

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.

Government Steps Up Ongoing Peacebuilding Drive

Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing held a meeting with departmental officials and town elders to discuss regional development at the city hall in Homalin of Sagaing Region yesterday afternoon.

Chief Minister of Sagaing Region U Myat Kyaw and Homalin District Management and Administration Committee Chairman U Ye Win explained facts about Sagaing Region, efforts to enhance health and sports sectors as well as agriculture and livestock sectors, development undertakings for MSME businesses, the successful holding of the elections in the region, implementation of hydropower projects, and progress of regional development undertakings.

Town elders requested the Senior General to continuously establish the youth training school and the domestic science training school in the region, extend the flights to the areas with poor transport facilities, manage the supply of water and electricity sufficiently, complete hydro-



Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits the booths displaying products of MSME businesses from Homalin District yesterday.

All must unite to oppose and prevent armed groups from undermining regional peace and stability.

power projects in the region, efficiently conserve Htamanthi wildlife sanctuary and upgrade Homalin College to the univer-

sity level. The Chief Minister, Union ministers and deputy ministers discussed running of State-

owned and private-run flights to Homalin daily in addition to cargo flights, taking action against those sell goods at high-

er prices, conducting feasibility studies for supply of sufficient drinking water to Homalin, **SEE PAGE 4**



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NATIONAL

- **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.**

Bay of Bengal Condition

Issued at 2 pm MST on 15 February 2026

ACCORDING to the observations at 1:30 pm MST today, a low-pressure area may form over the South Bay of Bengal and adjoining Equatorial Indian Ocean during next 48 hours. — DMH

Chargé d’Affaires ai of Timor-Leste instructed to leave Myanmar within 7 Days

MYANMAR reconsidered its position and decided to go along with the ASEAN consensus on the application of Timor-Leste for ASEAN membership following repeated written and verbal commitments made by Timor-Leste to uphold the fundamental principles enshrined in the ASEAN Charter. However, it is regrettable to observe that Timor-Leste has failed to uphold its commitments and obligations even after becoming a member state of ASEAN.

It is disappointing to note that the President of Timor-Leste received members of the Chin Human Rights Organization (CHRO) who filed a criminal complaint against members of the Myanmar Armed Forces on 14 January 2026. Such unconstructive engagement by a Head of State of one ASEAN Member State with an unlawful organization opposing another ASEAN Member State is totally unacceptable which constitutes a blatant violation of the fundamental principles enshrined in the ASEAN Charter and the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC).

In this regard, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs summoned the Chargé d’Affaires ai of Timor-Leste in Yangon on 16 January 2026, expressed its strong condemnation against such engagement, urged the Government of Timor-Leste to uphold the fundamental principles enshrined in the ASEAN Charter as done by other ASEAN Member States and sought a formal clarification from the Government of Timor-Leste. During the meeting, an Aide-Memoire was handed over to the Chargé d’Affaires ai in which it is stated, among others, that the Ministry will continue to closely monitor the situation and if it is

necessary, more serious measures will be taken. To this end, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar also issued a Statement condemning the engagement as a violation of the long-standing practices and principles of ASEAN on 18 January 2026.

Subsequently, the Government of Myanmar reiterated its strong protests, encouraged the Government of Timor-Leste to uphold its commitments and fundamental principles enshrined in the ASEAN Charter and sought a formal clarification from the Government of Timor-Leste in order to avoid further deterioration of bilateral relations during the meeting between the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar and the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Timor-Leste on the sidelines of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers’ Retreat on 29 January 2026 in Cebu, the Philippines where the Minister promised to send a formal letter to the Government of Myanmar within a week.

While waiting for a formal clarification from the Government of Timor-Leste, the Ministry has learnt with great disappointment from different media outlets that the Government of Timor-Leste has accepted the case submitted by the CHRO and appointed a senior prosecutor to examine the file which has never taken place in any other ASEAN Member States in the past resulting in setting an unprecedented practice, negative interpretation and escalation of public resentments in Myanmar which is ultimately counter-productive to the existing bilateral relations between Myanmar and Timor-Leste.

As repeatedly pointed out before, such unconstructive

activities and negative approaches toward Myanmar initiated by the President of Timor-Leste is a blatant violation of the fundamental principles enshrined in the ASEAN Charter particularly Articles 2(2)(a), 2(2)(e) and 2(2)(k) which underscore the importance of upholding respect for sovereignty and non-interference as well as abstention from participation in any policy or activity, including the use of its territory, pursued by any ASEAN Member State or non-ASEAN State or any non-State actor, which threatens the sovereignty, territorial integrity or political and economic stability of ASEAN Member States.

Despite the good relationship between the Governments of Myanmar and Timor-Leste, the President of Timor-Leste has frequently interfered in the internal affairs of Myanmar. Therefore, the Ministry summoned Mr Elisio do Rosario de Sousa, Chargé d’Affaires ai of the Embassy of Timor-Leste on 13 February 2026 and instructed him to leave the territory of Myanmar no later than 20 February 2026 under Article 9 of the Vienna Convention on the Diplomatic Relations (1961).

Myanmar remains committed to maintaining friendly relations with all countries on the basis of equality, mutual respect, non-interference, respect for sovereignty and adherence to the fundamental principles enshrined in the ASEAN Charter and the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC).

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Nay Pyi Taw
15 February 2026

Illegal timbers, motorcycles seized in Bago, Ayeyawady regions

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

The combined inspection teams under the management of the Bago Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force conducted inspections on 9 and 10 February. The teams seized illegal teak of 59.645 tonnes and

timbers of 8.761 tonnes (estimate worth of K76.7 million) in Ottwin and Thayawady townships. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

In Ayeyawady Region, the combined on-duty teams conducted the inspections on 6 February. The inspection team seized two unregistered motorbikes worth K9.5 million in Hinthada and Myaungmya townships. The other inspection team confiscated illegal timbers

valued at K70,320 in Myaukmya Township. The actions were taken under the Export and Import Law and the Forest Law.

Between 6 and 10 February, a further nine cases were seized nationwide, with a combined estimated value of K86.27 million. — MNA/KZL

Confiscated illegal trimbers in Bago Region.



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)

Building Powerful Tatmadaw Requires Capable Personnel

State Security and Peace Commission Chairman and Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said so at a meeting with Tatmadaw members and families from the Homalin Station under the North-West Command yesterday morning.

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General noted that as Tatmadaw must carry out the State's security and defence responsibilities regardless of which political government is in power. Historical records show that since the country gained independence, Tatmadaw has been involved in resolving internal armed conflicts.

He stressed that the Myanmar Police Force and Tatmadaw must operate together as coordinated forces, and for regional peace and stability, Tatmadaw, MPF, and local communities must collaborate in their efforts.

He highlighted that Tatmadaw is striving to make itself a capable and powerful armed force. To ensure a Tatmadaw that can compete internationally in combat capability, Tatmadaw (Navy) and Tatmadaw (Air) are continuously upgrading and adding ships and aircraft, while Tatmadaw (Army) is steadily enhancing and supplementing necessary vehicles, weapons, equipment, and modern military technologies.

The Senior General noted that Tatmadaw members must continuously study, train, and follow procedures to become strong and resilient, and they must always learn and practise new military tactics and weapons to be able to use them effectively on the battlefield.

He underscored that Tatmadaw must implement necessary changes in response to evolving global circumstances. Educational programmes and research must be continuously conducted. To build a strong and capable Tatmadaw, it is essential to develop competent personnel, and efforts must be made to ensure that Tatmadaw members achieve this level of capability.

He guided that the government is

Tatmadaw, MPF, and local communities must collaborate to ensure regional peace and stability.



State Security and Peace Commission Chairman and Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivers a speech at the meeting with Tatmadaw members and families from the Homalin Station under the North-West Command yesterday.

supporting and promoting agricultural, livestock, and aquaculture production businesses in order to develop rural-based economic activities. By enabling these production sectors to advance nationwide, the government can significantly contribute to the growth of the country's GDP.

The Senior General underlined that all Tatmadaw members have to serve the interests of the State and Tatmadaw as much as possible while diligently carrying out the State defence duties.

In carrying out State-led reconstruction efforts in Rakhine State, the Senior General recounted that senior Tatmadaw officers were assigned separate respon-

sibilities according to each region, and within approximately six months, the reconstruction activities were successfully implemented.

He spotted that as the situation in the country improved, a multiparty democratic general election was held in phases starting from 28 December 2025. In carrying out the election, preparatory work was undertaken to ensure that it was a fair and credible election.

The Senior General presented food-stuffs for Tatmadaw members and families of the station to the station commander, whereas the wife of the Senior General gave cash awards for the station maternal

and child welfare association through the wife of the station commander.

After the meeting, the Senior General and party cordially greeted Tatmadaw members and families.

Also, present at the meeting were Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, the wife of the Senior General, Commission Secretary General Ye Win Oo and his wife, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Htein Win and his wife, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Tun Aung and his wife, senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, and the commander of the North-West Command. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

Government Steps Up Ongoing ...

FROM PAGE 1

efforts to complete Nampanga hydropower project in 2027, needs to grow robusta coffee in Homalin region, systematic use of fallow and virgin lands under the law, increased production of bamboo and rattan products, necessary aid given to conserve Htamanthi wildlife sanctuary, upgrade of Homalin-Kattha-Mobailuk route, needs to maintain Homalin-Kattha Bridge, installation of power lines, and renovation of quake-affected religious monuments.

