

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.

Religious titles and insignia offered to recipient Sayadaws and nuns

Head of State Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla together with State dignitaries donated rice and alms to religious title-recipient Sayadaws and nuns led by the SSMNC Chairman Sayadaw.



Acting President and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing offers the Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru title and insignia to Aggamaha Saddhamma Jotika Dr Bhaddanta Candima Bhivamsa, Presiding Patron of the Thanlyin Minkyaung Pahtamabyan Buddhism Learning Centre.

A gala ceremony to offer religious titles and insignia to recipients for 2026 was held in conjunction with the ceremony to donate rice and alms to members of the Sangha at Agga Dhipati Sasana Beikman in the precinct of Maravijaya Buddha Image Park in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his wife, Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, attended the ceremonies to offer religious titles and donate rice and alms.

Religious title recipient Sayadaws and nuns at home and abroad for 2026, led by Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maha Rattha

Guru Aggamaha Saddhammajotikadhaja Thanlyin Minkyaung Monastery Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Candima Bhivamsa, SSMNC Secretary Presiding Patron of New Masoeyin Building Dhamma Thameikdi Monastery Sayadaw Aggamaha Pandita Aggamaha Saddhammajotikadhaja Maha Dhammakathika Bahujanahitadhara Bhaddanta Vasettha Bhivamsa, attended the ceremonies.

Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs

and Culture U Aye Tun supplicated the paper to commence the ceremony.

The Senior General, his wife and congregation took the Nine Precepts from the Chairman Sayadaw. The Chairman Sayadaw delivered a Saraniya Ovatha Katha.

Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Tin Oo Lwin supplicated the religious affairs.

The Senior General offered the Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru title and

insignia to Aggamaha Saddhamma Jotika Dr Bhaddanta Candima Bhivamsa, Presiding Patron of the Thanlyin Minkyaung Pahtamabyan Buddhism Learning Centre.

Commission Vice-Chairman Vice-Senior General Soe Win offered Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru title and insignia to Dr Bhaddanta Vijjananda Bhivamsa of Maha Gandayon Monastery of Sagaing.

SEE PAGE 3

NATIONAL

Union Spirit, Collective Efforts Key to Building Federal Democratic Nation

❖ Not only the union spirit but also fraternity, trust, solidarity and concerted efforts of national brethren are crucial in building a country based on democracy and a federal system.

(An excerpt from the message sent by Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing to the ceremony to mark the 79th Anniversary of the Union Day, which fell on 12 February 2026)

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

Objectives of 81st Armed Forces Day

- To participate in national politics in a leadership role of the country, not to deviate from the path of democracy in accordance with the fundamental principles of the Constitution, safeguarding the national policy, the Three Main National Causes
- To cooperate with the government and people in performing measures for State stability, ethnic unity and the nation's development
- To act with utmost care based on the agreements of NCA without deviating from the Three Main National Causes while serving duties for durable peace, as the resolution of armed conflicts play key role in moving towards a genuine and disciplined multiparty democratic pathway
- To continuously improve three main tasks of Tatmadaw – Study, Practise, Comply – and the ability to apply modern technologies in structuring Tatmadaw into a Standard Army

All YPS counters to be open as usual on 3 Mar

ALL YPS counters will be opened as usual on 3 March, according to Yangon Payment Services.

YPS has opened a new counter in Myaynigon. YPS counters were opened in rotation from 28 February to 2 March in Sule, Hledan, Myanmar Plaza, Thamine and Thakhin Mya Park and a new counter in Myaynigon.

For more information about YPS services, inquiries are welcome at the page messenger as well as the call centre's hotline number 09 772666699, between 9 am and 5 pm from Monday to Friday, said YPS. — MT/ZS



A YPS counter.

Myanmar seeks UNESCO intangible heritage status for traditional glass mosaic gilding craft



Artisans carry out traditional Myanmar glass mosaic gilding work.

