark, Germany, Switzerland, Norway and the US. Only ten per cent of the total output is for domestic consumption, and the remaining goes to the foreign market. Eighty per cent of the rattan exports are supplied from Yekyi Township.

There is a customized order

from business owners. There is a wide range of rattan products with appealing designs. They are sent to tourism destinations such as Ngwehsaung, Chaungtha, famous pagodas, the Bagan NyaungU Ancient Cultural Heritage Zone and big cities.

The rattan hat is priced at K3,000-K6,000 per piece. The prices range from K3,500-K5,500 per tray, K3,000-K3,700 per pen cup, K5,500-K8,500 per fruit basket, K7,500-K18,000 per bag and K5,500 per flower vase. The

prices vary by size and quality. In addition to furniture and décor, Japan, Singapore, Australia and other countries also place orders for handbags, footwear and hats made of rattan.

In order to promote bamboo and rattan-based handicraft businesses, improved market access, an increase in production, rattan producers' participation in domestic expo and international fairs and co-operation with departments and institutions concerned with technological upgrading. This business creates jobs for rural people with wages of more than K8,000-K9,000. The sectoral development will generate income and reduce poverty in remote villages in the township. It also contributes to foreign currency earnings and private sector development.

Myanmar's traditional handicraft businesses allow residents to make a living without leaving home. Public-private partnership for sustainable raw material sourcing, technical upgrading, design innovation, capital financing and market expansion is being undertaken. This product will be listed as One Village One Product that can generate foreign currencies from high-end artisanal goods and contribute to the regional economic development. — NN/KK

CBM sells over US\$2M to edible oil importers



Vehicles line up for refuelling at Yangon's downtown petrol station.

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) injected over 1.939 million baht, purchased from CMP companies, into the market after selling over US\$2.089 million to the edible oil-importing 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.

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

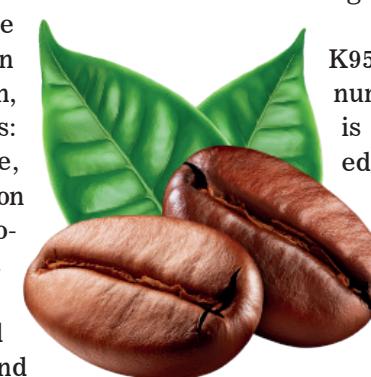
CBM pumped \$34 million, 11 million baht and 300,000 yuan into the market in December 2025. CBM aims to curb the instability in the foreign exchange market and currency devaluation. According to CBM's notification on 15 March 2024, it has been collaborating with law enforcement agencies to combat and prosecute those who attempt to manipulate the currency market under the existing laws. CBM allowed authorized dealers (private banks) to operate online foreign exchange trading freely as per the market rate, depending on supply and demand, starting from 5 December 2023. — NN/KK

Coffee roasting course at Flavour Speciality Coffee, 11-13 Feb

THE Art & Science of Coffee Roasting course will take place from 10 am to 5 pm on 11-13 February at the Flavour Speciality Coffee shop at 117, 38th Street, Kyauktada Township.

The course will offer the roasting process from green bean to perfect roast. Therefore, coffee lovers and those engaged in the coffee brewing industry are suitable for this course.

The course will cover green bean selection, roasting stages: drying phase, Maillard reaction phase, roast profiles: different types of light, medium and dark roast and



roast level control, handling the roaster (machine operation) and sensory and cupping to assess coffee aroma, quality, flavour, acidity and body.

The course will enable trainees to enjoy hands-on experience with practical training under expert guidance. The business runners will also get business insights into the industry and roasting strategies.

The fee is K950,000, and the number of trainees is limited. Interested individuals can register through the following numbers: 09 250848637 and 09 43093313. — NN/KK

Toyota to raise global hybrid car output by 30% in 2028 as EV demand slows



Toyota Motor Corp will increase its global hybrid vehicle production in 2028 by 30 per cent from the level planned for this year. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/TOYOTA CANADA**

TOYOTA Motor Corp will increase its global hybrid vehicle production in 2028 by 30 per cent from the level planned for this year,

accounting for some 60 per cent of its worldwide output, sources close to the matter said Thursday.