At the meeting, the Senior General delivered a speech, saying that in certain areas of Sagaing Region, frequent unrest is fundamentally linked to a lack of knowledge and technical skills. Although political differences should be resolved through political means, acts of violence are still being carried out. In addition, some individuals are illegally extracting State resources for their own benefit under the pretext of politics. Similarly, armed groups are extorting money from residents and using it for their

personal gain. These actions are causing suffering for the local population, so it is necessary to work together with the relevant responsible organizations to collectively suppress and eliminate such activities.

In order to achieve a durable peace within the country, he unveiled that the government continuously carries out peace-building initiatives. It is necessary to collectively oppose and prevent any armed groups from undermining regional stability and peace.

To ensure a stable and sufficient supply of electricity in the region, the Senior General noted that the State government is working to complete the Nampanga hydroelectric project as quickly as possible. Moreover, solar power generation projects can be implemented to provide electricity within the region.

He stressed that progress in education is still limited in Homalin Township, and it is necessary to continue supporting and promoting education. If basic educational attainment remains

low, there will also be deficiencies in knowledge, which will slow down the overall development of the region.

The Senior General gave guidance that human resources are needed to carry out systematic agricultural and livestock production activities. It is necessary to implement modern agricultural and livestock practices rather than just traditional local methods.

He added that although the Agricultural and Livestock Institute (Homalin) has been established, the number of students has been low, and no participants have enrolled in the livestock courses. Therefore, efforts must be made to ensure participation in livestock science education to develop human resources who can support livestock production in the region.

The Senior General recounted that the multiparty democratic general election aspired by the people was successfully held as a fair and credible election. To ensure the election could take place, the collection of popula-

Salient points of the speech delivered by the Senior General at the meeting in Homalin

1. Although political differences should be resolved through political means, acts of violence are still being carried out.
2. Armed groups are extorting money from residents and using it for their personal gain. These actions are causing suffering for the local population.
3. The State government is working to complete the Nampanga hydroelectric project as quickly as possible. Moreover, solar power generation projects can be implemented to provide electricity within the region.

tion and household data was conducted in 2024 to obtain accurate voter lists.

Regarding aviation transport to the Homalin region, he continued that the State has been making every effort to operate flights as much as possible. Measures are also being implemented to ensure that aviation transport is conducted in an organized and orderly manner.

Afterwards, the Senior General presented gifts to departmental officials. Ethnic groups from Shan, Chin and Naga natural culture troupes presented tradi-

tional gifts to the Senior General.

The Senior General cordially greeted departmental officials, town elders and residents who attended the meeting.

Also, present at the meeting were Commission Secretary General Ye Win Oo, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, the commander of North-West Command and deputy ministers.

The Senior General observed products of MSME businesses from Homalin District displayed at booths and gave necessary guidance. — MNA/TTA

Successful bone marrow transplants performed on four cancer patients at YGH



Photo shows a bone marrow transplant patient receiving treatment and a medical team at Bone Marrow Transplant Centre in Yangon General Hospital.

IN 2026, the Bone Marrow Transplant Centre of the Department of Clinical Hematology at Yangon General Hospital, under the Ministry of Health, successfully performed bone marrow transplants on four patients with bone marrow cancer who were admitted in January.

The bone marrow transplants were carried out under the supervision of the hospital management team, with professors and specialists from the Department of Clinical Hematology, experts from related departments, professional nurses, and support staff all participating in the procedures. The four patients were a 63-year-old man from Kyaukdaga Township, Bago Region, a 46-year-old man from Mayangon Township, Yangon Region, a 47-year-old man from Budalin Township, Sagaing Region, and a 62-year-old man from

Ayadaw Township, Sagaing Region.

In 2016, three patients received bone marrow transplants at Yangon General Hospital; three in 2017, four in 2018, one in 2019, and one in 2020.

In January 2024, Yangon General Hospital opened a new seven-storey medical ward, allowing the Department of Clinical Hematology to expand and develop the Bone Marrow Transplant Centre into a more complete and advanced facility. Three patients were treated in 2024, ten in 2025, and four so far in 2026, bringing the total number of patients treated to 29.

Bone marrow transplant treatments abroad are very expensive, so to reduce healthcare costs, these procedures will continue to be carried out locally. — MNA/TH

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NATIONAL

Nuclear technology seen as key to developing health, agriculture, and industry

- ❖ “As nuclear energy is a form of green energy with low carbon emissions, Myanmar intends to generate stable electricity from nuclear power and use it to support national economic development.”
- ❖ “Myanmar has a high demand for electricity and is striving to supply power to small-scale industries and rural communities.”
- ❖ “In addition, efforts must be made to further develop health, agriculture, and industrial sectors through nuclear technology.”

(Except 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 World Atomic Week Forum 2025 held in Moscow, the Russian Federation, on 25 September 2025)

PM Urges New Generation to Uphold MRTV’s Historic Role at 80th Anniversary Ceremony

SUCCESSIVE generations of Myanma Radio and Television (MRTV) staff have dutifully fulfilled their responsibilities in the media sector for national development, and it is necessary for the new generation of staff to continue carrying out their historic responsibilities conscientiously, said Prime Minister U Nyo Saw at the ceremony to mark the 80th Anniversary of MRTV at its head office in Tatkon of Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The 80th anniversary celebration of MRTV was opened with an LED animation at the auditorium of the MRTV main building, with the song and dance of MRTV staff members.

The Prime Minister pressed the button to launch the extended broadcasting of the private channels Uni TV HD Channel, SNSDY Entertainment HD Channel, and Channel 24 under the MRTV DVB-T2 and MRTV DTH systems, as well as a private DTH TV service, namely the Softtech-DTH



Prime Minister U Nyo Saw delivers a speech at the ceremony to mark the 80th Anniversary of MRTV in Tatkon of Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

system.

A video clip from the State media, showing strenuous efforts serving the interests of the State and the people, was screened.

Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister said that MRTV is striving to implement a new model of State media that is youthful, dynamic, innovative and modern, and has been able to continuously broadcast and present its three primary objectives — to provide information, to share knowledge, and to entertain.

He continued that efforts have been made from the media sector to help ensure the successful holding of the 2025 multi-party democratic general election. Entertainment programmes have also been taken to military bases to boost the morale of Tatmadaw members who are diligently serving national defence and security duties. Performances have likewise been staged in natural disaster-affected areas and for temporarily displaced people to help them relax and regain emotional strength

to implement the State’s prescribed policies and objectives to ensure their progress and success.

He stressed that MRTV staff have to strive to serve as a reliable fourth estate, providing national service for the benefit of the country and its people, in which both the State and the public can place their trust.

Similarly, the Prime Minister emphasized that although the various national ethnic groups in Myanmar have long lived together in unity through good times and bad, op-

posing media from inside and outside the country are using various methods to spread propaganda and destabilize the State.

Therefore, he underlined that all ethnic national people need to build a Union spirit based on mutual trust, respect and understanding.

He highlighted that the media sector also needs to place emphasis on countering propaganda, misinformation and fake news with the strength of the media, and on disseminating accurate news in response.

The Union Minister for Information presented a logo to mark the 80th Anniversary of MRTV to the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister presented outstanding staff who could strive to re-operate suspended TV retransmission stations, and the winners in the internal and international contests.

The Prime Minister and party enjoyed the entertainment of the State band, the State traditional orchestra and the modern band with artistes.

After inspecting the functions of MRTV, the Prime Minister and party had lunch to mark the 80th Anniversary of MRTV.

Also present at the ceremony were the wife of the Prime Minister, Union-level dignitaries, Union ministers, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, deputy ministers, MRTV staff and retired staff, artistes and guests together with staff from MRTV (Yangon) and retransmission stations online. — MNA/TTA

CBM Governor attends FATF and ICRG meetings

THE Financial Action Task Force (FATF) plenary meeting and the International Cooperation Review Group (ICRG) meeting were held in Mexico City, Mexico, from 9 to 13 February, and the Myanmar delegation, led by Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar Daw Than Than Swe, at-

tended.

During the meetings, the CBM Governor stated that Myanmar has been continuously and fully implementing measures to combat money laundering, terrorism financing, and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, carrying out the Action Plan

with local human resources and achieving a high level of compliance with ten points, while efforts are underway to complete the remaining five points within the set timeframe, the Counter Terrorism Law and the Trusts Act have been amended in line with the recommendations of the

Asia Pacific Joint Group (APJG) to strengthen the legal framework, and the Management and Preservation of Evidence Law 2024 has also been enacted.

The Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar stated that the government is working to amend the Anti-Money Launder-

ing Law, that once enacted the remaining five points of the Action Plan will progress and be fully implemented and complied with by 2026, adding that efforts are being made to obtain technical assistance from foreign experts to address potential challenges, that Myanmar is preparing

for the Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG) Mutual Evaluation among member countries in 2029-2030 and has requested technical assistance, and highlighting the progress made, including Myanmar’s political will and high-level political commitment.

SEE PAGE 6

NATIONAL

Tatmadaw recaptures Pasawng temporarily controlled by KNPP, KNDF and PDF terrorists

KNPP, KNDF and PDF groups have carried out destructive and violent activities in Kayah State since December 2021 with the aim of disrupting administrative mechanisms and spreading fear among local ethnic communities.

In response, Tatmadaw columns launched counter-terrorism operation “Yan Naing Min” to restore control of affected towns and routes swiftly. Dimawhso and surrounding areas were reportedly brought back under control on 19 August 2025.

