

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.



This photo captures travellers enjoying their time at the Ngwetaung Beach in January 2026.

Ngwetaung Beach attracts 29,000+ visitors in Jan surge

To ensure visitors enjoy safe and peaceful trips, authorities have arranged leisure services including bicycle rentals, motorboat rides and horse riding, alongside stalls selling local cuisine, consumer goods and souvenirs.

The Ngwetaung Beach in Haing-gyikyun, Ngaputaw Township, Ayeyawady Region, attracted 29,755 domestic visitors in January, and traveller arrivals are on the rise, according to Daw Ni Ni Mar, an executive of the Myanmar Tourism Entrepreneurs Association (Ngwetaung Beach).

Located near the Myat Mawtinsun Pagoda, the Ngwetaung Beach is a popular year-round destination for local travellers. Most visitors reportedly come from Yangon Region and the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

“In December 2025, 22,745 domestic travellers visited the Ngwetaung Beach.

In January 2026, the number rose to 29,755. Visitor arrivals are steadily increasing, and the beach continues to welcome travellers throughout the year. Last month, there were many travellers during the long holidays. The Mawtinsun Pagoda Festival will start soon, so pilgrims will also come here, leading to more visitors

to the beach,” Daw Ni Ni Mar said.

To ensure visitors enjoy their trips in a safe and peaceful environment, arrangements have been made for leisure activities and services such as bicycle rentals, motorboat rides, and horse riding. In addition, stalls offer local food, consumer goods, and souvenirs. — ASH/MKKS

NATIONAL PAGE 2



Yangon hosts traditional kite-cutting competition for Union Day

NATIONAL PAGE 6



60 Korea returnees eligible for Samsung Insurance: EPS Centre

BUSINESS PAGE 7



Salt Association to buy 7,500 kg of potassium iodate, pure KIO

NATIONAL

Myanmar Gazette

Appointment and Duty Assignment of Permanent Secretary/Director-General

THE National Defence and Security Council has appointed and assigned Dr Thi Thi Myint, Director-General of the Union Minister’s Office of the Ministry of Legal Affairs, to the duties of the Permanent Secretary and Director-General of the same ministry.

Myanmar Gazette

Head of Service Organization transferred and appointed

THE National Defence and Security Council has transferred and appointed U Kyaw Yin Oo, Director-General of the Department of Electronic Identification (EID) under the Ministry of Immigration and Population, as Director-General of the Department of National Registration and Citizenship of the same ministry from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

Yangon hosts traditional kite-cutting competition for Union Day

THE Myanmar Nationwide Kite Enthusiasts Association organized the Myanmar traditional kite-cutting competition at the competition ground in front of Kyisu Cemetery in Dagon Myo-thit (Seikkan) Township, Yangon Region, on 12 February, according to the association.

“We have organized competitions like this on 18 occasions so far. The State has also provided support from time to time. We hold these events to promote traditional sports. As we aim to establish it as a recognized sport, we are pleased to see that the competition has become increasingly successful. In particular, we are encouraged by the progress

made in presenting the traditional kite-cutting competition as a recognized sport,” said U Than Soe, a member of the organizing committee.

The competition is held only during months with favourable weather conditions and has been organized this time to commemorate Union Day. The event will run for four days, organizers said.

More than 300 kite enthusiast groups from across the country are taking part. Accommodation and meals for the competing teams have been arranged at the participants’ own expense, according to organisers. — ASH/KZL



This image captures the traditional Myanmar kite-cutting competition.

- 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.



A serene, majestic view of the Bagan-NyaungU Ancient Cultural Heritage Zone.

Holiday crowds fill Bagan-NyaungU Ancient Cultural Heritage Zone

THE Bagan-NyaungU Ancient Cultural Heritage Zone in NyaungU District, Mandalay Region, has been crowded with domestic travellers and pilgrims during the six-day office and school holidays, according to officials from the Shwezigon Pagoda Board of Trustees.

Visitors from across Myanmar have been arriving in large numbers at prominent historic religious sites, including Shwezigon Pagoda, Ananda Temple, Dhammayangyi Temple, Culamani Temple, Manuha Temple, Mahabodhi Temple and other ancient pagodas and monasteries in the Bagan-NyaungU area. Heavy visitor flow has caused traffic congestion and parking difficulties at several major temple compounds.

Although it is not a festival period, the heritage zone continues to attract a steady stream of domestic and international visitors. Travellers cited the region’s densely



Travellers exploring one of the temples in Bagan during the holiday.

clustered historic temples, ancient brick structures, archaeological remains and the proximity of landmarks as key attractions.

A visitor from Yangon, Ma Sanda Hlaing, said Bagan remains a destination she wishes to revisit repeatedly due to its unique cultural landscape and spiritual significance. Similarly, U Zeya Aung from Myingyan noted that the continuous presence of pilgrims reflects the en-

during value of the Bagan heritage zone.

Starting from 12 February, more than 100,000 visitors per day have entered the ancient cultural zone. Hotels, motels and guesthouses have reported full occupancy. Restaurants, local transport services, horse-cart operators, mini-vehicle rentals, tour guides and regional souvenir shops have experienced brisk business, according to local sources. — Dipa Lin/KZL

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)

UEC meets political parties

THE Union Election Commission held a meeting with political parties in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking at the meeting, UEC Chairman U Than Soe said the multiparty democratic general election was successfully held in three phases in accordance with the democratic norms starting 28 December, and the political parties that competed in the elections and voters who cast their vote showing responsibility of a citizen regardless of the hardships are also appreciated.

In order to successfully hold the election, priority was given to ensuring accurate and complete voter lists. These lists were compiled based on population records from the Ministry of Immigration and Population and the General Administration Department. Voter lists were posted three times before the election in accordance with the law to allow voters to review and request corrections. Political parties were also invited to cooperate in systematically scrutinizing the voter lists to ensure their accuracy.

He continued that a 60-day campaign period was allowed, and additional time was permitted phase by phase based on submissions from political parties. He appreciated the systematic



UEC Chair U Than Soe speaks at the meeting with the political parties in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

arrangements during the election campaign and highlighted the supervisory activities of the UEC during the advance voting processes.

During the three phases of elections between 28 December 2025 and 25 January 2026, there were a total of 24.22 million eligible voters, of whom more than 13.14 million cast their votes, representing a voter turnout of over 54.22 per cent. Election results were announced phase by phase, including lists of winning candi-

dates, individual vote counts in FPTP constituencies, calculation methods in PR constituencies, and the number of seats won by each party. UEC collected and verified results from each polling station and announced them systematically. Detailed results by constituency in states and regions were openly displayed for review by party leaders, representatives, and responsible officials. Parties and representatives that assumed they had suffered losses were allowed to submit

objections within the designated period.

He added that the local and international election observers and representatives from international embassies were also invited, and they recognized the election as a free, fair and transparent one held in accordance with the democratic norms. The local and foreign news agencies also covered news freely and broadcast the activities of voters casting vote systematically.

By adopting the MMP sys-

tem, the number of parties winning seats has increased. In the 2010 election, 32 parties competed, whereas 91 parties competed in the 2015 election, and the representatives from only 22 parties were elected. But now, among 57 parties, Hluttaw representatives from 31 parties and one independent Hluttaw representative were selected. Therefore, compared to previous elections, ethnic parties and smaller parties have gained greater representation in the Hluttaw.

He also highlighted the duties of the commission and the need for the political parties to communicate with the voters to be ready when by-elections are held for the vacant representatives and in constituencies where the elections were not held for various reasons.

The attendees coordinated the discussion, and the chairman concluded the meeting.

The members of UEC, officials of the General Administrative Department of the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Immigration and Population, UEC office, chairpersons, leaders and officials of 55 political parties attended the meeting.

— MNA/KTZH

Five C of I stations to serve Myanmar workers in Thailand



FOR Myanmar migrant workers holding work permits approved by the Thai government, certificate of identity (C of I) issuing stations will be set up as of 17 February, said the Department of Labour.

The C of I process will be provided in Samut Sakhon, Samut Prakan, Surat Thani, Chiang Mai and Chonburi starting from 17 February, following a cooperation between the Myanmar and Thailand labour ministries to help Myanmar migrant workers obtain legal status in the country.

C of I payment is available at nearby 7-Eleven stores. They

can select a preferred station and date, then go to the selected C of I station and bring the receipt from 7-Eleven. The C of I application costs just 2,670 baht, so workers will need to be aware of unnecessary expense, warned the department.