ACCORDING to the Department of Archaeology and National Museum under the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, efforts are underway to nominate Myanmar's traditional glass mosaic embedded in gilding craftsmanship as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO.

At present, documentation and inventory-taking have begun in order to submit the traditional art of glass mosaic work, used in the embellishment of pagoda halls, Pyatthat (tiered-roof structures), rest houses and various utilitarian objects, as an item of Intangible Cultural Heritage under UNESCO.

"We are currently carrying out preliminary work at the national level. We

have started compiling records of the successive stages involved in the glass mosaic gilding of pagoda halls, Pyatthat and rest houses. Fieldwork has already been conducted at the Shwedagon Pagoda," said an official from the Department of Archaeology and National Museum.

It is also intended to commence a national-level inventory of glass mosaic craftsmanship in Mandalay in the near future. The documentation process will include the various stages of the craft and is aimed at identifying and safeguarding this valuable heritage of Myanmar traditional handicraft artistry.

In addition, Myanmar is striving to have its traditional custom of applying Thanaka and its practice of consuming

pickled tea (Laphet) inscribed as Representative Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The traditional glass mosaic gilding craft has likewise been designated as a candidate for nomination.

At the 19th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, held in Paraguay in 2024, Myanmar's traditional New Year Ata Thingyan Festival was officially inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. According to the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, Myanmar has so far designated more than 2,200 elements at the national level as Representative Intangible Cultural Heritage. — ASH/KNN

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)

Religious titles and insignia offered to recipient Sayadaws and nuns

FROM PAGE 1

Commission Member Prime Minister U Nyo Saw also presented the Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru title and insignia to Naya Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nandiya of the Dekkhinayama Phayagyi Monastery in Chanmyathazi Township in Mandalay Region; Commission Member Executive Chief U Aung Lin Dwe, the Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru title and insignia to Maha Withutayama (Central) Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Pañña-jota of Pakokku in Magway Region; and Commission Secretary General Ye Win Oo, the Abhidhaja Aggamaha Saddhammajotika title and insignia to Monastic Education Post-Primary School Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nayaka Bhivamsa of Myingyan in Mandalay Region, respectively.

Commission members, Union-level dignitaries, Union ministers, senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and officials offered the Abhidhaja Aggamaha Saddhamma-

jotika, Aggamaha Pandita, Aggamaha Saddhammajotikadhaja, Aggamaha Ganthavacaka Pandita and Aggamaha Kammathanacariya titles and insignia to title-recipient Sayadaws.

The wife of the Senior General also presented the Aggamaha Ganthavacaka Pandita title and insignia to Nun Daw Kalyasingi of Thameikdawdaya Nunnery in Sagaing, Sagaing Region.

The Senior General presented the Aggamaha Thiri Thudhamma Manizawtadhara title and insignia to U Kyaw Soe Win (a) U Khant Sithu, and Thiri Thudhamma Manizawtadhara title and insignia to U Zaw Latt and U Tin Maung Win, respectively.

The Commission Vice-Chairman handed the Thiha Thudhamma Manizawtadhara's title and insignia to Thura U Myint Maung.

The wife of the Senior General gave the Aggamaha Thiri Thudhamma Theingi title and insignia to Dr Htay Htay Khaing,

Daw Htay Htay Win, Daw Nyunt Yin Win and Daw Thida Aung, Thiri Thudhamma Theingi title and insignia to Daw Nang Aye Khant and Daw Khin Thida, Thiha Thudhamma Theingi title and insignia to Daw San San Aye, Daw Ohnma Myint, Daw Nilar, Daw Wah Wah Thin, Daw Thinza Win Sein, Dr Daw Nang Kue Ku and Daw Thida Lwin while the wife of the Vice-Senior General presented Thiha Thudhamma Theingi title and insignia to Daw Tin Moe Nwe, Dr Aye Khaing Nyunt, Daw Khin Hnin Wai, Daw Marlar Tint, Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint, Daw Khin Lay Myint, Daw Khin Hla Win, Daw Su Nyunt Oo, Daw Than Than Aye, Dr Nanda Hmun and Daw Kyu Kyu Soe, respectively.