Following their withdrawal from Dimawhso, the armed groups temporarily occupied Pasawng and carried out acts of sabotage within the township. They launched large-scale assaults on local battalion headquarters on 26 and 30 June and 5 and 7 July 2025. Tatmadaw stated that officers, soldiers and their families resisted the attacks, preventing the bases from falling. Eight clashes were

reported, during which six bodies and 11 arms were seized.

Tatmadaw columns later advanced from the western side of the Bawlakhe–Htuchaung–Pasawng road, gradually securing positions and conducting military operations. Tatmadaw occupied the area around Htuchaung Bridge on 27 November. Subsequent operations led to the capture of Namkit and Papu villages on 12 February 2026, before columns moved into Pasawng, which was declared fully recaptured on 15 February 2026.

During the operations, a total of 31 engagements were reported. Authorities stated that 17 assorted arms, the bodies of terrorists and explosive-related materials were confiscated. Some security personnel sacrificed life and limbs for the State.

The statement also alleged that KNPP, KNDF and PDF terrorists had used religious buildings, schools, departmental

offices, hospitals and civilian homes as defensive positions, looted property, planted mines along public routes, used civilians as human shields and committed arson. Authorities said that damaged buildings and homes would be repaired in cooperation with local residents.

With the recapture of Pasawng, the Loi-kaw-Dimawhso-Pruhso-Bawlakhe-Pasawng road is expected to reopen soon. — MNA/KZL



The map shows Tatmadaw columns advancing to reclaim Pasawng, which had been temporarily seized by terrorist groups.



Tatmadaw troops are seen in front of the Pasawng Township General Administration Department.

Rakhine State Chief Minister inspects facilities at IDP Camp

RAKHINE State Chief Minister U Htein Lin, accompanied by state ministers and departmental officials, inspected the completion of newly constructed buildings and installed artesian wells at Say Thamargyi IDP Camp in Sittway Township yesterday.

During the visit, the construction supervisor explained that 18 buildings had been completed at the camp. The structures were built using timber posts, woven bamboo walls, and corrugated iron roofing, each measuring 45 feet in length and 30 feet in width. Officials also reported that 18 artesian wells had been successfully facilitated.

The State Minister for Security and Border Affairs provided supplementary clarifications regarding the completion status of the facilities and outlined plans for the systematic resettlement of



Rakhine State Chief Minister U Htein Lin observes the demonstration of the used of artesian wells at Say Thamargyi IDP Camp in Sittway Township yesterday. PHOTO: TIN TUN (IPRD)

displaced residents. The Chief Minister emphasised the need for relevant departments to ensure proper and organized placement of residents, conduct fire safety awareness sessions, and systematically arrange necessary fire prevention equipment.

Following the briefing, the Chief Minister and party toured the camp to inspect the completed buildings, water supply facility, and water availability. Officials coordinated on-site to address operational requirements. — Tin Tun (IPRD)/KZL

CBM Governor attends FATF and ...

FROM PAGE 5

At the ICRG meeting, the Asia Pacific Joint Group (APJG) Co-Chair discussed that Myanmar’s 16th Progress Report on Combating Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing had upgraded the immediate outcome 8.1, that states “enhance the seizure and control of proceeds of crime, instrumentalities used in the commission of crimes, other assets of equivalent value and confiscation as state funds, in line with the risks of loss,” from non-compliance to partial compliance, and noted that Myanmar is actively participating in the APJG’s plenary meetings.

The Executive Secretary of the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG) stated that Myanmar is fully committed to working with other countries, including the FATF

and APG, that senior political officials have shown a willingness to address weaknesses, and that technical assistance should also be provided. Representatives from India, South Korea, the People’s Republic of China, the United States, and Japan, who attended the meeting, acknowledged Myanmar’s continued progress and efforts, and supported the need for additional time to complete the remaining Action Plan.

Based on the discussions at the ICRG meeting, Myanmar’s submission was further reviewed at the FATF plenary meeting, and it was decided to remove the statement in the Public Statement that Myanmar had continued to make slow progress, due to progress on the remaining points and to maintain Myanmar on the original list of countries and territories subject to enhanced scrutiny. — MNA/TH

NATIONAL

Plan to hold ShweUmin Natural Cave Pagoda Buddha Pujaniya festival in Pindaya



Visitors seen at the ancient ShweUmin Natural Cave Pagoda in Pindaya.

THE Buddha Pujaniya Festival (Taboung Festival) of the ancient ShweUmin Natural Cave Pagoda in Pindaya, Danu Self-Administered Zone, Shan State (South), will be held, according to the festival organizing committee.

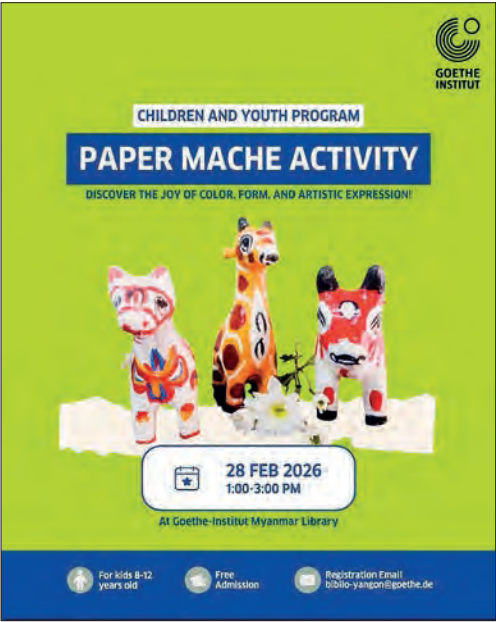
The festival will take place from the 10th waxing of Taboung (25 February) to the full moon day of Taboung (2 March).

“During the Taboung Festival, ethnic people residing in the Danu region — including Danu, Taungyo, Pa-O, Palaung, Shan, Inntha and Bamar — will offer alms to 8,094 ancient Buddha images inside the pagoda, make offerings of flowers, scented water and oil lamps, donate monetary contributions, provide morning meals to all monks in Pindaya Township as well as rice to members of the Sangha from near and far,” said U Sai Pay Ti, a member of the Buddha Pujaniya Festival Organizing Committee.

Sports competitions will also be included in the festival programme, and there will be a market fair. — ASH/KNN

Goethe-Institut hosts paper mache activity for kids in late February

THE Paper mache activity for kids for creating Myanmar traditional toys will take place at the Goethe-Institut Myanmar in late February. For kids 8 to 12 years old who are interested in creating Myanmar traditional toys, the Children and Youth Programme will host the event on 28 February at the Goethe-Institut Myanmar library.



The paper mache activity poster

At the event which will allow children to discover the joy of colour, form and artistic expression by making together traditional toys such as tumbling kelly and phoe-wa yote with colour papers using glue. Free admission is allowed and the seating capacity is limited, so kids can make registration at biblio-yangon@goethe.de together with friends. — MT/ZS

UMTA Travel Fair 2026 (UTF) to be held to revitalize tourism

THE Union of Myanmar Travel Association (UMTA) has announced that it will host the UMTA Travel Fair 2026 (UTF) in Yangon. The event aims to revitalize the tourism industry and encourage a greater influx of international tourists to Myanmar. It will take place on 13 and 14 June at the Sedona Hotel on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, Yangon. Organized by UMTA, the fair is designed to serve as a catalyst for the tourism recovery and growth. The event will feature exhibition booths, business matching & buyer/seller meetings, demonstrations, and Quiz & Gift programmes. UMTA invites domestic and international travel companies, airlines, hotels, banks, travel insurance firms, tour guides, travel bloggers, and related industry stakeholders



An announcement for the upcoming UMTA Travel Fair 2026 (UTF).

to participate. This event offers a significant opportunity to engage in direct discussions with international organizations. Attendees for the buyer/seller meetings must register in advance at https://www.umtatravelfair.com/register_local.html and registration fees are K250,000 (local buyer), K800,000 (local seller/DMC), and K1.3 million (local seller/outbound). As the number of booths and counters is limited, applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, UMTA Secretariat: 09-2005648, 09-5170456, organizing committee: 09-782395649, 09-5059866 and secretariat@umtatravelfair.com or www.umtatravelfair.com can be contacted. — MT/ZN

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OPINION

Beef up generating electricity to raise industrial productivity

ELECTRICITY is vitally important not only for national economic development but also for daily social and economic life. At present, the country's total electricity generation is approximately 62,000 megawatt-hours; however, despite the many additional requirements needed to meet demand, acts of terrorist attacks and sabotage have widened the gap between electricity demand and supply even further.

At present, under the Ministry of Electric Power, there are 32 hydropower plants, 24 natural gas-fired power plants, two coal-fired power plants, and 12 solar power plants, with a total installed capacity of 6,725 megawatts. However, they are unable to operate at full capacity. If full-capacity operation were possible, electricity generation and distribution could reach approximately 4,000 megawatts. Nevertheless, due to acts of destruction by terrorists and a decline in natural gas production, electricity generation has decreased. At present, repairs to damaged power transmission lines and substations are being carried out promptly.

The LNG project had been planned and implemented even before 2023 to produce power through LNG-to-Power and supply it to industrial zones. As the 500-megawatt LNG power plant project was successfully implemented, the plant has been able to begin supplying 500 megawatts of electricity starting from 14 January 2026. Although power generation using LNG involves high costs, the Ministry has placed special emphasis on the "LNG to Industry" initiative with the aim of ensuring uninterrupted momentum in industrial production.