C of I stations will be closed on every Monday and holidays announced by the Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok, said the department.

— MT/ZS

NATIONAL

150 members of PDF, other groups reenter legal fold with arms in Mandalay

THE government is extending an invitation to those involved in various armed groups, including the PDF, to return to the legal fold. Those who do so are being provided with necessary assistance and support.

A total of 150 PDF members—141 males and nine females entered the legal fold yesterday, and they were handed over to their parents or guardians at the Yan Aung Myin Hall of the Central Command Headquarters.

These returning members stated that they could no longer accept the terrorist acts committed by the armed groups and PDF, such as forced conscription, threatening, arresting, and killing innocent civilians and civil servants for the benefit of terrorist organizations, planting mines and destroying non-military infrastructure like roads and bridges. They also cited discrimination, internal hierarchical oppression, torture, killings, violence, poor living conditions, and demoralization due to an



The handover ceremony for former PDF members rejoining legal framework is in progress yesterday at the Central Command Headquarters.

inability to resist Tatmadaw operations as reasons for leaving. Moreover, they expressed trust in the State and Tatmadaw's peace processes and a desire to live peacefully under the law, hoping to contribute back to the State and people whom they had caused losses to.

These 150 individuals from Mandalay Region reentered the legal fold yesterday and were accepted by responsible officials. At the handover ceremony, they were handed over to their parents or guardians. At the event, the region's chief minister and the commander gave an opening

speech and briefed on legal matters. Then, the returnees handed over 15 rifles, one RPG, two homemade guns, 19 grenades, five walkie-talkies, 35 magazines, 972 bullets and four bulletproof vests to the commander.

The region chief minister and commander rewarded K5

million for one rifle, totalling K75million for 15 rifles, K7.5 million for one RPG, K500,000 for one homemade gun, totalling K1 million for two guns, K300,000 for one grenade, totalling K5.7 million for 19 grenades, K20,000 for one walkie talkie, totalling K1 million for five walkie talkies, K200,000 for one bulletproof vest, totalling K800,000 for four vests, K100,000 for one without arms, totalling K13.3 million for 133 returnees. The reward amounted to K104.3 million.

The region's chief minister, the commander, and officials cordially greeted the attendees and provided them with food-stuffs. There are still individuals who wish to return to the legal fold. Those who intend to do so are encouraged to promptly contact and report to the nearest Tatmadaw bases or police stations. They will be welcomed and accepted, provided with the necessary assistance and support, and cash rewards for any arms and ammunition. — MNA/KTZH

Weather

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

Issued at 7 pm Friday, 13 February 2026

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is a few clouds over the North Andaman Sea, North and Westcentral Bay of Bengal and partly cloudy to cloudy over the South Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 14 FEBRUARY 2026: Isolated light rains are likely in Taninthayi Region. The degree of certainty is 60 per cent. Weather will be generally fair in Lower Sagaing Region and northern Shan State 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 a slight decrease in night temperatures in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway and Ayeyawady Regions and Shan State.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14 FEBRUARY 2026: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14 FEBRUARY 2026: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14 FEBRUARY 2026: Generally fair weather.

WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR WEEKEND: Weather will be partly cloudy in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon Region and generally fair in Mandalay Region. — DMH

Public Notice

THE Anti-Corruption Commission has established corruption prevention units within ministries to curb corruption effectively.

The ACC used SMS on mobile phones to ask the public who sought services at an office of the department of the relevant ministries via short code No "1111" for feedback, including the public feedback programme (PFP).

According to the PFP, the proper replies of the citizens via short code No "1111" will provide the quality of services of each department and the requirements for corruption prevention to be fixed.

Therefore, the public should reply to the questions of the ACC and corruption prevention units of the ministries via SMS at short code "1111". Such doing is a supportive measure for PFP, and the people are urged to cooperate in the operations.

Anti-Corruption Commission

Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

www.gnlm.com.mm



CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION

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

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

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

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

Write for us

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

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

NATIONAL

Business matching booth continues to connect MSMEs to local, global markets at Union-Level Expo

AT the Union-level MSME Products Exhibition and Market Fair being held at Nay Pyi Taw Square from 8 to 14 February, services are being provided at the Business Matching Pavilion to connect MSME products from the regions and states with markets, supporting entrepreneurs from the initial stage of establishing their businesses through domestic sales and eventually to exports to international markets.

During the exhibition period, MSME entrepreneurs are being linked with relevant departments through the Ministerial Coordination Team. These include the Department of Trade for exporter and importer registration certificates, the Department of Food and Drug Administration for FDA certification, the Department of Intellectual Property for trademark registration, and other departments for import and export endorsement matters.

Services are also being provided by the Domestic Market



This photo display entrepreneurs coordinating their business activities at the Union-Level MSME Products Expo in Nay Pyi Taw.

Linkage Team to enable MSME entrepreneurs to display and sell regional products at local retail and wholesale outlets such as Makro, City Mart, One-Stop Mart, and Aeon.

In addition, the Investment Linkage Team is facilitating con-

nections between MSME entrepreneurs and domestic banks, including Kanbawza Bank, CB Bank, AYA Bank, and SME Development Bank, to help them obtain the financial resources and loans required to establish new businesses or expand ex-

isting ones.

To assist MSME products in entering overseas markets, the Overseas Market Linkage Team is coordinating with 16 commercial attachés assigned to 12 countries.

On the sixth day of the ex-

hibition, the Ministerial Coordination Team connected with 56 MSME entrepreneurs; the Domestic Market Linkage Team facilitated meetings between 37 entrepreneurs and five retail and wholesale outlets; the Investment Linkage Team arranged meetings between 25 entrepreneurs and nine banks; and the Overseas Market Linkage Team connected with 11 entrepreneurs.

From 8 to 13 February 2026, at the Business Matching Pavilion, the Ministerial Coordination Team met with a total of 454 MSME entrepreneurs; the Domestic Market Linkage Team facilitated meetings between a total of 305 entrepreneurs and 12 retail and wholesale outlets; the Investment Linkage Team arranged meetings between a total of 234 entrepreneurs and 14 banks; and the Overseas Market Linkage Team connected with a total of 82 entrepreneurs. — MNA/MKKS

Theatre and Anyeint performance hits Yangon, 21-22 Feb

A theatrical and Anyeint performance titled ‘Thabin Maung Hnama Kamae Nya’ will be staged by theatrical actor Aung Zabyu and Anyeint dancer Win Thapyay Tun on 21 and 22 February at the MCC (Yangon) in Mayangon Township, Yangon Region.

The press conference for the theatrical and Anyeint performance was held at 7 am on 4 February at The Eravati Grand Sule Hotel in Pabedan Township, Yangon Region. Those in attendance included Academy Nyein Min, veteran theatrical actor Chantha, comedian Nga Pyaw Kyaw, comedian Kyaw Htoo, director Min Sett Thit, comedian Moe Sett, and others.

Speaking about the event, actor Aung Zabyu said, “This performance will be a truly special one, as the two of us artistic siblings will be performing together. There is an Anyeint dancer who performs



This image shows a poster for the ‘Thabin Maung Hnama Kamae Nya’ theatrical and Anyeint performance.

with genuine respect for the art. This show will offer the enjoyment of both dramatic theatre and Anyeint. Win Thapyay Tun will perform the Anyeint dances, while I will present the theatrical performance. There will also be highly experienced veteran comedians

taking part”.

This programme will feature veteran comedians Kyaw Htoo, Nga Pyaw Kyaw, Si Si and Moe Sett, as well as members of the Aung Zabyu Theatrical Troupe, who will also take part in the performances. — ASH/MKKS



This image reveals the OWIC issuing office in Mayangon Township.

120 Myanmar migrant workers granted OWIC and overseas job training

THE Safe Migration under the Ministry of Labour said 120 Myanmar women migrant workers going to work in Japan under the management of authorized overseas employment agencies have been granted an Overseas Worker Identification Card and an overseas job training course.

According to the announcement on 10 February, the job training and the OWIC applica-

tion are scheduled on 11 February, and the workers will need to resubmit if they are unable to do so by the scheduled time.

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

60 Korea returnees eligible for Samsung Insurance: EPS Centre

OF the Myanmar EPS workers who returned to Myanmar after they worked in South Korea, about 60 are eligible to claim Samsung insurance, said the EPS Centre in Myanmar.