SSMNC Secretary Maha Patron of Mandalay's New Masoeyein Building, Dhamma Thameikdi Monastery Sayadaw Aggamaha Pandita Aggamaha Saddhammajotikadhaja Maha Dhammakathika Bahujanahitadhara Bhaddanta Vasettha Bhivamsa delivered a sermon, and the

congregation shared the merits gained. The ceremony ended with three-time recitation of "Buddha Sasanam Ciram Titthatu".

The Senior General and his wife together with Vice-Senior General Soe Win and his wife Daw Than Than Nwe, Commission Member Prime Minister U Nyo Saw and his wife, Commission Member Executive Chief U Aung Lin Dwe and his wife, Commission Secretary General Ye Win Oo and his wife, Commission members and their wives, Union-level dignitaries, Union ministers and their wives, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, departmental personnel and well-wishers offered rice and alms to the Sayadaws and the nun who have received religious titles for 2026 at relevant pavilions in the precinct of Maravijaya Buddha Image Park. — MNA/TTA

Republic of the Union of Myanmar National Defence and Security Council Notification 44/2026

15th Waxing of Taboung 1387 ME
2 March 2026

THE Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has conferred honorary titles and medals on the following individuals for their excellent performances in relevant fields in building a peaceful, modern and developed nation: -

Pyidaungsu Sithu Thingaha Titles			
Thray Sithu Title			
1	U Than Tun Oo	Chairman	Nay Pyi Taw Council
2	U Soe Thein	Chief Minister	Yangon Region Government
3	U Tin Maung Win	Chief Minister	Ayeyawady Region Government
Sithu Title			
1	U Khet Htein Nan	Chief Minister	Kachin State Government
2	U Saw Myint Oo	Chief Minister	Kayin State Government
3	Dr Vung Suan Thang	Chief Minister	Chin State Government
4	U Myat Ko	Chief Minister	Taninthayi Region Government

5	U Myo Swe Win	Chief Minister	Bago Region Government
6	U Tint Lwin	Chief Minister	Magway Region Government
7	Daw Than Than Swe	Governor	Central Bank of Myanmar
Honorary Titles for Excellent Performances			
Thiri Pyanchi Title			
1	Dr Wah Wah Maung	Union Minister	Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations
2	U Sein Oo	Chief Minister	Kayah State Government
3	U Lwin Oo	Chairman	Anti-Corruption Commission Office
4	U Paw Lwin Sein	Chairman	Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Office
Wunna Kyaw Htin Title			
1	U Htin Kyaw Thu	Deputy Minister	Ministry 3 of the President's Office
2	Maj-Gen Aung Myo Thant	Deputy Minister	Ministry of Defence
3	Maj-Gen Min Thu	Deputy Minister	Ministry of Home Affairs
4	U Naing Min Kyaw	Deputy Minister	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
5	U Han Win Aung	Deputy Minister	Ministry of Finance and Revenue