The plan, conveyed to

parts suppliers, to make 6.7 million hybrid cars including plug-in hybrids in 2028 takes into account slowing electric vehicle demand that has forced the European Union to scale back its EV promotional policies. The United States has abolished tax incentives for EV purchases.

Toyota, the world's largest automaker by volume, said in November it will additionally invest up to \$10 billion in the United States over five years. The investment covers plans to boost hybrid car production. — Kyodo

Ecuador's EV sales rise in January

ECUADOR'S sales of hybrid and electric vehicles (EVs) saw a surge in January, mainly driven by Chinese EV brands, the Association of Automotive Companies of Ecuador (AEADE) said Wednesday.

The country's EV sales in the period increased from 181 units to 612 units year on year, AEADE said in a sales report, noting that hybrids and EVs accounted for 22.2 per cent in the Ecuadorian car market. According to the report, 15 Chinese brands, including BYD, Dongfeng, GAC, Chery and JAC, were among the 21 best-selling EV brands in January.

BYD led the surge of Chinese EV sales in Ecuador with 311 units sold, a 170.4-per-cent increase year on year.

AEADE added that January became the best month for the Ecuadorian automotive market, with a 37-per-cent growth in new vehicle sales, up from 8,276 units in 2025 to 11,342 units in 2026. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V CHANA BHUM VOY.NO. (914W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CHANA BHUM VOY.NO. (914W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **6-2-2026** 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:

M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V BEYPORE SULTAN VOY.NO. (26002)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BEYPORE SULTAN VOY.NO. (26002)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **6-2-2026** 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

Wind turbine maker Vestas sees record revenue in 2025

DENMARK'S Vestas, Europe's leading wind turbine manufacturer, on Thursday posted an all-time high revenue, but noted that regulatory changes in the United States had made wind power investments less attractive.

Vestas recorded revenue 18.8 billion euros (\$22.2 billion) in 2025, up nine per cent compared to the year before. It also posted a net profit of 778 million euros, a 55 per cent increase.

The group also said it had a record order backlog worth 71.9 billion euros at

the end of 2025.

That corresponds to orders representing 23 gigawatts for onshore wind, its core business, and

eight gigawatts for offshore wind. Service orders represented more than half of the total at 38.7 billion euros. — AFP



The Danish group also said it had a record order backlog worth 71.9 billion euros at the end of 2025. **PHOTO: RITZAU SCANPIX/AFP/FILE**

Transferring Distributor for Registered Pesticides

Distribution and registration processes of pesticide produced by Kenso Corporation (M) Sdn. Bhd. are transferring from GRANG AGROCARE Co.,Ltd. to ESP CONPAMY LIMITED. Any Objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board for the following Pesticide within (14) days.