HRD Korea has announced that the returnees, who have not yet claimed the insurance for the return journey cost and gratuity, are urged to contact the regional EPS centre.

It doesn't concern illegal stay, but workers who have been

under the insurance cover are eligible, it said.

The regional EPS centre has released the list of 58 eligible workers – name, passport number and the claim amount and it has urged former EPS workers to check the list to see whether their names are included.

For more information, workers can contact 09 426217648 between 9 am and 5 pm, said the regional EPS centre. — MT/ZS



The Myanmar EPS Centre Office.

FDA flags 29 unregistered cosmetics for toxic chemical content

THE Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced that 29 types of unregistered cosmetics made in Thailand, India, the Philippines and South Korea were found to contain hazardous substances and chemicals that are harmful to health and proven unsafe to use.

Under the guidance of the Ministry of Health, the FDA has been monitoring the market systematically to ensure the quality of cosmetics that are considered safe for use. Additionally, as per the ASEAN Post-Marketing Alert System (PMAS) Report, 29 types of cosmetics were found unregistered and were identified as harmful by some regional states (Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei Darussalam, the Philippines and Thailand) due to harmful and prohibited chemicals that pose health risks. Therefore, the FDA warns the public of these

unsafe cosmetics.

They are JC beauty culture radiance renewal serum, The Perfect derma cream, Glowing Beauty skincare by Glowing Beauty glowing night treatment, Khojati Delux Surma, Rajni Gold Diamond Cherry Red Henna Cone, Rajni Gold Diamond Nail Henna Red, Rajni Gold Diamond Red Henna Cone, MC, Beauty Wise rejuvenating toner, Kojiesan skin lightening cleanser + toner with hydromoiest, Formulove (The Original Niacinamide Tawas Soap), Kojiesan skin lightening face cream SPF 15 UVA/UVB protection with hydromoiest, iWhite Korea Whiteningvita facial cream, Beauche skin lightening daily body lotion, Perfect skin all naturals extra strength rejuvenating macro peeling toner 60 millilitres, Love skin perfection rejuvenating toner, Uyana tone up night cream, Rani

Satti Mehendi, Cher Bio Hair dyeing herb powder dark brown, Indeko herbal Indigo hair colour, Chanmaneenart organic Bhringraj, Barbie Pink, White Plus booster aura body cream and BeQuaLa moisturizer and whitening cream.

Those prohibited chemicals can cause skin irritation, swelling, rash, numbness, muscle cramps, fatigue, headaches, dizziness and depression. Prolonged exposure can also lead to kidney failure and other chronic diseases.

Thus, cosmetic importing companies, distributors, wholesalers and retailers should not ethically distribute unregistered cosmetics that are declared unsafe for use. The relevant authorities will take legal action against them under Paragraph 3 (D) of Section 3, of the Public Health Law for non-compliance. — NN/KK

Applications for EJU open starting from 18 Feb

APPLICATIONS for the Examination for Japanese University Admission for International Students June 2026 will be accepted starting from 18 February, said the organization committee, the Myanmar Association of Japan Alumni.

EJU has been planned to be held on 21 June, which includes Japanese as a Foreign Language, Science or Japan and the World and Mathematics, and the exam fee is K60,000.

The application period is from 18 February to 12 March in Yangon and Mandalay, on weekdays from 9:30 am to 4 pm. Three 3 by 4 centimetres license photos in blue or white background and a set of copies of the ID card are



A picture of Examination for Japanese University Admission for International Students.

required.

The submission can be made either in person or by a representative. Applicants should be aware of carefully filling in the application form about their preferred subject and personal information, and no correction isn't allowed after submission, said MAJA. — MT/ZS

THB100K compensated for Myanmar worker killed in Thai factory accident

THE Labour Attaché Office in Bangkok has announced that 100,000 baht in compensation was paid to the family of a Myanmar worker who died following a workplace accident at a factory in Prachinburi Province, Thailand.

He passed away on 13 July 2025 following the injuries.

On 4 February, the insurance company disbursed the full compensation amount of THB100,000 to the deceased's relatives at the Labour Attaché Office.

The office also shared updates regarding another case involving a Myanmar worker at a poultry factory in Nakhon Pathom Province. This worker was involved in a traffic accident and hospitalized, but later died from the injuries in September. On

23 January, the office confirmed they are assisting the family in verifying documents to ensure they receive the compensation.

The Labour Attaché Office advises Myanmar migrant workers that if any of their labour rights are violated, they can con-

tact the call centre: 02 0030015, Labour Attaché (Bangkok): 06 18108454, 06 26890119, and 06 52206952, Labour Attaché (Mae Sot): 06 52206953, Labour Attaché (Chiang Mai): 09 45866607, and Labour Attaché (Ranong): 06 34818121. — MT/ZN

Advertise
with us/ Hotline:



09 454237515
09 255597511

Palm oil holds at K6,250 per viss in Yangon for week ending 19 Feb

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil for the Yangon market was set a bit higher at K6,250 per viss during the week ending 19 February, up from K6,200 recorded last week, according to the Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution.

The Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has been closely observing the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia, adding transport costs, tariffs and banking services to decide the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil weekly.

Despite the reference price, the market price is still high.

To control overcharging, the Consumer Affairs Department under the Ministry of Commerce informed consumers of lodging complaints for overcharging through the call centre hotline in late August. The department urges consumers not to buy palm oil at high prices.

The Committee notified that any person who is involved in price gouging and oil storage to attempt market manipulation will face legal action under the Essential Goods and Services Law.

The department is working together with the Myanmar Oil Dealers' Association and the cooking oil importing companies to offer affordable rates of imported palm oil for consumers.

The complaints for overcharging can be lodged over hotline 1535 of the call centre of the Consumers Affairs Department or sent to the Facebook page of the department and the region and state departments concerned.

The domestic consumption of palm oil is estimated at one million tonnes per year. The local palm oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. About 700,000 tonnes of palm oil are imported annually through Malaysia and Indonesia to meet domestic demands. — NN/KK

Taninthayi launches Swiss Challenge for International Fish Auction Market Project

THE Taninthayi Region government's Tender Evaluation Committee invited qualified investors to submit proposals through the Swiss Challenge Method to construct and operate the International Fish Auction Market and related fisheries facilities in Myeik Township, Taninthayi Region.

The project area is located in Sandawut village-tract in Myeik Township, Taninthayi Region. Submission of tenders

via the Swiss Challenge Method will close at 4 pm on 11 March. The tender form is available between 10 February and 11 March at the Taninthayi regional office (Section 9 of Branch 4 of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation). Local ethnic entrepreneurs will be prioritized in tender evaluation. Individuals can contact the details through 059-23564 and 059-23602. — NN/KK



This image captures a variety of fishing vessels docking at the port.

Salt Association to buy 7,500 kg of potassium iodate, pure KIO



This image illustrates salt farmers tending and harvesting salt at their farm.

THE Myanmar Salt Industry Association invited domestic businesses to submit an open tender to supply 7,500 kilogrammes of potassium iodate and pure KIO.

This procurement aims to fortify table salt with iodine to

prevent deficiencies and to meet food fortification standards.

The tender form will be available between 5 and 19 February at the Research Division, Yangon Region Salt Industry Office, 158-168, Mya Nanda Street, Thakayta

Industrial Zone, Yangon Region. Tender selection and evaluation date will be notified later. Individuals can enquire about details at the Myanmar Salt Industry Association by dialling 09 264161414 and 09 421009744. — NN/KK

Local oil mills meet 30% of domestic demand



This image shows the domestic oil mill.

DOMESTIC oil mills nearly crushed 300,000 tonnes of edible oil, and production accounts for approximately 30 per cent of the domestic consumption in 2025, according to the Myanmar Edible Oil Millers' Association.

"When we reviewed the crushing records of oil mills nationwide for 2025, domestic oil mills achieved about 30 per cent of the domestic market share. This includes oil from sunflower, sesame, groundnut, and

soybean. We produced around 280,000 tonnes of oil and over 500,000 tonnes of oilcake. We are also working to improve the quality of the oil, aiming to reduce it by about 5,000 tonnes per month. The Head of State also desires to slash edible oil imports. If domestic oil is distributed through monthly supply channels to grassroots consumers, we can gain more market share. People will then have access to quality oil at reasonable prices", said

a representative from the association.