NATIONAL

FROM PAGE 3

6	U Thant Sin Lwin	Deputy Minister	Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations
7	U Thaik Soe	Deputy Minister	Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development
8	U Nay Myo Hlaing	Deputy Minister	Ministry of Education
9	U Zin Min Htet	Deputy Minister	Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs
10	U Htein Lin	Deputy Minister	Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs
11	U Toe Yi	Member	Anti-Corruption Commission Office
12	Maj-Gen Ko Lay	Deputy Minister (Retd)	Ministry of Defence
13	U Soe Kyi	Deputy Minister (Retd)	Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement
14	Daw Aye Aye Maw	Chief Justice	Kachin State High Court
15	U Tun Tun Oo	Chief Justice	Kayah State High Court
16	U Nyunt Lin	Chief Justice	Kayin State High Court
17	Daw Mi Mi Maw	Chief Justice	Magway Region High Court
18	Daw Mya Aye	Chief Justice	Rakhine State High Court
19	Daw Sanda Thwe	Chief Justice	Yangon Region High Court
20	Colonel Ye Moe	Member	Nay Pyi Taw Council
21	U Zeyar Lin	Member	Nay Pyi Taw Council
22	U Min Oo	Member	Nay Pyi Taw Council
23	U Han Thu	Member	Nay Pyi Taw Council
24	Colonel Kyaw Thura	Security and Border Affairs Minister	Kachin State Government
25	U Myo Swe	Economic Affairs Minister	Kachin State Government
26	U Taing Saung	Natural Resources Minister	Kachin State Government
27	U Moe Min Thein	Social Affairs Minister	Kachin State Government
28	U Khin Maung Htwe	Transport Minister	Kachin State Government
29	U Kyaw Min Khaing	Ethnic Affairs Minister	Kachin State Government
30	Daw Nang Hla Hla Aye	Advocate-General	Kachin State Government
31	Colonel Than Soe Aung	Security and Border Affairs Minister	Kayah State Government
32	U Saw Hu Hu	Natural Resources Minister	Kayah State Government
33	U Aung Myo Thein	Social Affairs Minister	Kayah State Government
34	U Aung Myo Than	Transport Minister	Kayah State Government
35	U Tin Hla	Ethnic Affairs Minister	Kayah State Government
36	U Kyi Myaing	Advocate-General	Kayah State Government
37	Colonel Min Thu Kyaw	Security and Border Affairs Minister	Kayin State Government

38	U Saw Khin Maung Myint	Economic Affairs Minister	Kayin State Government
39	U Nyi Nyi Zaw	Transport Minister	Kayin State Government
40	U San Ko	Ethnic Affairs Minister	Kayin State Government
41	U Ye Lwin	Advocate-General	Kayin State Government
42	U Win Zaw Oo	Social Affairs Minister	Chin State Government
43	U Nay Lin Aung	Transport Minister	Chin State Government
44	U Sein Tun Hla	Ethnic Affairs Minister	Chin State Government
45	U Suan Dok Cing	Advocate-General	Chin State Government
46	Colonel Win Tin Soe	Security and Border Affairs Minister	Sagaing Region Government
47	Daw Yi Yi Than	Economic Affairs Minister	Sagaing Region Government
48	U Tin Than Win	Natural Resources Minister	Sagaing Region Government
49	U Nyunt Win Aung	Social Affairs Minister	Sagaing Region Government
50	U Khin Maung Aye	Transport Minister	Sagaing Region Government
51	U Tun Tun Win	Chairman	Naga Self-Administered Zone Leading Body, Sagaing Region Government
52	U Maung Gyi	Economic Affairs Minister	Taninthayi Region Government
53	U Khin Maung Myint	Natural Resources Minister	Taninthayi Region Government
54	U Thet Naing	Social Affairs Minister	Taninthayi Region Government
55	U Aung Zaw Hlaing	Transport Minister	Taninthayi Region Government
56	U Saw Martin Luther	Ethnic Affairs Minister	Taninthayi Region Government
57	U Ohn Than	Advocate-General	Taninthayi Region Government
58	U Tin Oo	Economic Affairs Minister	Bago Region Government
59	U Tin Thein	Natural Resources Minister	Bago Region Government
60	U Myo Aung	Social Affairs Minister	Bago Region Government
61	U Tin Swe	Transport Minister	Bago Region Government
62	U Saw Lin Aung	Ethnic Affairs Minister	Bago Region Government
63	U Khin Maung Tint	Advocate-General	Bago Region Government
64	Colonel Moe Min Thein	Security and Border Affairs Minister	Magway Region Government
65	U Aung Chein	Economic Affairs Minister	Magway Region Government
66	U Sai Myint Aye	Natural Resources Minister	Magway Region Government

TO BE CONTINUED

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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