No	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration No.
1	Kenfosate 480 SL	Glyphosate-isopropylamine 48% SL	F2021-3054
2	Ken-up	Glyphosate Isopropylammonium salt 41% w/w SL	FF2024-370
3	Ken-Amine 600	2,4-D Dimethylamine 60% w/w SL	FF2025-849
4	Kencher 100 EC	Cyhalofop-butyl 10.0% w/v EC	P2022-5897
5	Kenpanil 80 WG	Propanil 80.0% WG	P2022-5898
6	Kendax Q 52 WP	Bensulfuron-methyl 4% + Quinclorac 48% WP	P2023-6027
7	Ken-Pyra 50 WP	Pyrazosulfuron-ethyl 3% + Quinclorac 47% WP	P2023-6028
8	Kendiuron 500 SC	Diuron 50% w/v SC	F2021-3052
9	Kenlon 480 EC	Triclopyr Butoxy Ethyl Ester	F2021-3053
10	Kenlamda 25 EC	Lambda-cyhalothrin 2.5% w/v EC	F2020-2634
11	Kensamide 250 EC	Niclosamide 25% EC	F2020-2630
12	Ken-Aba 20 EC	Abamectin 2% w/v EC	F2021-3050
13	Aphozine 50 WG	Pymetrozine 50% w/w WG	P2022-4458
14	Ken Poe Shin 180 SC	Emamectin Benzoate 2% + Indoxacarb 16% SC	P2023-6063
15	Kimida 200 SL	Imidacloprid 20% w/v SL	F2020-2633
16	Kencepat 75 SP	Acephate 75% w/w SP	F2021-3051
17	Kemeta 25 WP	Metalaixyl 25% w/w WP	F2020-2632
18	Kemet 70 WP	Thiophanate-methyl 70% WP	F2019-2101
19	Vevo 75 WP	Tricyclazole 75.0% w/w WP	P2022-5618
20	Avior 250 SC	Azoxystrobin 25% w/v SC	F2023-4468
21	Anzujin 70 WP	Propineb 70% w/w WP	F2023-4445
22	Kencide 77 WP	Copper Hydroxide 77% w/v WP	F2023-4446
23	Kencozeb 80 WP	Mancozeb 80% WP	F2019-2100
24	Kendizol 250 EC	Difenoconazole 25% w/v EC	F2020-2631
25	Kenconil 500 SC	Chlorothalonil 50% w/v SC	F2020-2629
26	Sanmure 300 EC	Difenoconazole 15% + Propiconazole 15% EC	F2025-4483

ESP CONPAMY LIMITED.

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SPORTS

Japanese coach Keisuke Amano appointed as youth development director

THE Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) has appointed Japanese coach Mr Keisuke Amano as Academies and Youth Development Director to identify and nurture a new generation of young talent in Myanmar football and to raise the standard of football academies nationwide.

MFF signed Mr Keisuke Amano on a two-year contract. During his tenure, he will focus on systematically scouting outstanding young players across the country, delivering coaching courses to improve the quality of academy coaches, and formulating long-term development strategies for Myanmar football academies.

Mr Keisuke Amano is a highly experienced coach holding JFA/AFC

A Licence. He served for more than 13 years as a coach at the academy of Japanese J-League club Kashima Antlers FC.

In addition, he previously worked as Youth Development Director at the Chengdu Football Association (Chengdu FA) in China and as a youth development technical director in both Japan and China. He has also played a key role in developing top-level players such as Machida Koki and Ueda Ayase, who currently compete at leading European clubs.

— ASH/KZL

Japanese coach Mr Keisuke Amano signs the contract after being appointed as Academies and Youth Development Director.



Ronaldo upbeat on Brazil World Cup chances

FORMER striker Ronaldo said he is hopeful of seeing a reinvigorated Brazil at this year's FIFA World Cup, praising the positive influence of manager Carlo Ancelotti.

Five-time World Cup winner Brazil was below its best in the qualifiers, finishing fifth in the 10-team South American group, 10 points behind leader and reigning champion Argentina.

But Ronaldo said Ancelotti had brought newfound confidence to the

national squad since his appointment last May.

"I am very optimistic," the two-time World Cup winner told reporters. "We've caught up a few times and even filmed a fun commercial calling on Brazilian fans to believe in the sixth title. I know him, I know the way he works, so I am much more enthusiastic than I was before he joined the national team".

The World Cup will be played from 11 June to 19 July in the United States, Mexico and Canada. Brazil will begin its Group C campaign against Morocco on 13 June before facing Haiti on 19 June and Scotland on 24 June. — Xinhua



FIFA President Gianni Infantino holds the FIFA World Cup trophy.
PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Olympians take on Bormio's terrifying Stelvio piste

THE Stelvio course in Bormio that will stage the men's alpine skiing events at the 2026 Winter Olympics has a reputation for being tough, unrelenting and dangerous.