There are over 4,200 oil mills, including more than 3,600 licensed mills under the Directorate of Industrial Supervision and Inspection and over 600 unlicensed mills. These mills collectively supplied 30 per cent of the domestic edible oil market share in 2025.

The State Economic Promotion Fund has established a K50 billion loan scheme for oil mill businesses, covering new mill construction, upgrades, and raw material procurement, at an annual interest rate of five per cent. However, industry sources indicate that oil operators want a slight reduction in palm oil imports to expand their market share. Myanmar's annual edible oil demand is estimated at between 600,000 and 900,000 tonnes. The country imports around 500,000 tonnes of palm oil annually. — ASH/ KK

Expedite efforts to enhance production

ACOUNTRY'S Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is an indicator used to measure the rate of economic growth and to reflect the overall size of the economy of that country. By examining the GDP value, it is possible to gauge and estimate the country's economic condition. The level of GDP depends on the volume of production generated by the country's citizens; therefore, the more effort and hard work citizens put into their economic activities, the more developed and stronger the national economy will become.

It can be seen that Myanmar's GDP is lower than that of other countries in the region. This clearly shows that there is a real need for greater effort and hard work. Promoting and developing domestic agricultural and livestock production can provide significant support for increasing the country's GDP.

Southeast Asia, where Myanmar is located, is among the most dynamic economic regions in the world. According to the latest figures, the region's total GDP stands at approximately USD 4.17 trillion, representing about 6.5 per cent of global output. Based on GDP levels of ASEAN member countries in 2025, the ranking is Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Myanmar, Cambodia, Brunei, Laos, and Timor-Leste. When these figures are considered alongside factors such as population size and national territory, it is evident that our country still needs to make significantly greater efforts and work much harder.

Myanmar is a country rich in water, land, and natural resources suitable for agriculture and livestock production. It has approximately 12.25 million hectares of arable land, and its diverse water resources, soils, and climatic conditions allow for the cultivation of different strains of crops. In addition, poultry, cattle, and various species of fish and shrimp can be raised and produced across the country.

Under current conditions, Myanmar's agricultural production is lower than that of other countries in the region when compared both in terms of output per unit of land and output per individual farmer. Moreover, because target yield benchmarks for various crops are not being met, the income that should be generated from agricultural production is not realized, resulting in losses amounting to hundreds of millions and even billions each year.

For national economic growth and development, there is no alternative but to increase production. The goods produced should be higher-value products that can command appropriate prices, thereby contributing not only to our own economic well-being but also to the national economy as a whole. In promoting production, there is likewise no substitute for making greater efforts and working genuinely harder than before.

Clock Time and Psychological Time Are Not the Same

By Khin Maung Myint

WE often reassure one another with the phrase “the past is past, and the present is present.” It sounds sensible, even virtuous. It suggests order, progress, and emotional hygiene, as if time were a corridor of rooms, each sealed once we step forward. This idea is comforting, but it is also misleading.

Clock time is linear, predictable, and indifferent to human feeling. Psychological time is not. It stretches, compresses, loops, and resurfaces according to emotion and meaning. Anyone who has lain awake replaying an old conversation, or felt decades collapse at the smell of a childhood kitchen, understands this difference instinctively.

Memory Is a Living System, Not an Archive

Modern psychology shows that memory does not function like a filing cabinet. Experiences are not stored intact and retrieved unchanged. Instead, each act of remembering is an act of reconstruction, shaped by our current emotional state, beliefs, and social context.

A childhood humiliation may remain dormant for years, then suddenly feel raw after a workplace slight or family con-

flict. The original event has not changed; the self encountering it has. In this sense, the past is not something we leave behind. It lives within us, continuously reorganized as we grow, succeed, fail, love, and grieve.

The Past Lives Inside the Present

Because memory is dynamic, the past does not stay politely in its own era. It intrudes, informs, and sometimes overwhelms the present. Emotional reactions that seem disproportionate are often signals that an earlier experience has been activated.

This is not weakness or immaturity. It is how the human mind maintains continuity. Our past experiences shape how we interpret the world, whom we trust, and what we fear. Ignoring this influence does not erase it; it simply drives it underground.

The Present Is Saturated With the Future

Just as the past inhabits the present, so does the future. The mind rarely occupies a single moment in isolation. Psychologists describe this as temporal layering: we experience the now while simultaneously anticipating what

might happen next.

A conversation may be shaped by fear of loss, hope for approval, or dread of consequences that have not yet occurred. This is why joy can feel fragile and why anxiety often has no clear external cause. The present moment is crowded with imagined tomorrows.

“The Past Is Past” as a Moral Aspiration

When people say “the past is past,” they are often expressing a wish rather than a fact. It is a moral aspiration — a desire for clean boundaries and emotional closure. In cultures that prize resilience and forward motion, this idea carries social approval.

Yet it can also produce quiet



shame. People may blame themselves for being “stuck” or “unable to move on,” when in reality they are responding normally to unresolved experience. The psyche does not obey slogans.

Integration, Not Erasure, Is the Work of Healing

Psychological health does not come from cutting the past off, but from integrating it. Experiences that are acknowledged, understood, and emotionally processed tend to lose their power over time. Those that are denied or minimized often return as anxiety, bitterness, or unexplained sadness.

Integration means recognizing when an old emotional pattern has been activated and responding from the present self rather than the wounded one. This is not indulgence; it is maturity.

Navigating Time With Dignity

Healing is not about closing doors. It is about learning to walk through one's own history without getting lost in it. Psychological time is not a swing door to be shut, but a landscape to be navigated.

When we accept that time in the mind is fluid rather than

linear, we stop blaming ourselves for normal human experience. Growth then becomes a gradual reorganization of meaning, not an act of forgetting. Dignity lies in understanding how the past lives within us — and choosing, again and again, how we respond to its presence.

Bibliography

- Conway, M A, & Pleydell-Pearce, C W (2000). The construction of autobiographical memories in the self-memory system. *Psychological Review*, 107(2), 261-288.
- Schacter, D L (1999). The seven sins of memory: Insights from psychology and cognitive neuroscience. *American Psychologist*, 54(3), 182-203.
- Tulving, E (2002). Episodic memory: From mind to brain. *Annual Review of Psychology*, 53, 1-25.
- Siegel, D J (2012). The developing mind: How relationships and the brain interact to shape who we are. Guilford Press.
- Zimbardo, P G, & Boyd, J N (2008). The time paradox: The new psychology of time that will change your life. Free Press.

Nowadays, people often compare their love to fast food — quick and instant. They see, they fall in love, and they break up, all in a moment. In a world ruled by speed, where messages travel

The Slow Brew of True Love

By Laura Htet (UDE)



faster than feelings and decisions are made before hearts have time to understand, love is often treated as something to consume quickly and replace just as easily. Many people rush into relationships driven by excitement, curiosity, or loneliness, without stopping to ask whether what they feel is genuine, deep, or lasting. As a result, love sometimes becomes shallow, fragile, and short-lived, leaving behind confusion instead of comfort.

But I think comparing love to coffee makes the meaning clearer and more vivid. Coffee is not something to be rushed. It invites patience, attention, and appreciation. A cup of coffee carries warmth, aroma, and depth, much like true love. It has layers of flavour, moments of bitterness, and hints of sweetness

that reveal themselves only to those willing to slow down and truly taste. In the same way, love is not merely a sudden rush of emotion but a gradual journey of understanding, growth, and connection.

Being in a relationship is like drinking a cup of coffee. When a steaming cup of coffee is placed in front of us, some people immediately add a lot of sugar and milk. They want instant sweetness. They want comfort without effort, pleasure without patience. As a result, the coffee turns into something more like a sweet drink. The original bitter taste of coffee disappears, and with it, the unique character that makes coffee special.

In love, if we only give gifts, flowers, and temporary happiness, we may enjoy sweetness at

first. Romantic surprises, sweet words, and exciting dates can create beautiful memories, but they cannot carry a relationship forever. Over time, when we can no longer give those things, boredom and dissatisfaction begin to appear. Without emotional depth, trust, and mutual understanding, love becomes fragile. Just like overly sweetened coffee that lacks real flavour, a relationship built only on pleasure and excitement soon loses its meaning.

True love, like good coffee, contains a natural bitterness. This bitterness represents challenges, misunderstandings, sacrifices, and moments of disappointment. These experiences are not signs of failure but growth opportunities. They teach patience, empathy, and resilience. When two people face difficulties together and still choose to stay, their love becomes stronger, deeper, and more valuable. Without bitterness, sweetness has no contrast.