Although electricity generation from LNG is costly, efforts have been made to produce electricity using readily available LNG in the short term in order to meet demand and enable industrial zones to operate at full capacity and increase productivity.

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A Rising Institution in Myanmar's Capital

WHEN people think of Myanmar's higher education landscape, their minds often turn to the historic universities of Yangon and Mandalay. For decades, these institutions have been the intellectual heart of the nation, producing generations of scholars, professionals, and leaders. Yet, in recent years, a new player has emerged in the country's capital: the Naypyitaw State Academy (NSA). Though relatively unknown to the wider public, this academy represents a bold attempt to decentralize education, strengthen the capital's role as a hub of knowledge, and provide opportunities for students who might otherwise have to migrate to distant cities for higher learning.

Origins and Purpose

The Naypyitaw State Academy was officially inaugurated in November 2022, situated in Zathuthiri Township of the capital. Its establishment was not a mere bureaucratic decision but a strategic move to align education with the evolving role of Nay Pyi Taw as the administrative and political centre of Myanmar. The academy was envisioned as a place where the children of civil servants, government employees, and residents could access quality higher education without relocating to Yangon



Naypyitaw State Academy in Nay Pyi Taw.

or Mandalay.

This mission reflects a broader national goal: to ensure that the capital city is not only a seat of governance but also a centre of intellectual and cultural development. By embedding a strong academic institution within Nay Pyi Taw, the government hopes to foster a new generation of professionals who are deeply connected to the capital's unique environment and responsibilities.

Academic Faculties and Offerings

Despite its young age, NSA has already established multiple

faculties, including Arts, Sciences, Law, Economics, Medicine, Social Studies, and Sports. These faculties are designed to cover a wide spectrum of disciplines, ensuring that students can pursue diverse career paths. The inclusion of law and economics reflects the academy's proximity to the nation's administrative core, while medicine and social studies highlight its commitment to public welfare.

The academy also emphasizes research as a cornerstone of its mission. Research is not treated as an optional pursuit but as a vital investment in the country's socioeconomic well-being. By en-

couraging evidence-based policies and innovations, NSA aims to contribute directly to national development. This is particularly important in Myanmar, where the need for locally relevant research is acute, given the country's unique cultural, economic, and political context.

Challenges of a Young Institution

Of course, building a university from scratch in a relatively new capital city is no easy task. NSA faces several challenges:

- Recognition and Reputation: Compared to Yangon Univer-

sity or Mandalay University, NSA is still relatively unknown. Many students and parents remain sceptical about its quality and prestige.

- Faculty Recruitment: Attracting experienced professors and researchers to Nay Pyi Taw can be difficult, especially when established universities in other cities already have strong academic communities.
- Infrastructure Development: While the academy has made strides in building facilities such as the new convocation hall, it still requires significant investment in laboratories, libraries, and student housing.
- International Collaboration: To become globally competitive, NSA must establish partnerships with foreign universities, a process that takes time and careful negotiation.

Yet, these challenges are not insurmountable. Every great university in history began as a fledgling institution, often facing scepticism and resource constraints. What matters most is the vision and persistence to grow.

Symbolism of the Convocation Hall

The inauguration of the new convocation (multi-purpose) hall at NSA is more than just a construction milestone. It sym-

By Junior Thin

bolizes the academy's ambition to become a centre of academic life and community engagement. Such halls are traditionally the heart of university culture, hosting graduations, conferences, and cultural events. For NSA, the hall represents its readiness to step onto the national stage and assert itself as a serious institution of higher learning.

The Role of Nay Pyi Taw in Education

Nay Pyi Taw itself is a city with a unique identity. Built as Myanmar's administrative capital in the early 2000s, it has often been criticized for its emptiness and lack of vibrancy compared to Yangon. However, the presence of NSA could help change that narrative. Universities are engines of social and cultural life, attracting young people, fostering debates, and generating innovation. If NSA succeeds, it could transform Nay Pyi Taw from an administrative hub into a lively intellectual centre.

Moreover, the academy's location in the capital allows it to align closely with national policy-making. Students and researchers can engage directly with government institutions,

offering evidence-based insights and contributing to decision-making processes. This proximity to power could give NSA a unique role that other universities cannot easily replicate.

Aspirations for the Future

Looking ahead, NSA's ambitions are clear: it seeks to become an internationally recognized institution within the next decade or two. This will require:

- Curriculum Modernization: Updating courses to meet global standards while retaining local relevance.
- Research Excellence: Building strong research programs that address Myanmar's pressing challenges, from agriculture and healthcare to governance and technology.
- Global Partnerships: Establishing exchange programs, joint research projects, and collaborations with universities abroad.
- Student Development: Creating opportunities for students to engage in extracurricular activities, leadership training, and community service.
- Digital Transformation: Leveraging technology to enhance

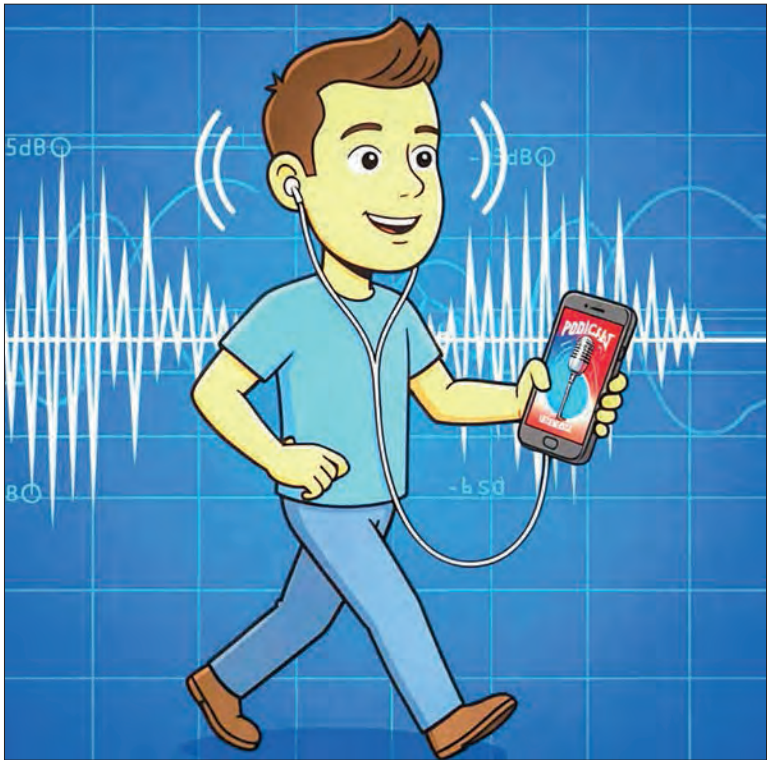
learning, research, and administration.

These aspirations are ambitious, but they reflect the academy's determination to rise above its current limitations and carve out a place in the international academic community.

The Naypyitaw State Academy may be little-known today, but its existence carries profound significance. It represents Myanmar's effort to balance educational opportunities across regions, strengthen the capital's role beyond politics, and invest in the intellectual future of its citizens.

The road ahead will not be easy. NSA must overcome scepticism, build infrastructure, and attract talent. Yet, history shows that institutions with a clear vision and persistence can achieve remarkable transformations.

Within the next 20 to 25 years, the Naypyitaw State Academy has the potential to evolve into a respected national university with growing international recognition. If it successfully integrates research excellence, global collaboration, and student empowerment, it could stand alongside Yangon and Mandalay as one of Myanmar's leading centres of higher education. More than that, it could redefine Nay Pyi Taw itself – not just as a capital of governance, but as a capital of knowledge.



Listening Practices for Busy Learners

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

SOME language learners, particularly busy learners, sometimes find it difficult to take listening and speaking lessons of the language without fail, simply because, as earlier stated, they have little time to practice listening and speaking on purpose. Such learners are usually busy learning something new instead of improving their language skills, listening and speaking in particular, more than before. In fact, listening is a kind of language skill, but strangely, some learners do not accept this listening as a language skill, so

that they are under the illusion that they will get the language quite easily by hearing it only. Of course, the listening skill is not merely hearing words or expressions; that skill is a combination of two interdependent processes – being able to hear and paying attention to almost all that can be well heard. The most significant feature of not having good listening is that a learner cannot speak the language with their eyes shut like a native speaker. Thus, listening and speaking

skills are complementary to each other, except that listening must be the first language skill to develop. Whether a learner finds time to study the language for listening and speaking, if we are absolutely busy learners, we can conduct the following effective and efficient practices so as to update and upgrade these language skills.

Really, listening practice does not mean that we must do it in a particular place or room which is adequately silent and

deserted to pay attention to language exercises. That is, as mentioned above, the whole listening process of a language mainly consists of two inseparable parts only: 1) the situation in which we can hear any audio file, and 2) the extent to which we can catch the voice of the file. Hence, we can listen on the go through earphones for the listening skill of a language. While we are travelling to work or school or are out shopping, we should pop on some English songs or news podcasts that we would like to. On listening to songs, we may

sing like these go, which perhaps is a sort of language speaking. Actually, we tend to get vocabulary and usage of the language from songs in most cases, not the bare essentials of listening skill – namely authentic pronunciation, intonation patterns, and speaking style. Nonetheless, many news podcasts like to offer real-life circumstances and causal incidents to listeners rather than songs. Not only that, there can still be found common, current or living language expressions in news podcasts, which means that we can get authentic English from a

news podcast. After all, we ought to make use of going to and fro by listening to audio files in the English language. The more we listen, the better we will get!