Notification 43/2026

CONTINUED FROM YESTERDAY

Medal of Excellent Performance in Administrative Field (Third Class)			
16	Daw Thanda Phyu Aye	Deputy Permanent Secretary	Office of the Auditor-General of the Union
17	Daw Myat Phyu Pyar Kyi	Deputy Director-General	Office of the Auditor-General of the Union
18	Daw Khin Sanda	Deputy Director-General	Central Bank of Myanmar
19	Daw Kyi Moe Moe Aye	Deputy Director-General	Central Bank of Myanmar
20	Daw Nyein Nyein Myint	Deputy Director-General	Central Bank of Myanmar
21	Daw Kalya Nay Tun	Deputy Director-General	Central Bank of Myanmar
21	Daw Khin Nwe Aung	Deputy Director-General	Central Bank of Myanmar
23	U Myo Zaw Tu	Deputy General Manager	Ministry of Transport and Communications
24	U Zaw Min Oo	Deputy General Manager	Ministry of Transport and Communications
25	U Hlwan Moe Han	Director	Ministry of Home Affairs
26	U Zin Min Ko	District Administrator	Ministry of Home Affairs
27	U Saw Naing	District Administrator	Ministry of Home Affairs
28	U Soe Maung	Director	Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development
29	U Oo Thwin	Director	Ministry of Immigration and Population
30	U Aung Win Thein	Director	Ministry of Immigration and Population
31	U Nyi Nyi Zaw	Director (Civil)	Ministry of Construction
32	Daw Khaing Khaing Soe	Director (Civil)	Ministry of Construction
33	Daw Nilar Tun	Director	Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement
34	Daw Lay Shwe Zin Oo	Director	Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement
35	Daw Phyu Phyu Win	Director	Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement
36	Daw Win Sanda Kyi	Director	Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement
37	Daw Win Win Nwe	Director	Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement
38	U Thurein Tun	Director	Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement
39	Dr Thiri Maung	Director	Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement
40	Daw Su Su Tun	Director	Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement
41	U Than Naing	Director	Ministry of Ethnic Affairs
42	Daw Thinza Naing	Director	Ministry of Ethnic Affairs
43	Daw Mya Zin	Director	Office of the Auditor-General of the Union
44	Daw Mya Thet Mon	Director	Office of the Auditor-General of the Union
45	U Thit Htoo Myint	Executive Officer	Sagaing Region government
46	Lt-Col Kaung Pyae Shan		Ministry of Defence
47	U Ko Ko Oo	Deputy Director	Union Election Commission
48	U Kyaw Soe Naing	Deputy Director	Union Election Commission
49	U Min Khaing Win	Deputy District Administrator	Ministry of Home Affairs