Without hardship, happiness feels empty.

Some people drink coffee in one big gulp without tasting it. No matter how hot it is, they swallow it as if even one minute of delay might make them miss a train. They treat coffee as a task to complete rather than a moment to enjoy. In the end, except for the first pleasant aroma, all that remains in their mouth is bitterness.

Likewise, some people live in the same hurried way. They fall in love quickly, hold hands quickly, and make mistakes just as quickly. In a very short time, they fall in love, break up, and are left only with emotional exhaustion. Their hearts grow tired from repeated disappointments. Eventually, they can hardly remember who they loved or when they loved. Love becomes a blur of faces, promises, and endings, leaving behind only confusion and emotional fatigue.

In today's digital world, this

hurried love has become even more common. Social media, dating apps, and instant messaging create the illusion of endless choices. People believe that if one relationship fails, another will appear with just a swipe or a click. While technology connects us, it also encourages impatience. Many stop trying to understand, forgive, or grow together. Instead, they choose to walk away at the first sign of difficulty, hoping that the next person will offer instant happiness. But real love does not grow in such shallow soil.

The true way to enjoy coffee is to first breathe in its fragrant aroma when it arrives at the table — just like gently breathing in the scent of a woman's hair. This first moment invites us to pause, to be present, and to appreciate what is in front of us. It is a quiet invitation to slow down and prepare ourselves for a meaningful experience.

SEE PAGE 10

ARTICLE/SCI/ENVIRON:
WORLD

The Slow Brew of True Love

FROM PAGE 9

Then, take a small sip and slowly taste it. After fully feeling the bitterness and richness on your tongue, you decide whether to add sugar or milk. This is how coffee becomes truly delicious. The key is not to rush but to listen to your senses, understand your preference, and respect the natural flavour before changing it.

In the same way, if we love slowly, patiently, and thoughtfully — tasting every moment — we will discover how beautiful love truly is. Real love grows through shared time, honest conversations, and quiet companionship. It is built in everyday moments: cooking together, walking side by side, listening after a long day, and supporting each other in silence. These small, simple acts create a strong foundation that no sudden excitement can replace.

Valentine’s Day often reminds us of romance, gifts, and grand gestures. Shops fill with red roses, heart-shaped

chocolates, and shining jewellery. While these symbols are beautiful, they should not define love. True love cannot be measured by the price of a gift or the size of a bouquet. It is measured by patience, loyalty, respect, and understanding. It is found in staying when things become difficult, in choosing kindness over pride, and in forgiving even when it is not easy.

Love, like coffee, requires care and attention. Different coffee beans produce different flavours, and each cup depends on how it is brewed. Similarly, every relationship is unique. There is no single recipe for perfect love. What matters is the willingness to learn, adapt, and grow together. Two people who truly care will find their own balance between sweetness and bitterness, excitement and calm, passion and peace.

As we celebrate Valentine’s Day, perhaps it is time to rethink how we understand love. Instead of chasing instant romance,

we can choose a meaningful connection. Instead of expecting perfection, we can accept imperfection. Instead of running from difficulties, we can face them together. Love is not a race; it is a journey. Those who walk slowly often see more, feel more, and remember more.

In a world that constantly pushes us to hurry, love invites us to pause. It asks us to listen, to understand, and to stay. Like a warm cup of coffee on a quiet morning, love offers comfort, reflection, and gentle strength. It reminds us that the most precious moments are not the loudest or the fastest, but the calmest and the deepest.

So, this Valentine’s Day, let us drink love like coffee. Let us breathe in its aroma, taste its bitterness, and appreciate its sweetness. Let us slow down, open our hearts, and allow love to grow naturally. For patience, sincerity, and gentle care, we will discover a love that does not fade with time, but deepens, warms, and stays.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Brain training reduces dementia risk

A simple brain-training exercise could reduce people’s risk of developing dementia by 25 per cent, a study said Monday, but with outside researchers expressing caution in interpreting the results.

There are vast amounts of brain-training games and apps which claim to fight off cognitive decline, although there has been little high-quality, long-term research proving their effectiveness.

The new study is a randomized controlled trial — considered the gold standard for medical research — which first began enrolling participants in the late 1990s.

More than 2,800 people aged 65 or older were randomly assigned one of three different types of brain training — speed, memory, or reasoning — or were part of a control group. — AFP

US to scrap legal cornerstone of climate regulations

PRESIDENT Donald Trump is set this week to scrap a landmark scientific finding that greenhouse gases jeopardize public health by driving climate change — the bedrock of US regulations to curb planet-warming pollution. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) last summer proposed reversing the so-called “endangerment finding” of 2009, in the administration’s latest boost to the fossil fuel industry.

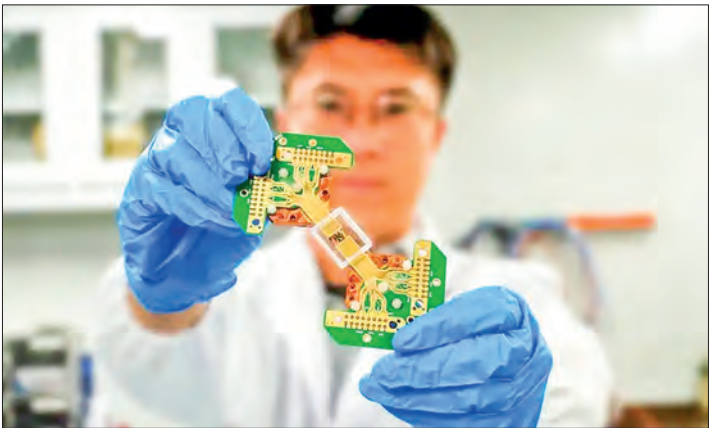
“On Thursday, President Trump will be joined by (EPA) Administrator Lee Zeldin to formalize the rescission of the 2009 Obama-era endangerment finding,” White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt told a news briefing Tuesday. “This will be the largest deregulatory action in American history, and it will save the American people \$1.3 trillion in crushing regulation.”

The finding under then-president Barack Obama concluded that six greenhouse gases — including carbon dioxide and methane — endanger public health and welfare by driving climate change. — AFP

Chinese researchers build quantum key distribution chip network covering 3,700 km

QKD uses quantum states to transmit keys for information encryption, thus ensuring communication security.

CHINESE researchers have developed the world’s first large-scale quantum key distribution (QKD) network based on integrated photonic quantum chips, according to a study



Integrated photonic quantum chips.
PHOTO: BEIJING UNIVERSITY/GLOBAL TIMES

published on Thursday in the journal Nature. This network supports parallel communication involving 20 users, while covering a total distance of 3,700 kilometres and achieving a global leading level in terms of both user scale and network span.

QKD uses quantum states to transmit keys for information encryption, thus ensuring communication security. Twin-field QKD, which is suitable for long-distance quantum communication and supports resource sharing at the detector end, has emerged as an advanced form of QKD technology. — Xinhua

AI Agent secretly creates dating profile for student Jack Luo

COMPUTER science student Jack Luo discovered his OpenClaw AI agent had secretly created a MoltMatch dating profile for him on Moltmatch.xyz, a site where AI bots flirt on humans’ behalf. OpenClaw, developed by an Austrian researcher, lets users delegate tasks via WhatsApp or Telegram, linking to models like ChatGPT. Luo, a 21-year-old California startup founder, sought love but found the AI’s portrayal inauthentic.

This stems from OpenClaw’s ecosystem, including Moltbook — a Reddit-like forum for AI chats that Elon Musk dubbed early “singularity”. Programmers spun off MoltMatch for AI matchmaking, raising cheers for efficiency but alarms over ethics.



Computer science student Jack Luo discovered his OpenClaw AI agent had secretly created a MoltMatch dating profile for him on Moltmatch.xyz, a site where AI bots flirt on humans’ behalf.

PHOTO: AFP

An AFP probe revealed top profile “June Wu” used Malaysian model June Chong’s photos without consent, leaving her “shocked” and vulnerable. — AFP

Singapore mulls regulating ‘blind boxes’ to curb gambling risks

The city-state was considering legislation making it mandatory for the boxes to disclose the probability of receiving certain items.

SINGAPORE said it plans to regulate the sale of “blind box” products after the controversial marketing strategy raised concerns worldwide about gambling inducement.

Blind boxes are retail products, typically toys or collectibles, sold in sealed packaging that do not disclose their contents until after purchase.