After listening on the go, we should try to have background English, where the term 'background' refers to the circumstances or past events which can be explained in English – why something is how it is or the information about these. Truly, background English may even be a pilot test of whether a learner has adequate knowledge of contextual language. For example, a language learner should be allowed to listen to a humour programme presented in this language to know if he laughs out loud or not.

DELICACY/ARTICLE

Traditional Myanmar Cuisine

Shwetaung Noodles

This week, we are pleased to present one of the signature dishes of Shwetaung Town in Bago Region, Myanmar — Shwetaung Noodles, a popular traditional delicacy enjoyed across the country.

Before introducing the dish, here is a brief look at its history. Shwetaung Noodles were created by U Thein Shwe, a resident of Shwetaung in Pyay District. Inspired by Mohinga, Myanmar’s traditional rice noodle soup, he innovatively developed this unique noodle dish.

U Thein Shwe began selling Shwetaung Noodles in 1960 in Shwetaung Town. At that time, the dish was not widely known and had only a small customer base. However, in 1970, Shwetaung Noodles represented Myanmar at the first noodle competition held in Osaka, Japan, and won first prize. Following this achievement, the dish, also known as “Osaka Noodles”, gained wide-spread attention and popularity.

Now, let us share a simple and delicious recipe so you can prepare Shwetaung Noodles at home, whether for breakfast or as a light meal.

Ingredients (Serves 5)

- Wheat noodles – 25 Kyattha (625 grammes)
- Onions – 4 (thinly sliced)
- Coriander – 1 bunch (finely chopped)
- Lime – 4 (cut into wedges)
- Coconut – 1 (grated and squeezed for coconut milk, to prepare coconut oil) (or 1 small can of coconut cream – optional)
- Milk – 250 millilitres (optional)
- Roasted chickpea powder – 40 grammes
- Fried chilli powder – 3 tablespoons

For the Chicken Curry

- Chicken breast – 250 grammes (cut into small cubes)
- Onions – 4 (halved or thickly sliced)
- Garlic – 2 cloves (finely minced)
- Chilli powder – 1½ tablespoons
- Salt – 1 teaspoon
- Chicken powder – 1 teaspoon



- Cooking oil – 4 tablespoons
- Preparation**
- 1. Preparing the Crispy Noodles**
- First, fry some wheat noodles to serve as crispy toppings. Heat plenty of oil in a pan. Once the oil is hot, fry handfuls of noodles (in two batches) until golden brown. Remove and set aside.
- 2. Preparing Coconut Oil**
- Pour the extracted coconut milk into a pan and cook over medium heat until the oil separates. Once the oil rises to the surface, turn off the heat and set it aside.
- Cooking the Chicken Curry**
1. Heat oil in a pot and sauté the garlic until fragrant.
 2. Add chilli powder and chicken pieces, stirring for about one minute.
 3. Add 3 cups of water, salt, chicken powder, and onions. Simmer for about 2 minutes.
 4. When the liquid reduces to about 2 cups, adjust seasoning if necessary and turn off the heat. (The chicken curry broth is now ready.)
- To Serve**
1. In a serving bowl, place boiled noodles and top with sliced onions, coconut oil, chickpea powder, lime wedges, chilli powder, and crispy noodles.
 2. Pour 2 ladles of the hot chicken curry broth over the noodles.
 3. Serve and enjoy the delicious Shwetaung Noodles.
- Note:**
- To accompany Shwetaung Noodles, you may also serve a clear chicken broth made by boiling chicken bones and seasoning with garlic, salt, chicken powder, black pepper, and spring onions. — MOON

Listening Practices for Busy Learners

FROM PAGE 9

If a learner laughs at jokes in the programme, we can generally state that this learner has achieved language success, that is to say, academic achievement in the English language, to an extent, which he has a good laugh about that programme. Then, how in the world are we required to study background English? For instance, when we are doing chores at home, we can have an English TV or radio programme on in the background.

In the beginning, we will not follow or absorb all contextualized meanings of English words for sure. But thanks to the programmed background situations, we will have to be aware of what the programme says to a certain degree. We do not need to worry at all if we do not understand every word of such background English. Our ears will get used to it over time, and we will understand more and more. This kills two birds with one stone.

After background English, may come kids’ shows. As busy learners, for what reason do we have to learn from kids’ shows? One of the main reasons is that it takes 15 minutes or so for kids’ shows to play most of the time. And in the main, kids’ shows use so simple English that young children will get what the shows mean very quickly. As we may all know, simple English is the best, as Dr Htin Aung once stated. Especially for the speaking skill of a language, so much of simple English can be seen as always, except in some contexts where we cannot avoid using any phrase, idiom or collocation. At home, our kids like watching English cartoons, in which the voice-overs will be in the real child’s voice or sound like a child’s. No matter what the voices are, we may watch English cartoons with them. Surprisingly enough, sometimes only children can know what cartoon characters are saying, not we adults at all. In truth, we had better practise English speaking through cartoons together with our children. Only if then will we see the theme a cartoon means to show better than usual. Whatever is said, the simple language certainly makes it fun and easy to understand. And even though there are no kids around, children’s shows in English remain great language practice for us.

NATIONAL

Government to offer technical services for macadamia farmers



This photo shows officials providing technical support for macadamia cultivation to local farmers.

AS the macadamia crop has been offered for purchase from abroad, farmers who wish to invest in its cultivation and production will have with technical services, according to the Perennial Crops Division of the Department of Agriculture under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.

“Myanmar has offered to purchase macadamia crops in large quantities from abroad. As a result, investment returns can be realized more quickly, and macadamia is an export crop capable of

generating foreign income. Farmers who wish to invest in and cultivate this crop may contact us. If small-scale farmers in the region face technical difficulties, we will provide technical support, promote technological development, and help increase foreign earnings by producing and marketing value-added products of the crop as three objectives of the division. In the 2024-2025 financial year, we were able to export about 150 tonnes of macadamia and produce 50 tonnes for domestic consumption,” said U Tin

Naing Tun, the staff officer in charge of Shan State Macadamia Farms.

Currently, in Shan State, 341 farmers cultivate macadamia on 10 acres or more using modern agricultural techniques, and 67 of them have obtained GAP certification.

A 5,000-acre macadamia project office has been opened in Nawnghkio Township of Shan State. Macadamia cultivation areas have also increased in Kachin, Kayin, Chin and Shan states, and Mandalay Region. — ASH/TH

Veteran cinematographer U Than Nyunt (Pantha) passes away

SIX-TIME Myanmar Motion Pictures Academy Award winner for Cinematography U Than Nyunt (Pantha) passed away due to old age at his residence in Mingaladon Township, Yangon Region, on 14 February, according to the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization.

U Than Nyunt, who was 77 at the time of his death, had served the film industry as a cinematographer for more than four decades. He won six Academy Awards for cinematography during his career.



Six-time Myanmar Motion Pictures Academy Award winner for Cinematography U Than Nyunt (Pantha).

a serious head injury after a fall while filming the movie San Yay, which led to partial paralysis. U Than Nyunt had also experienced complications related to diabetes, hypertension and liver problems. The funeral ceremony for U Than Nyunt (Pantha) will be held at 11 am on 16 February at Yayway Cemetery in North Okkalapa Township, Yangon. — ASH/KZL

Over K200 mln worth of stimulant tablets seized in Muse

AUTHORITIES seized stimulant tablets worth K201 million in Muse Township, according to the Myanmar Police Force.

A combined team from the drug enforcement division of the Myanmar Police Force searched a Toyota Landcruiser driven by Lamoung Seng Aung (aka) Seng Aung, on the Muse-Namkham Road in Swansaw Word, Muse, acting on a tip-off. The team seized 402,000 stimulant tablets valued at K201 million from the vehicle.

Similarly, acting on a tip-off, a combined team from the drug enforcement division of the Myanmar Police Force in Tachilek

searched Kyaw San Oo (aka) Kalar who lives in Samsai (B) Word of Tachilek Township and seized three kilogramme of ICE worth of K24 million. According to the investigation on Kyaw San Oo (aka) Kalar, the combined team arrested Win Kyaw Swa (aka) Ko Tun, who sold the drug, on The domestic science school street, Maikhaung Word in Tachilek, and confiscated 500 stimulant tablets valued at K30,000 and 0.1 kilogramme of ICE valued at K800,000 from him.

Offenders have been charged under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — MNA/KZL

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7 pm Sunday 15 February 2026)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 16 February 2026: Isolated light rain or thundershowers are likely in Taninthayi Region and Kachin State. Degree of certainty is 60 per cent. Weather will be partly cloudy in Yangon, upper Sagaing and Ayeyawady regions and Kayah, Kayin and Mon states and generally fair in the remaining regions and states.

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

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of slight decrease of night temperatures in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway and Ayeyawady regions and Chin and Shan states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16 February 2026: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16 February 2026: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16 February 2026: Generally fair weather. — DMH

EARTHQUAKE

(Issued at 9:35 am MST)

A slight earthquake of magnitude 4.2 Richter Scale with its epicentre inside Myanmar (about 15 miles west-southwest of Kani), latitude 22.39°N, longitude 94.60°E, depth (65) kilometres, about 80 miles southwest of Kanbalu Seismological Observatory was recorded at 9 hour 17 minutes 19 seconds MST on 15 February 2026. — DMH

ECONOMY WORLD

India must shift from growth at scale to productivity for Viksit Bharat 2047: KPMG report

According to a February 2024 KPMG report, India has successfully established its economic “foundation phase” through macroeconomic stability and robust infrastructure.