50	U Thein Soe	Deputy District Administrator	Ministry of Home Affairs
51	Daw Yin Yin Cho	Deputy Director	Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development
52	Major Zaw Thet Lin		Ministry of Defence
53	U Aung Min Oo	Assistant Director	Union Election Commission
54	U Myo Min Soe	Assistant Director	Union Election Commission
55	Daw Su Su Lwin	Assistant Director	Union Election Commission
56	Daw Kyawt Kyawt Khaing	Assistant Director	Union Election Commission
57	U Aung Ngwe Soe	Assistant Director	Union Election Commission
58	U Than Aye	Assistant Director	Union Election Commission
59	U Ye Min Thaw	Assistant Director	Union Election Commission
60	U Soe Min	Deputy Flight Pilot	Ministry of Transport and Communications
61	U Maung Cho	Senior Engineer (Bridge Frame)	Ministry of Transport and Communications
62	U Aung Myint Thein	Senior Engineer (Civil)	Ministry of Transport and Communications
63	U Aung Tun Toe	Township Administrator	Ministry of Home Affairs
64	U Zaw Myo Aung	Township Administrator	Ministry of Home Affairs
65	U Than Htaik Aung	Township Administrator	Ministry of Home Affairs
66	U Naing Win	Township Administrator	Ministry of Home Affairs
67	U Zaw Lin Kyaw	Assistant Director	Ministry of Home Affairs
68	Daw Yu Yu	Assistant Director	Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development
69	U Zaw Min Tun	Assistant Director (Civil)	Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development
70	Daw Tin Moe Khaing	Assistant Director (Civil)	Ministry of Construction
71	U Win Ko	Assistant Director (Civil)	Ministry of Construction
72	Daw Swe Zin Nu	Assistant Director	Office of the Auditor-General of the Union
73	Captain Pyae Phyo Aung		Ministry of Defence
74	U Kyaw Thet Paing	Staff Officer	Union Election Commission
75	Daw Swe Swe Than	Staff Officer	Union Election Commission
76	Daw Myat Shwe Sin	Staff Officer	Union Election Commission
77	U Nan Zae Phon Ram	Staff Officer	Union Election Commission
78	U Kyaw Swa Tun	Staff Officer	Union Election Commission
79	U Mya Min Min Htaik	Staff Officer	Union Election Commission
80	Daw Kyi Kyi Htwe	Staff Officer	Union Election Commission
81	U Sai Nyi Nyi	Staff Officer	Union Election Commission
82	U Aung Kyaw Thu	Staff Officer	Union Election Commission
83	Daw Tin Nilar Myint	Staff Officer	Union Election Commission
84	Daw May Thet Hmu Kyaw	Staff Officer	Union Election Commission
85	Daw Khin Sanda Soe	Staff Officer	Union Election Commission
86	Daw Khin Myo Oo	Staff Officer	Union Election Commission
87	Daw Khin Mar Myint	Staff Officer	Union Election Commission
88	Daw Khin Thet Su Zaw	Staff Officer	Union Election Commission
89	Daw Khaing Thinza Phyo	Staff Officer	Union Election Commission
90	Daw Kyawt Yamin Ko Ko	Staff Officer	Union Election Commission
91	U Yan Lin Aung	Staff Officer	Union Election Commission

TO BE CONTINUED

NATIONAL

Republic of the Union of Myanmar National Defence and Security Council

Order 5/2026

15th Waxing of Taboung 1387 ME
2 March 2026

Remitting prison sentences

IN commemoration of 1387 ME full moon day of Taboung, Peasants' Day that falls on 2 March 2026, on humanitarian and compassionate grounds as well as on the goodwill of the government, the Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has remitted the punishment of prisoners from their respective

prisons, jails and camps reducing one-sixth of sentence they are serving as per the Code of Criminal Procedure Article 401 (1) except those convicted of murder and rape or jailed for charges under Explosives Act, Unlawful Association Act, 1878 Arms Act Section 19(f), 1949 The Arms (Emergency Penalty held) Act (temporary), 1951 Arms (Temporary Amendment) Act, 1924 Shan State Arms Order, 2023 Weapons Law, Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, Natural Disaster Management Law, Counter-Terrorism Law and Anti-Corruption Law before 2 March 2026.

By order,

Aung Lin Dwe
Executive Chief

Republic of the Union of Myanmar National Defence and Security Council

Order 6/2026

15th Waxing of Taboung 1387 ME
2 March 2026

Pardon Order

THE Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has pardoned 2,825 male and female prisoners, who face punishment, from their respective prisons, jails and camps under the Code of Criminal Procedure Article 401 (1) on condition that "they will have to serve the new punishment together with the remaining punishment to which they were sentenced this time if more offence is committed," in commemorating 1387 ME full moon day of Taboung, Peasants' Day that falls on 2 March 2026, on humanitarian and compassionate grounds.