Only a few such courses are used on the World Cup circuit, world championships and Olympics and the Stelvio matches Kitzbuehel's Streif and Wengen's Lauberhorn in prestige.

All three have similarities. They are long, all more than 3.3 kilometres (two miles), and they test skiers to the absolute maximum. The pistes feature steep gradients, long jumps and variable terrain, with racers hitting speeds of up to 140 kilometres per hour (87 miles per hour), all the while battling crippling centrifugal forces. "It's like a lion!" Italy's Dominik Paris told AFP when asked what animal might best represent the "ferocious" Stelvio. — AFP



Italy's Dominik Paris in downhill training on the Stelvio. PHOTO: AFP

German Cup final to stay in Berlin until 2030

THE German Cup final is to remain at Berlin's Olympic Stadium until at least 2030 after an extension was agreed with state authorities, the German FA (DFB) announced on Thursday.

The cup final has been held in Berlin since 1985, before German reunification.

An extension to the existing arrangement had been widely expected but the DFB called for upgrades to the entry gates to the 74,475-capacity venue, which was originally built for the 1936 Berlin Olympics. Currently, there are only two entry gates to the stadium grounds which has often led to delays,



Arminia Bielefeld fans and banners pictured ahead of the 2025 German Cup final, which Stuttgart won 4-2. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

particularly during cup finals.

At the 2025 German Cup final between eventual champions Stuttgart and

Arminia Bielefeld, some fans from both sides were forced to wait 90 minutes.

German tabloid Bild reported DFB authorities feared escalations between fans and security personnel.

Berlin authorities have promised improved infrastructure on the stadium grounds, including an "expansion of the south entrance to facilitate access for fans and reduce waiting times", the statement read.

DFB president Bernd Neuendorf said having the final in Berlin was "an integral part of German football and a true highlight for fans and clubs". — AFP

Toyota to raise global hybrid car output by 30% in 2028 as EV demand slows

PAGE 14



Xi, Laos' top leader announce launch of friendship year

Xi emphasized that in recent years, China and Laos have advanced development through mutual benefit, faced challenges together with unity, and supported each other's core interests.



The UNESCO World Heritage city of Luang Prabang, located in northern Laos, is experiencing a significant surge in tourism driven largely by the ease of access provided by the China-Laos Railway, which connects Kunming to Vientiane. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ XINHUA**

Man jailed for Trump assassination plot

A man who plotted to assassinate President Donald Trump at his Florida golf course in September 2024, two months before the US election, was sentenced Wednesday to life in prison.

Ryan Routh, 59, was convicted in September of trying to kill then-candidate Trump, the second attempt on the billionaire's life in the run-up to the vote that brought him back to the White House. According to an AFP journalist in the courtroom, Judge Aileen Cannon handed down the sentence of life plus seven years after a 90-minute hearing, saying it was "to protect the public from future crime" by Routh. — AFP

New START: Pillar of world order dangerous to dismantle: Analyst

NEW START, which limits the number of deployed nuclear warheads and strategic delivery systems of Russia and the US, expires on 5 February. The Russian Foreign Ministry earlier expressed regret over Washington's approach of ignoring Russia's idea of both sides extending the treaty for one year.

Extending the New START treaty is of importance to the entire world, prominent Thai politician and international political commentator Nitiphumthanat Ming-Rujiralai told Sputnik.

People in Thailand and all across the Asia-Pacific are very hopeful that the limitations contained in the New START treaty will be prolonged in the format proposed by Russia, he underscored.

Ming-Rujiralai called New START a pillar of the world order that is dangerous to dismantle, even amid the

ongoing transformation of the world system. The absence of such a pillar is fraught with the possibility of a global catastrophe, the analyst warned. The Russian Foreign Ministry earlier said in a statement that Russia proceeds

from the position that the parties to New START are no longer bound by any obligations and symmetrical declarations amid the expiration of the treaty.

— SPUTNIK



Mobile launcher 'Yars' missile system on the territory of Teykovo air defence missile formation in Ivanovo region. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**