INDIA must shift from growth at scale to growth in productivity as it enters the next phase of its development journey toward Viksit Bharat @2047, according to a report by KPMG in India.

In its report titled “Top 10 Priorities for India’s Next Growth Phase”, professional services firm KPMG outlined a coordinated execution agenda focused on manufacturing depth, human capital, MSME competitiveness, infrastructure efficiency, and institutional delivery.

In practical economic terms, KPMG said Viksit Bharat implies a transition from scale to productivity.

“It means moving from assembly to manufacturing depth; from infrastructure creation to logistics efficiency; from access to services to quality outcomes;



This image displays a Yaskawa robotic inspection station for industrial automation.

PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/CNC INDIA

from enterprise formalization to competitiveness; and from enrolment in education to employ-

ability. It also implies stronger external resilience built on manufacturing exports and domes-

tic value addition, rather than reliance on services alone. This distinction is central,” the KPMG

report read.

The report stresses that India has largely completed its “foundation phase” — marked by macroeconomic stability, expanding public infrastructure, digital public platforms, and targeted industrial policy — and must now convert capital investment into sustained productivity gains. Among the top priorities is building a future-ready workforce, linking education, skilling, and employment more closely. With India’s median age at 28 and a projected working-age population exceeding 1.13 billion by 2050, the report calls for operationalizing the National Education Policy (NEP), expanding apprenticeship-linked degrees, and scaling re-skilling in AI-enabled services, advanced manufacturing, and digital technologies. — ANI

US cattle farmers caught between high costs and weary consumers

IN rural Virginia, farmer Chris Stem is grappling with harsh realities despite high beef prices amid a 75-year low in US cattle herds. Soaring operational costs — hay, feed, equipment, staff — and Trump’s trade policies boosting Argentine and Brazilian beef imports are squeezing margins for ranchers like him, who manages 250 cattle in Ash-

land.

Stem sells most at markets and 15 per cent locally via his butcher shop, where ribeye jumped from \$14.99/lb in 2019 to \$32.99, slashing sales 30 per cent. Consumers balk at premiums, opting for cheaper imports 50-60 per cent less at big stores, forcing diversification into winemaking and events. — AFP

UN chief urges developed nations to deliver commitments on climate financing

UNITED Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said developed nations must deliver on their commitments and finance developing countries with US\$1.3 trillion a year by 2035 to deal with climate adaptation.

The UN chief made the call at the opening session of the 39th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union (AU), which opened Saturday at the AU headquarters in Addis

Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia.

“Adaptation must be a priority. This requires developed countries to triple adaptation finance, mobilizing US\$1.3 trillion a year for developing countries by 2035,” Guterres said. According to him, climate change continues to have devastating consequences on the planet and people’s livelihoods, with Africa facing faster-than-average warming after contributing almost nothing to the crisis. — Xinhua

Sri Lanka reviewing its trade agreements



Sri Lanka currently has free trade agreements with India, Pakistan, Singapore and Thailand. Aerial photo taken on 24 January 2022 shows a view of the Laem Chabang Port in Chonburi Province, Thailand. **PHOTO: WANG TENG/XINHUA/FILE**

SRI Lanka’s cabinet-appointed expert committee is reviewing the country’s current and future trade agreements and is expected to submit recommendations by June, local media reported on Sunday, quoting a senior official.

Ministry of Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Co-operative Development Secretary KA Vimalenthir-

arajah said any decision on resuming currently suspended negotiations or launching new talks will be taken only after the committee issues its findings.

The government wants a logical basis for entering into trade agreements, he said, adding that the panel includes representatives from research institutions and relevant gov-

ernment departments.

He said the committee is examining existing agreements as well as negotiations under consideration and possible future deals.

Sri Lanka currently has free trade agreements with India, Pakistan, Singapore and Thailand. The country is also part of regional and multilateral arrangements. — Xinhua

India studies urban height limits for aviation safety

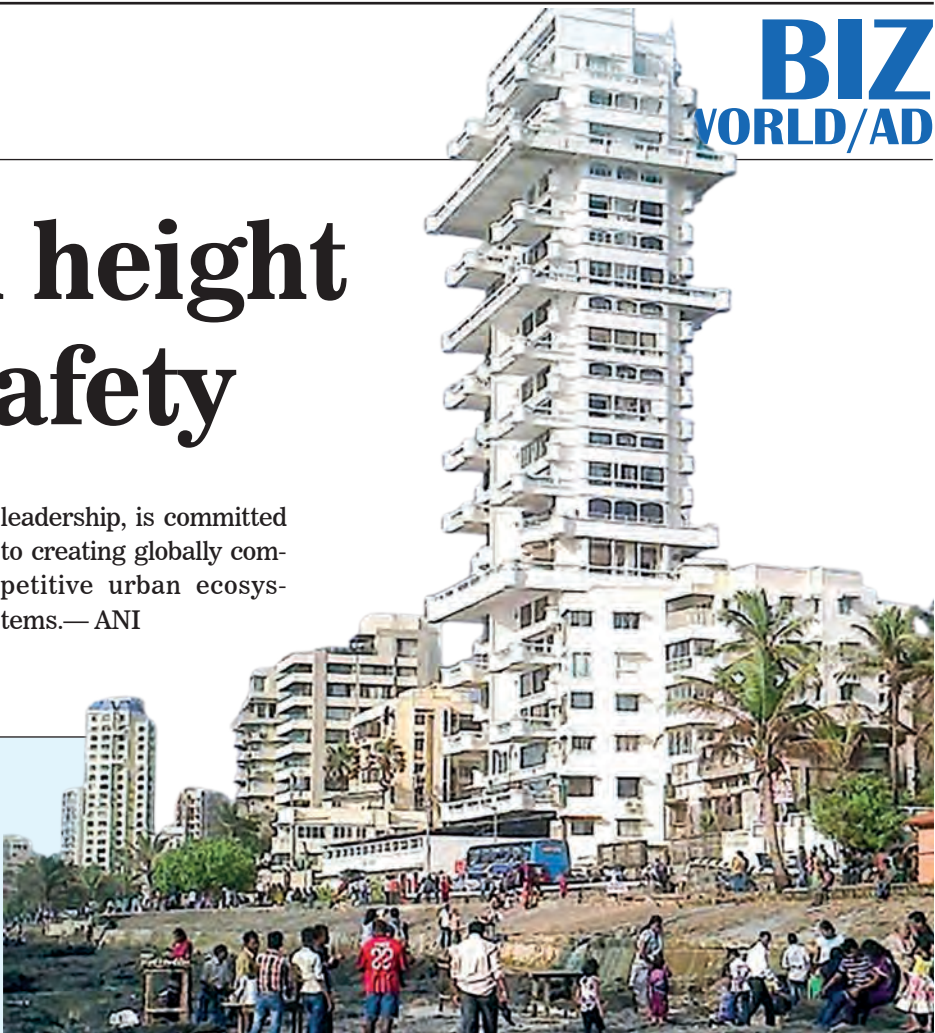
INDIA'S civil aviation ministry is undertaking a nationwide study on height restrictions in urban areas, aiming to balance safe air travel with modern city development. Union Civil Aviation Minister K Rammohan Naidu announced the initiative at the NAREDCO 2026 Conclave, highlighting collaboration with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to align Indian regulations

with global standards. Naidu emphasized the strong link between aviation and real estate, noting that height clearance remains a key concern for developers. He said the government is working to ensure that urban growth is not hindered while maintaining strict safety protocols. The minister also pointed to the Union Budget 2026, which outlines a 20-year vision for

managing urbanization, with significant provisions to upgrade Indian cities. He stressed that the NDA government, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's

leadership, is committed to creating globally competitive urban ecosystems.— ANI

In 2026, Mumbai's skyline is defined by a massive surge in supertall skyscrapers, primarily concentrated in South Mumbai neighbourhoods.
PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/PIXABAY



Pets embraced as family in Spring Festival



A woman takes photos with her pet dog at a pet-friendly park in Wangxinzhuang Town of Pinggu District in Beijing, capital of China, 22 October 2025. **PHOTO: XINHUA/REN CHAO**

AS China prepares to welcome the Spring Festival, pets are increasingly becoming part of the celebrations. For Gen Z pet owner Yang Zhiye, her 13-year-old dog Teddy is receiving a full makeover, festive wardrobe, and a special meal to mark the new year. Traditionally, new clothes and haircuts symbolize a fresh start, and now these rituals extend to four-legged companions. China's booming pet economy reflects this cultural shift. Urban pet

ownership reached 126 million in 2025, fuelling a market worth 312 billion yuan. Analysts project the industry could hit 800 billion yuan within five years, driven by rising living standards and emotional companionship. Pet-focused products are thriving this season, from nutrient-balanced meals in red gift boxes to treats shaped like gold bars and lucky pouches. Online platforms like JD.com report sales surges of up to 50 per cent. — Xinhua