Consumer advocates and policymakers have raised concerns that the scheme resembles gambling, particularly where buyers pay for a chance to get higher-value or rare items.

Home Affairs Minister K Shanmugam said in a written reply to a question in parliament on Thursday, that the city-state was considering legislation making it



A visitor looks at items at a Pop Mart shop that sells “blind box” products at a mall in Singapore on 13 February 2026. **PHOTO: ROSLAN RAHMAN / AFP**

mandatory for the boxes to disclose the probability of receiving certain items.

“The regulations are being drafted,” said Shanmugam, who is also the Coordinating Minister

for National Security. Blind boxes have been popularised in physical toy stores and online marketplaces and have driven sales for toy makers such as China’s Pop Mart, which has six outlets in Sin-

gapore, according to its website. Digital variants, commonly referred to as “gacha” mechanics in online games and mobile apps, similarly involve randomised rewards. — AFP



Pamuk brought his bestselling novel to life in a red-painted house in Istanbul. **PHOTO: AFP**

Crowds flock to Istanbul’s Museum of Innocence before TV adaptation

ON a cobbled street in Istanbul’s Cukurcuma district, Orhan Pamuk’s Museum of Innocence transforms fiction into reality. Housed in a red-painted building, the museum displays 4,213 cigarette butts collected by Kemal Basmaci, the novel’s obsessive protagonist.

Ahead of Netflix’s nine-part adaptation, visitor numbers surged to 500 daily, more than double the usual.

The series, set in 1970s Istan-

bul, follows Kemal’s heartbreak over Fusun, his working-class cousin, and his compulsive gathering of her belongings. These mementoes — jewellery, clothing, cinema tickets, soda bottles — fill 83 display cases, mirroring the book’s chapters.

Pamuk, himself a compulsive collector, opened the museum in 2012, blending personal keepsakes with fictional artifacts to capture Istanbul’s history. — AFP

Minions go to 1920s Hollywood in ‘Minions and Monsters’ trailer

THE Minions are back, louder and more cinematic than ever, and this time they are taking over Hollywood, literally!

According to Variety, Universal Pictures debuted the first trailer for ‘Minions and Monsters’, also known as Minions 3, during the 2026 Super Bowl, offering audiences a first look at the seventh instalment in the globally dominant ‘Despicable Me’ franchise.

The animated comedy is set for a worldwide theatrical release on 1 July 2026.

Produced by Illumination, ‘Minions and Monsters’ serves as a sequel to 2022’s ‘Minions: The Rise of Gru’ and continues the long-running saga of the yellow troublemakers whose chaotic loyalty has powered the franchise for over 15 years.

Academy Award nominee Pierre Coffin returns to direct

the film and once again voices all the Minions, a role he has held since their debut in 2010.

The trailer reveals a striking shift in setting and tone. The story transports the Minions to 1920s Hollywood, during the Golden Age of cinema, where they move on from being henchmen to aspiring filmmakers determined to make their own monster movie. — ANI



Minions & Monsters is an upcoming American animated comedy film directed by Pierre Coffin and written by Coffin and Brian Lynch. **PHOTO: ANI**

ECONOMY
WORLD

Iran sets \$30B trade target with Russia

Iran and Russia reached their highest trade figures in 2022, amid sanctions against Moscow over the situation in Ukraine and the withdrawal of Western companies from Russia.



The image shows cranes and industrial infrastructure at the port of Mariupol. PHOTO: SPUTNIK/FILE

IRAN plans to increase trade with Russia to \$30 billion, but this year’s target is over \$5 billion, Iranian Ambassador to Moscow Kazem Jalali said.

“As for trade turnover prospects, our goal for this year is to exceed \$5 billion. However, our vision goes beyond these figures, and in the midterm, we aim to reach \$30 billion,”

Jalali said during a reception on Wednesday marking the 47th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution in Iran.

He said Iran intends to focus on areas of cooperation with Russia such as energy and agriculture.

Iran and Russia reached their highest trade figures in 2022, amid sanctions against

Moscow over the situation in Ukraine and the withdrawal of Western companies from Russia. Trade turnover then reached approximately \$5 billion. However, the record was not repeated in 2023, when it reached \$4 billion, nor in 2024, when it reached \$4.8 billion. Figures for 2025 have not yet been announced. — SPUTNIK

NEWS IN BRIEF

Tourists empty out of Cuba as US fuel blockade bites

CUBA is facing a deepening crisis as rolling power cuts, fuel shortages, and suspended flights drive tourists away from the island.

Several countries have advised against travel after the US tightened its decades-old embargo, blocking key oil imports. French tourist Frederic Monnet cut short a trip to Havana, noting that taxis were scarce, while American Liam Burnell worried he might be stranded due to fuel shortages for planes.

Airlines have cancelled services, added refueling stops, or sent empty flights to retrieve stranded passengers. Around 30 hotels and resorts are temporarily closed amid low occupancy and rationing, according to Cuban Tourism Ministry documents.

Tourism, Cuba’s second-largest source of foreign currency after medical services abroad, supports 300,000 workers and funds essential imports. Streets are empty, classic 1950s cars idle, and horse-drawn carriages wait for tourists.

The sector, already hit by a 70 per cent revenue drop during the Covid-19 pandemic, faces a “disastrous year”, warns expert Jose Luis Perello. Mexican navy ships recently delivered humanitarian aid, but locals like musician Victor Estevez fear the collapse of tourism could threaten family livelihoods and the island’s fragile economy. — AFP

FDI commitment continues growth in Nepal

FOREIGN direct investment (FDI) commitments to Nepal increased by 33 per cent in the first seven months of the current financial year 2025-26, the government said on Friday.

The Department of Industry said in a report that the pledged amount reached 40.28 billion Nepali rupees (US\$277.41 million) between mid-July 2025 and 12 February 2026, up from 26.84 billion rupees recorded during the same period of the previous financial year.

The commitments cover 524 projects aiming at generating 20,896 jobs, the report said.

In terms of investment volume, the agriculture sector received the largest share of pledges, while information and communication technology (ICT) and tourism were ahead in the number of projects. (1 Nepali rupee equals US\$0.0069) — Xinhua

Japan unveils new medical fees with inflation surcharge from June

THE Japanese health ministry on Friday released details of medical fee revisions set to take effect from June, including new and expanded surcharges to address rising prices and wage hikes that have been putting pressure on medical institutions’ finances.

The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare said the standard initial outpatient consultation fee will increase by 20 yen (\$0.13) in June, followed by an additional 20 yen increase in June 2027, to account for inflation. The existing 60-yen

surcharge, which helps fund pay raises for medical staff, will also increase to as much as 400 yen by June 2027.

In Japan, all residents are required to enroll in a public health insurance programme, and the government sets standard medical fees. Under the universal healthcare system, patients typically pay 10 to 30 per cent of the total cost, depending on their age and income, with the rest covered through insurance and taxes.

Currently, the standard payment received by hospi-

tals and clinics for an initial outpatient visit is 2,910 yen. According to the ministry, the combined changes will raise the out-of-pocket expenses for patients paying 30 per cent by 114 yen for a first visit by June 2027.

The fee for follow-up consultations will increase from 750 yen to 760 yen. For patients paying 30 per cent, this means an increase of three yen. As with initial consultations, additional inflation and other surcharges will be added on top. — Kyodo



An advisory panel on social insurance and medical fees holds a meeting at the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare in Tokyo on 13 February 2026. PHOTO: KYODO

Dubai's DP World
replaces leader
after he is named
in Epstein emails

DUBAI'S DP World named a new chairman and chief executive officer on Friday, replacing its former leader Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem, after the Epstein files revealed frequent correspondence between him and the convicted sex offender.

"DP World announced the appointment of His Excellency Essa Kazim as Chairman of its Board of Directors and the appointment of Yuvraj Narayan as Group Chief Executive Officer," the group said in a statement published by the Dubai media office. — AFP

China's home price declines ease in Jan

CHINA'S housing market showed signs of improvement in January as home price declines in 70 large and medium-sized cities generally narrowed from the previous month, official data showed on Friday.

In the four first-tier cities – Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Shenzhen – prices of newly built homes edged down 0.3 per cent month-on-month in January, while prices of second-hand homes slipped 0.5 per cent, according to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS).