By order,

Aung Lin Dwe
Executive Chief

Republic of the Union of Myanmar National Defence and Security Council

Order 8/2026

15th Waxing of Taboung 1387 ME
2 March 2026

Pardon Order

THE Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has pardoned 7,337 male and female prisoners, who face punishment, from their respective prisons, jails and camps under Counter Terrorism Law Sections 50 (J) and 52 (A) in accordance with the Code of Criminal Procedure Article 401 (1) on condition that "they will have to serve the new punishment together with the remaining punishment to which they were sentenced this time if more offence is committed," in commemorating 1387 ME full moon day of Taboung, Peasants' Day that falls on 2 March 2026, on humanitarian and compassionate grounds.

By order,

Aung Lin Dwe
Executive Chief

Republic of the Union of Myanmar National Defence and Security Council

Order 7/2026

15th Waxing of Taboung 1387 ME
2 March 2026

Pardon Order

THE Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has remitted the punishment of ten foreign prisoners from the respective prisons, jails and camps, upon the conditions "to serve the new punishment together with the remaining punishment to which he was sentenced this time if more offence is committed" under Code of Criminal Procedure Article 401 (1), in commemoration of 1387 ME full moon day of Taboung, Peasants' Day that falls on 2 March 2026, on bilateral relation of countries and humanitarian grounds, and they are expelled from Myanmar.

By order,

Aung Lin Dwe
Executive Chief

Republic of the Union of Myanmar National Defence and Security Council

Order 9/2026

15th Waxing of Taboung 1387 ME
2 March 2026

Withdrawal of hearings of suit under Counter Terrorism Law Sections 50 (J) and 52 (A)

THE Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has pardoned and withdrawn 9,532 cases of 12,487 individuals who were prosecuted under Counter Terrorism Law Sections 50 (J) and 52 (A) and under Code of Criminal Procedure Article 512 for attempting to evade, according to the Section 427 of the Constitution in commemorating 1387 ME full moon day of Taboung, Peasants' Day that falls on 2 March 2026, on humanitarian and compassionate grounds.

By order,

Aung Lin Dwe
Executive Chief

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission

Statement 2/2026

1. The Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, in commemoration of the Full Moon Day of Taboung in the year 1387 ME and Peasants' Day falling on 2 March 2026, and with the aims of bringing peace of mind to the people, upholding humanitarian values, and demonstrating the State's goodwill and benevolence, has granted a remission of one-sixth of the remaining sentences to prisoners serving terms in various prisons/jails/camps, by Order 5/2026 of the National Defence and Security Council. Furthermore, by Order 6/2026, a commutation of the remaining sentences and amnesty has been granted to 2,825 prisoners; by Order 7/2026, a commutation of the remaining sentences and amnesty has been granted to 10 foreign prison-

ers, who will subsequently be deported; by Order 8/2026, a commutation of the remaining sentences and amnesty has been granted to 7,337 prisoners serving terms in various prisons/jails/camps for offences committed under Sections 50 (j) and 52 (a) of the Counter Terrorism Law; and by Order 9/2026, proceedings have been concluded for 9,532 cases pending in courts against 12,487 individuals who have been charged under Sections 50 (j) and 52 (a) of the Counter Terrorism Law, and/or under Section 512 of the Code of Criminal Procedure for absconding in relation to such offenses, resulting in the discharge of all accused persons.

2. The consequence of these actions will greatly contribute to domestic unity and peace processes,

and will also serve as a constructive action for the development of the country's human resources. Furthermore, granting amnesty to foreign prisoners is an action that promotes the principle of peaceful coexistence among nations and will also enhance cooperation with the international community.

3. The Myanmar National Human Rights Commission shares in the joy and happiness with the respective family members, as those who have been granted amnesty will have the opportunity to be reunited with their families, and the Commission expresses its hope that the Government will continue to undertake similar positive measures in the future.