Türkiye's jewellery industry struggles amid soaring prices

THE clatter of hammers, the hum of polishing machines, and the scent of molten gold have faded from once-bustling ateliers in Istanbul's Grand Bazaar. Benches now stand empty, tools lie untouched, and workshops have become quiet monuments to an industry under severe strain. Fehmi Canli, co-owner of Turkcan Jewelry, de-

pends entirely on foreign orders. "Export orders have basically stopped," he told Xinhua. "A few clients came recently just to say goodbye. They told us they won't be able to come to Türkiye." His atelier reflects a broader crisis gripping the country's jewellery sector, where high gold prices and strict import quotas have

forced many exporters to scale back or halt production. In January, Türkiye's jewellery exports fell 59 per cent from a year earlier, according to the Exporters Assembly. Sector representatives say nearly 60 per cent of workshops and factories have closed or face closure. Global gold prices have surged amid geopo-

litical tensions and market volatility, and exporters say Türkiye's gold import quota, introduced in 2023, has added to the pressure. Licensed companies and exporters are limited to 12 tonnes of unprocessed gold per month, while domestic prices hover thousands of dollars above international benchmarks. — Xinhua

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M.V UNI ACCORD VOY.NO. (841N)
Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V UNI ACCORD VOY.NO. (841N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **16-2-2026** 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 EVERGREEN MARINE (ASIA) PTE., LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V SITC FUJIAN VOY.NO. (2604S)
Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC FUJIAN VOY.NO. (2604S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **16-2-2026** 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.
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Phone No: **2301185**
Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority
Agent For:
M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Ukraine peace ‘will not drop from sky’, dialogue essential: China’s Wang Yi

Wang Yi’s remarks underscored China’s belief that sustained dialogue is the only path to resolving the Ukrainian crisis.



This photo, taken and released by the UAE Presidential Court, shows UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed al-Nahyan (C) speaking with the heads of delegations at the UAE-hosted trilateral talks between the US, Russia and Ukraine, at the Al Shati Palace in Abu Dhabi, on 23 January 2026. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

A peace agreement on Ukraine “will not drop from the sky”, dialogue must persist, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Saturday.

“Finally, we see that peace talks [on resolving the Ukrainian crisis] have begun, and it seems to me that real issues are being discussed now. We welcome this, because how else can peace come if we do not continue the dialogue? A peace agreement will not drop from the sky,” Wang said at the Munich Security Conference. The minister said he hoped that sustained joint efforts would yield a comprehensive, lasting, long-term, binding and mutually acceptable peace agreement for all parties.

“I believe this is a shared goal of the international community, including China,” he said. Beijing sticks to consistent policy, upholding Ukraine’s sovereignty without shift, Wang said. As a major power, China delivers on its stated commitments fully, he added. — SPUTNIK

Japan research vessel returns to port after collecting rare earth mud

A Japanese research vessel returned to a port in central Japan on Saturday after collecting mud containing rare earth elements as part of a study on the feasibility of extracting critical minerals from the seabed.

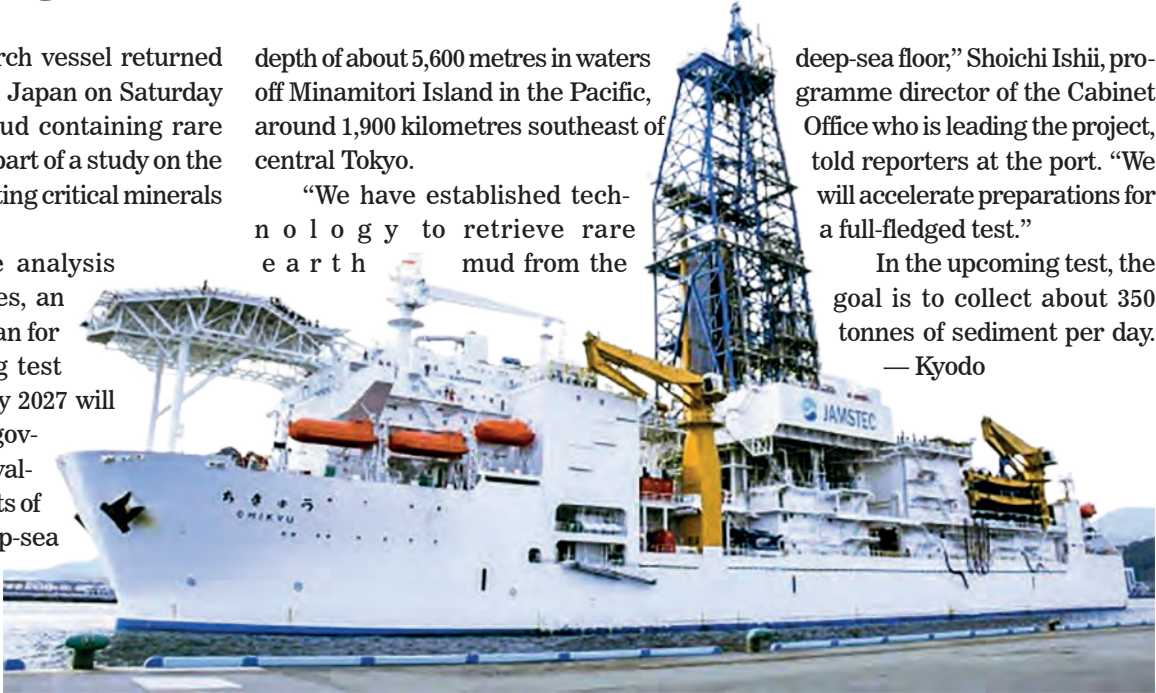
Following the analysis of the mud samples, an implementation plan for a full-scale mining test slated for February 2027 will be drawn up. The government plans to evaluate the cost benefits of industrializing deep-sea rare earths by March 2028.

The vessel Chikyu left Shimizu Port in Shizuoka Prefecture on 12 January and retrieved mud from a depth of about 5,600 metres in waters off Minamitori Island in the Pacific, around 1,900 kilometres southeast of central Tokyo.

“We have established technology to retrieve rare earth mud from the deep-sea floor,” Shoichi Ishii, programme director of the Cabinet Office who is leading the project, told reporters at the port. “We will accelerate preparations for a full-fledged test.”

In the upcoming test, the goal is to collect about 350 tonnes of sediment per day.

— Kyodo



Chikyu research vessel departed Shimizu Port, retrieved mud samples 5,600 metres deep near Minamitori Island, Pacific. PHOTO: KYODO

NEWS IN BRIEF

EU top diplomat rejects Europe ‘bashing’ by US

EU top diplomat Kaja Kallas pushed back Sunday against Europe “bashing” by the United States, as she said Russia must be forced to make concessions in talks to end the Ukraine war.

“Contrary to what some may say, woke, decadent Europe is not facing civilizational erasure,” Kallas said on the last day of the Munich Security Conference.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Saturday reassured allies by saying Washington and Europe “belong together” — but insisted the continent must defend against mass migration to protect its “civilization”.

The gathering in Munich has seen European officials insist the continent must take the lead on its defence in the face of an aggressive Russia and doubts over the reliability of the United States as President Donald Trump upends ties. — AFP

Australia commits billions to nuclear subs facility

AUSTRALIA unveiled AU\$3.9 billion (US\$2.8 billion) in spending on Sunday as a “down payment” on a new facility to build nuclear submarines under the tripartite AUKUS security pact with Britain and the United States.

The AUKUS pact aims to arm Australia with a fleet of cutting-edge submarines from the United States and would provide for cooperation in developing an array of warfare technologies.

The deal could cost Canberra up to US\$235 billion over the next 30 years, and also includes the technology to build its own vessels in the future.

Defence minister Richard Marles said the facility in Osborne, near the southern city of Adelaide, would be at the heart of that. — AFP

Colombia resumes drone spraying drug crops

COLOMBIA has resumed spraying drug fields with a toxic chemical using drones, the US embassy in Bogota said Friday, after a meeting between the two nations’ leaders eased tensions.

The South American nation in 2015 suspended the aerial spraying of glyphosate, which has been linked to cancer in humans, over concerns about its negative health impact.

US President Donald Trump and leftist counterpart Gustavo Petro met last week at the White House to smooth diplomatic tensions that had been building over the last year. — AFP

SPORTS

ISPE FC beat Ramanya United with late goals in MNL

IN the 2025/2026 Myanmar National League (MNL) season, matchweek 18 first-day fixtures were played on 15 February, where ISPE FC secured a win while Hanthawady United and Maha United shared the points. At Thuwunna Stadium, ISPE FC came from behind to defeat Ramanya United 2-1. Ramanya United, fighting to keep their survival hopes alive at the bottom of the table, took an early lead and maintained their advantage for more than 80 minutes. Nyi Nyi Aung opened the scoring just three minutes into the match. ISPE FC pressed

continuously for an equaliser but struggled with finishing until the closing stages. Kaung Myat Nyein levelled the score in the 82nd minute, before Saw Aung Myo Oo netted the winning goal in stoppage time (90+4). Kaung Myat Nyein was named Best Player of the Match. In the other fixture at Thanlyin Thiha Dipa Stadium, Maha United and Hanthawady United played out a goalless draw. Hanthawady United goalkeeper Nay Lin Htet received the Best Player award. Remaining matchweek 18 fixtures will be held on 19 Febru-

ary, with Ayeyawady United facing Rakhine United at Thuwunna Stadium and Dagon Star United taking on Yadanabon at Thiha Dipa Stadium. On 20 February, Yangon United will meet defending champions Shan United at YUSC Ground, while Thitsar Arman will play Dagon Port at Thuwunna Stadium. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



Action from the ISPE FC versus Ramanya United match.