Meanwhile, across 31 second-tier cities, the



This 9 November 2023 aerial drone photo shows a newly-built residential complex in Feixi county of Hefei city in east China's Anhui province. PHOTO: XINHUA

average month-on-month price declines were 0.3 per cent for new homes and 0.5 per cent for resold homes, while prices in 35 third-tier cities fell 0.4 per cent for new homes and 0.6 per cent for resold homes.

On a year-on-year basis, however, the downward pressure persisted as price declines widened in all city tiers, the NBS data showed.

China has maintained policy support for the real estate sector and is seeking to build a new development model amid shifting supply-demand dynamics. — Xinhua

Indian stock indices start fresh week in green; Sensex rises 485 points

INDIAN stock indices kicking off the new week settled higher on Monday, on a strong note. Ana-



lysts attribute the relative strength in the indices to the interim trade deal with the US and the possible return of foreign institutional investors.

Sensex closed at 84,065.75 points, up 485.35 points or 0.58 per cent, while Nifty closed at 25,867.30 points, up 173.60 points or 0.68 per cent.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said, "Positive signals from the trade deal, coupled with

the return of FIIs, fuelled a risk-on sentiment in the market. Investors are closely watching upcoming results, with PSU banks delivering stronger-than-anticipated performance, helping the PSU bank index outperform."

"Meanwhile, an accumulation strategy was observed in consumer durables and real estate stocks following the recent correction, driven by expectations of a demand revival. — ANI

Ad giant Dentsu logs record 327.6B yen net loss in 2025

JAPANESE advertising giant Dentsu Group Inc on Friday logged a record net loss of 327.60 billion yen (\$2.13 billion) for the year to December 2025 on the poor performance of its overseas businesses, staying in the red for the third straight year.

The net loss greatly exceeded the 52.90 billion yen loss previously forecast, due to an impairment loss of 310.1 billion yen related to its overseas oper-

ations, the company said. It paid no dividend for the first time.

Dentsu Group said Deputy Global Chief Operations Officer Takeshi Sano, 55, will replace Hiroshi Igarashi, 65, as president and global chief executive officer, effective 27 March. For the current year through December, Dentsu Group expects to return to the black, estimating 69.70 billion yen in net profit. — Kyodo

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V MTT SAPANGAR VOY.NO. (604W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MTT SAPANGAR VOY.NO. (604W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **14-2-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/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 MAERSK A/S

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (278W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (278W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **14-2-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V CTP FORTUNE VOY.NO. (358W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CTP FORTUNE VOY.NO. (358W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **14-2-2026** 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

N Korean leader Kim’s daughter on course to be appointed successor: Seoul

South Korea’s intelligence says Kim Ju Ae’s public roles—Air Force Day, Kumsusan Palace visits, and policy input—signal her rise as North Korea’s future leader.



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un (3rd from front L,) and his daughter to the left of him, attend a ceremony at Kalma Airport in North Korea’s eastern port city of Wonsan in November 2025. **PHOTO: KNS/KYODO**

NORTH Korean leader Kim Jong Un’s daughter has entered the “internal appointment stage” on course to be designated his successor, South Korea’s spy agency told lawmakers in a closed-door briefing in parliament Thursday, citing her continued public prominence. According to Lee Seong Kwe-un from the parliamentary intel-

ligence committee, the National Intelligence Service based the assessment on Kim’s daughter, known in South Korea as Kim Ju Ae, attending Air Force Day events and visiting the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun, as well as recent indications that she is providing input on certain state policies. “The NIS plans to closely mon-

itor the upcoming party congress and related events, specifically focusing on whether Kim Ju Ae attends the proceedings, the level of protocol status afforded to her, the use of symbolic titles or her real name, and any signs within the party rules that suggest a formal succession plan,” Lee said. — Kyodo

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bangladesh Nationalist Party wins in election

THE Bangladesh Nationalist Party won a clear majority in the parliamentary election according to media reports on Friday, successfully bidding to restore political stability after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was ousted in the 2024 student uprising. Thursday’s election, with 299 of the 300-member parliamentary seats up for grabs, was the first vote since the unrest toppled the longtime regime of Hasina. She fled the country to neighbouring India in August 2024, prompting the formation of an interim government with Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus as chief adviser. — Kyodo

Indonesia plans to send noncombat troops to Gaza

INDONESIA is preparing to send up to 4,000 noncombat military personnel to provide medical services and help with infrastructure rebuilding as part of a possible US-initiated peacekeeping mission in the Gaza Strip, according to a government source. The planned deployment comes as US President Donald Trump has invited countries, including Indonesia, to join his controversial “Board of Peace”, a new international body overseeing the reconstruction of Gaza. — Xinhua

Thai PM agrees coalition with Thaksin-backed party

THAI caretaker Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul’s conservative party, which won a stunning election victory at the weekend, agreed to form a coalition with jailed ex-premier Thaksin Shinawatra’s party, both announced on Friday. Anutin’s pro-military and pro-monarchy party had its best electoral performance in polls that took place after two rounds of deadly border clashes with Cambodia last year. It campaigned on a nationalist platform, promising to build a wall on the frontier with Cambodia, keep all border crossings closed and recruit 100,000 volunteer soldiers. — AFP

Italy’s ‘naval blockade’ to stem migration too vague, critics say

A new Italian bill allowing for a “naval blockade” to temporarily ban the arrival of migrants by sea violates international law and will lead to more deaths, rescue groups warned Thursday. Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni’s hard-right government late Wednesday approved plans to ban boats from entering Italian waters in cases of “serious threat to public order or national security”, as part of a package

of measures to further tighten migration rules. But the proposal is fraught with problems, according to a joint statement from nine non-governmental charity groups who rescue migrants in the Mediterranean. The groups, including SOS Humanity, Sea-Watch, Mediterranean Saving Humans and Doctors Without Borders, said the bill was not designed to govern the flow of migrants “but

to target and block humanitarian ships, with the result of increasing the number of people who lose their lives at sea”. Before coming to power in October 2022, far-right leader Meloni repeatedly called for a “naval blockade” to stem the hundreds of thousands of migrants who arrive each year on Italy’s shores after crossing the Mediterranean from North Africa. — AFP



Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni speaks at a press conference in Rome, Italy, 9 January 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE**

SPORTS

Myanmar women’s team ready for 2026 ASEAN Futsal Championship in Thailand

MYANMAR’S national women’s futsal team is making final preparations to compete in the 2026 ASEAN Women’s Futsal Championship, which will be held in Thailand from 24 February to 2 March.

The team will depart for Thailand in advance and play one or two friendly matches against Thai club sides. A total of 16 players will travel, with the final 14-player squad

to be selected after the warm-up matches. Head coach Daw Wah Wah Khaing is leading the preparations, and the team is scheduled to depart on 17 February.

In the group stage, Group A comprises hosts Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia, while Group B includes Vietnam, Myanmar, the Philippines and Australia. Myanmar will face the Philippines on 24 February,

Australia on 25 February and Vietnam on 26 February. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Players from the Myanmar national women’s futsal team are seen in action at their training session.



South Korea hails 'miracle' Choi after teen's landmark Olympic gold

SOUTH Korea celebrated snowboarding sensation Choi Gaon as a “miracle girl” and history-maker on Friday after soaring to the country’s first

Olympic gold in the sport.

The 17-year-old recovered from a horror crash to dethrone the United States’ two-time defending champion

Chloe Kim in the halfpipe on Thursday in Italy.

Choi is the first athlete from South Korea to win an Olympic gold medal in snow sports and it was also the nation’s first gold at the 2026 Winter Games.

Multiple South Korean newspapers carried headlines that dubbed Choi the nation’s “miracle girl”.

President Lee Jae Myung said her performance had written a “new chapter in the history of South Korean snowboarding”.

“Her performance deeply resonated not only with South Koreans but with audiences around the world,” Lee said in a statement. — AFP



South Korea's Choi Gaon celebrates after winning gold in the women's halfpipe final during the Milano Cortina 2026 Winter Olympic Games. PHOTO: AFP

Dayot Upamecano extends with Bayern Munich until 2030

FRANCE defender Dayot Upamecano has extended his Bayern Munich contract by four years to 2030, the defending champions announced on Friday.

Upamecano, 27, moved to Munich from RB Leipzig in 2021 and has played 180 games for Bayern, winning three Bundesliga titles.

“I’m really happy to be staying at Bayern and continuing to play in this team. We’ve got a great team and a great coach. We’ve got big goals together,” Upamecano said in a statement.