Bayern's Neuer sidelined with calf injury



Bayern Munich captain and goalkeeper Manuel Neuer will be "out for the time being" with a calf injury, the German champions said in a statement on Sunday. PHOTO: AFP

BAYERN Munich goalkeeper Manuel Neuer is set for a spell on the sidelines after tearing his calf muscle, the Bundesliga club announced on Sunday. Neuer, 39, was subbed off at half-time in Saturday's 3-0 win at Werder Bremen which helped Bayern restore their six-point lead over Borussia Dortmund atop the Bundesliga table. Bayern sporting director Max Eberl initially said Neuer's substitution was a "precautionary measure" and the injury was

"nothing dramatic". A scan on Sunday, however, showed the tear was more serious than initially expected. "Bayern Munich will have to do without Manuel Neuer for the time being," the league leaders said in a statement without indicating how long their captain would be out. German media reported Neuer was in doubt for Bayern's trip to Dortmund at the end of February and would miss next Saturday's clash with Eintracht Frankfurt. — AFP

Brignone claims second Olympic gold, Shiffrin misses podium

FEDERICA Brignone won her second Olympic gold of the Milan-Cortina Games on Sunday after storming to victory in the giant slalom, but Mikaela Shiffrin's medal misery continued. Already super-G winner at these Games, Brignone clocked a combined time of 2min 13.50sec to become the first Italian woman skier to win gold in two events at the same Olympics, less than a year after suffering a broken leg. The 35-year-old finished 0.62sec ahead of joint silver medallists Sara Hector of Sweden and Norway's Thea Louise Stjernesund to become Olympic and world champion in her favoured discipline. Brignone's participation in the Olympics was in doubt



Italy's Federica Brignone celebrates in the finish area after winning the giant slalom. PHOTO: AFP

as recently as three weeks ago due to the double fracture of the tibia in her left leg from a crash in a race in April 2025. But she confounded any doubts by extending by three days her own record as the

oldest gold medallist, man or woman, in the history of her sport, performing incredibly again in brilliant sunshine despite near-constant pain from her career-threatening injury. — AFP

Olympic medal reallocation ceremony held at Milan-Cortina biathlon venue

AN Olympic medal reallocation ceremony was held on Sunday at the biathlon venue of the Milan-Cortina Winter Olympics, honoring athletes from events at the Vancouver 2010 and Sochi 2014 Winter Games. The ceremony took place between the men's and wom-

en's biathlon pursuit competitions, with International Olympic Committee President Kirsty Coventry in attendance. The medal reallocation followed the disqualification of Russian biathlete Yevgeny Ustyugov for violations of anti-doping regulations, resulting in the annulment of all his

competition results between 2010 and 2014. According to the updated results, the men's 15km mass start at Vancouver 2010 was reclassified with gold awarded to Martin Fourcade of France, silver to Slovakia's Pavol Hurnajt, and bronze to Christoph Summann of Austria. — Xinhua



China remains anchor of stability in unsettled world

Global stability is under strain as unilateralism and power politics gain momentum.

AT the 62nd Munich Security Conference (MSC), conversations returned again and again to a shared concern: how to steady an international order that appears increasingly fragile.

Against this backdrop, China's call for stability, multilateralism and practical cooperation has formed part of a broader search for direction.

The international order is under visible strain, with rules being challenged and unilateralism on the rise. The 2026 Munich Security Report, titled Under Destruction, highlights this trend, describing a world of "wrecking-ball politics", while the United States acts as a major destabilizer undermining established international rules.

Voices at the conference echoed

these concerns. Wolfgang Ischinger, chairman of the Munich Security Conference, noted that transatlantic relations are at a critical turning point. German Chancellor Friedrich Merz warned that the ties "can no longer be taken for granted", signalling cracks in Europe's relationship with Washington.

Yet the unease extends well beyond the Atlantic alliance. As unilateralism and power politics gain ground, the foundations of global peace and prosperity face mounting uncertainty. In this turbulent period, the global demand for stability and predictability has never been more urgent.

In this context, China's stability and pragmatism shine through. At the "China Session" on Saturday, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi proposed four key pri-

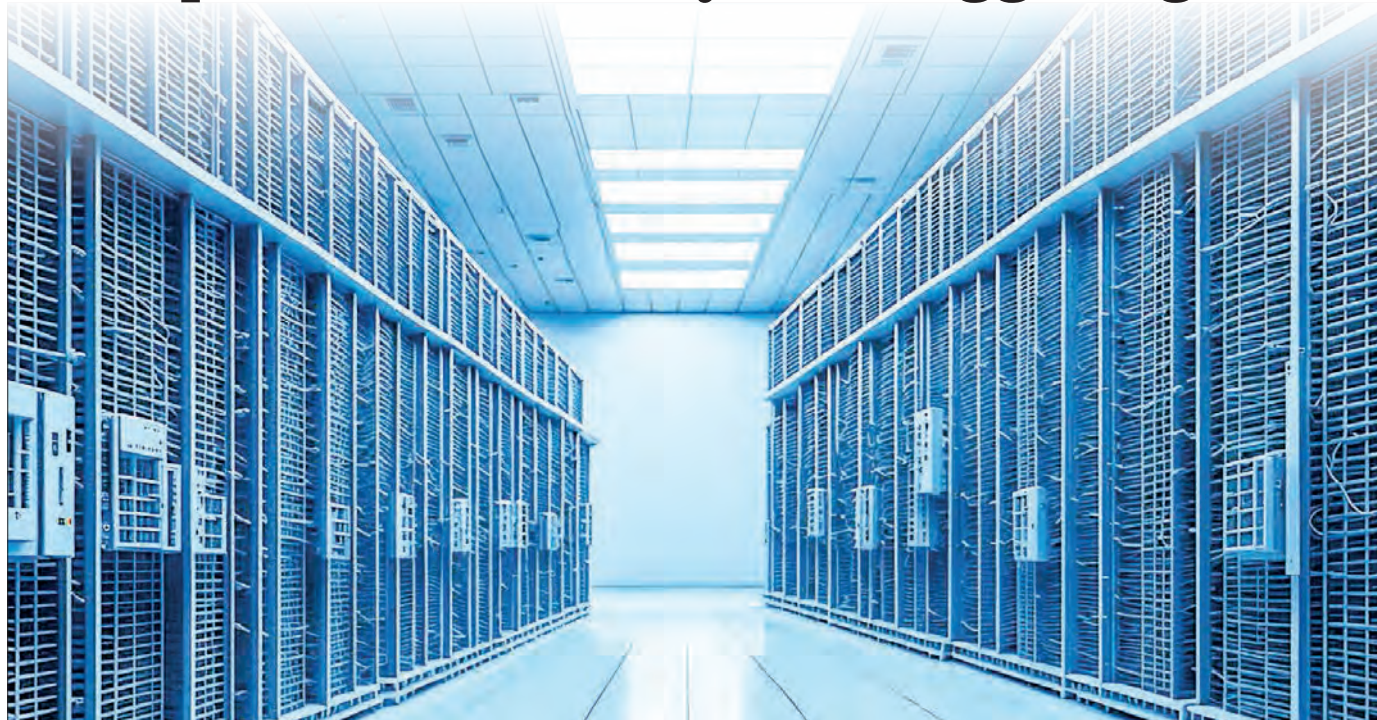


Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, delivers a speech at the "China in the World" session of the Munich Security Conference in Munich, Germany, 14 February 2026. **PHOTO: DU ZHEYU/XINHUA**

orities: revitalizing the United Nations system, promoting collaboration and cooperation of all countries, upholding multilateralism, as well as stopping conflicts and promoting peace.

China's approach, as articulated in Munich, does not deny competition or disagreement. Rather, it emphasizes dialogue over decoupling, and coordination over confrontation. — Xinhua

India plans AI 'data city' on staggering scale



This image depicts a modern data centre server room. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/PIXABAY**

INDIA is accelerating its artificial intelligence ambitions with a bold plan to build a massive "data city" in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. State IT minister Nara Lokesh describes the project as a cornerstone of India's AI revolution, backed by staggering investments.

Agreements worth \$175 billion across 760 projects have been secured, including

Google's \$15 billion AI hub — its largest outside the US — and a joint venture by Reliance, Brookfield, and Digital Realty investing \$11 billion in a mega data centre. Visakhapatnam, better known for cricket, is being transformed into a digital hub, positioned as a landing point for submarine internet cables linking India to Singapore. Lokesh envisions

a 100-kilometre "ecosystem" integrating data centres, server manufacturing, cooling systems, and more. He argues that industrial clusters will generate jobs and economic growth. With Microsoft pledging \$17.5 billion, India now ranks third globally in AI power, though critics warn it still lags in high-end computing and innovation. — AFP

UK to deploy carrier strike group to Arctic

BRITAIN will deploy a carrier strike group to the North Atlantic and the High North this year, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said at the Munich Security Conference in Germany on Saturday.

Starmer said the British aircraft carrier HMS Prince of Wales will lead the deployment, Sky News reported. He said that Europe "must be ready to fight", describing Europe as a "sleeping giant" with "huge defence capabilities", but adding that "too often this adds up to less than the sum of its parts".

Britain is no longer the country it was during the Brexit years, Starmer said, adding that there is no British security without Europe, and there is no European security without Britain. — Xinhua