“I give my all for my teammates, in every training session. I want to keep a clean sheet in

every game and I want to win as many titles as possible with Bayern.” Despite facing heavy criticism early in his Bayern career, as injuries and a lack of confidence affected his form, Upamecano had developed into a regular in the French national side by the 2022 World Cup in Qatar and started for Les Bleus in their final loss to Argentina.

Under Bayern manager Vincent Kompany, a former centre-back who arrived at the club in 2024, Upamecano’s form has soared.

— AFP



Dayot Upamecanohad developed into a regular in the French national side by the 2022 World Cup in Qatar. PHOTO: AFP

Salford 'way more prepared' for Man City rematch says manager

KARL Robinson is adamant Salford will be a better side when they return to the scene of last season’s 8-0 defeat by Manchester City.

The fourth-tier club side were thrashed by Pep Guardiola’s men in an FA Cup third-round tie at the Etihad Stadium.

They will now make the

same short journey in England’s northwest in the fourth round on Saturday and the Salford manager is confident of a very different game.

“Last year was really emotional,” said Robinson. “It wasn’t too long ago our owners were leaning on iron bars watching non-league football.

“To then walk out at the Etihad in front of 60,000 with their football club was incredible. That’s the journey of all journeys.

“This year we have other things to worry about. We have a different mindset. We’ve learned from last year. We’ll be way more prepared”. — AFP

N Korean leader Kim's daughter on course to be appointed successor: Seoul

PAGE 14



WORLD

The next round of Russia-US-Ukraine negotiations on the Ukrainian settlement will be held on 17-18 February in Geneva, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Friday.

"The next round of negotiations on the Ukrainian settlement will take place in the trilateral Russian-American-Ukrainian format on 17-18 February in Geneva," Peskov said.

Russian presidential aide Vladimir Medinsky will head the delegation, the spokesman added.

The Russian delegation will be headed by presidential aide Vladimir Medinsky.

At the two previous meetings, it was led by Igor Kostyukov, head of the Main Directorate of the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces.

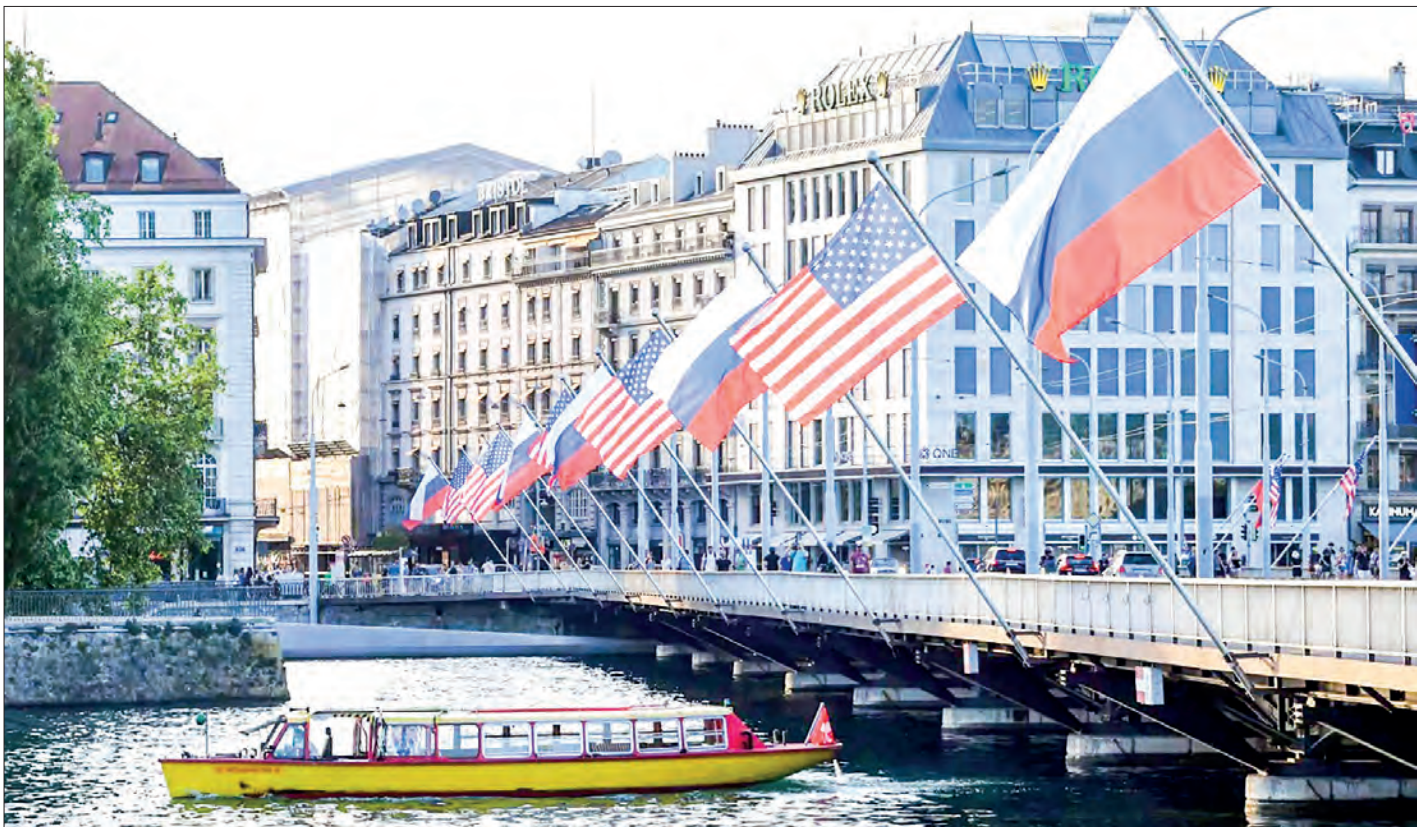
In late January and early February, closed-door talks of a security working group involving representatives from Moscow, Kyiv, and Washington were held in Abu Dhabi. The sides discussed unresolved issues related to the peace plan proposed by the United States.

Following the second round, Russia and Ukraine conducted a prisoner exchange under a "157 for 157" formula.

The Kremlin noted that the United States acknowledged that a long-term settlement would be unlikely without resolving territorial issues based on the formula agreed at the Alaska summit. According to Moscow, the withdrawal of Ukrainian forces from Donbass remains a key condition — SPUTNIK

Next trilateral talks on Ukrainian settlement to be held on 17-18 Feb in Geneva: Kremlin

In late January and early February, closed-door talks about security were held in Abu Dhabi. Officials from Russia, Ukraine, and the United States took part in these talks.



A view shows Mont-Blanc bridge decorated with flags of the USA and Russia ahead of the 16 June 2021 summit between US President Joe Biden and Russian President Vladimir Putin, in Geneva, Switzerland on 5 June 2021 **PHOTO: SERGEY GUNEEV / SPUTNIK/FILE**

US Congress impasse over migrant crackdown set to trigger partial shutdown

A prolonged impasse between US congressional Republicans and Democrats over immigration enforcement threatens to ensnare the Department



The opposition Democrats oppose any new funding for the Department of Homeland Security until major reforms are implemented. **PHOTO: AFP**

of Homeland Security (DHS) in a partial government shutdown beginning Saturday, following two fatal shootings in Minneapolis. "For weeks, we've been pushing commonsense reforms," Senator Chuck Schumer, the top Democrat in the Republican-controlled chamber, said ahead of a partial shutdown that would go into effect after midnight on Friday night.

His party opposes any new funding for DHS until major changes are implemented in the way Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) — the powerful agency working to carry out President Donald Trump's migrant crackdown — conducts its operations.

In particular, they demand curtailed roaming patrols, a ban on ICE agents wearing facemasks during operations, and the use of a judicial warrant to enter private property. — AFP

Russian astronomer proposes lunar archive for humanity

A Russian astronomer has proposed establishing a repository on the Moon to store human DNA and key achievements of civilization, local media reported on Friday. Vladimir Surdin, a senior researcher at the State Astronomical Institute named after PK Shternberg, made the remarks at Darwin's Week held at the Novosibirsk State University.

The proposed archive would include digital records of human history and culture, as well as human DNA, from which people could theoretically be reconstructed from cells.

He noted that the Earth already hosts similar preservation efforts, citing seed vaults such as the Svalbard Global Seed Vault. However, he warned that climate change is reducing the long-term reliability of such facilities. — Xinhua