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission
Date: 2 March 2026

NATIONAL

Prisoners released to mark 64th Peasants' Day

IN commemoration of 1387 ME full moon day of Taboung, 64th Peasants' Day that falls on 2 March 2026, on humanitarian and compassionate grounds as well as on the goodwill of the government, the Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has remitted the punishment of 2,825 prisoners from their respective prisons, jails and camps reducing one-sixth of sentence they are serving as per the Code of Criminal Procedure Article 401 (1) except those convicted of murder and rape or jailed for charges under Explosives Act, Unlawful Association Act, 1878 Arms Act Section 19(f), 1949 The Arms (Emergency Penalty held) Act (temporary) 1951 Arms (Temporary Amendment) Act, 1924 Shan State Arms Order, 2023 Weapons Law, Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances

Law, Natural Disaster Management Law, Counter Terrorism Law and Anti-Corruption Law before 2 March 2026.

Moreover, he pardoned 7,337 male and female prisoners, who face punishment, from their respective prisons, jails and camps under Counter Terrorism Law Sections 50(J) and 52(A) in accordance with the Code of Criminal Procedure Article 401 (1) on condition that "they will have to serve the new punishment together with the remaining punishment to which they were sentenced this time if more offence is committed."

Similarly, 9,532 cases involving 12,487 individuals prosecuted under Counter Terrorism Law Sections 50 (J) and 52 (A) and under Code of Criminal Procedure Article 512 for attempting to evade were also withdrawn, and the offenders



Family members and loved ones warmly welcome individuals released from the Myingyan Central Prison.

were pardoned.

Although the government-imposed prison sentences on the prisoners in accordance with the crimes they

had committed, arrangements were made at the prisons and camps to provide social, healthcare services and other human rights standards fully in accord-

ance with established norms. Currently, the released inmates were warmly welcomed by their parents and relatives. — MNA/KTZH



Released individuals from the Toungoo Prison.



Released individuals from the Myeik Prison.

933 prisoners released from Insein Prison marking 64th Peasants' Day

THE National Defence and Security Council released Order 5-9/2026 yesterday to pardon 2,825 male and female

prisoners who face punishment, from their respective prisons, jails and camps under the Code of Criminal Procedure Article 401 (1) in commemoration of Peasants' Day, and to bring peace of mind to the public on the full moon day of Taboung, on humanitarian considerations, and bilateral relations. Among them, 933 prisoners, including four foreigners and four Bengalis, were released from Insein Prison in Yangon.

Yangon Region Security and Border Affairs Minister Colonel Win Tint and relevant officials delivered advice to the 611 male and 314 female prisoners, including four foreigners and four Bengalis, at the gymnasium of Insein Prison yesterday morning. The prisoners were transported by YBS buses to specific townships of the region, and the four foreigners and four Bengalis were expelled from the country.

Moreover, the hearings in the suits of those prosecut-

ed under Sections 50 (J) and 52 (A) were also withdrawn, and the relatives of the released political prisoners welcomed them in front of Insein Prison.

The National Defence and Security Council granted pardons to 1,079 prisoners from Insein Prison for the first time on 12 February 2021, whereas 621 prisoners including those under 505-A for second time, 322 prisoners including those under 505-A for third time, 668 prisoners including 505-A for the fourth, 844 prisoners for the fifth, 1,477 prisoners for the sixth, 1,167 prisoners for the seventh, 90 prisoners for the eighth, 160 prisoners for the ninth, 985 prisoners including foreigners for the tenth, 1,400 prisoners including foreigners for the eleventh, 2,497 prisoners including foreigners for the twelfth, 6,186 prisoners including foreigners on 2026 Independence Day and 2,825 prisoners on Peasants' Day (full moon day of Taboung). — Nyein Thu (MNA)/KTZH



Travel arrangements are underway for prisoners released from the Insein Prison. **PHOTO: KANU**

OPINION

Cultivate chemical-free Pawsan rice strains

MYANMAR'S prestigious "Pawsan rice" varieties are renowned for their exceptional qualities. Under the guidance of the Head of State, research was initiated in 2021 on "chemical-free clean Pawsan" rice, which originates in Yekyi Township of Ayeyawady Region, to ensure that this Pawsan rice becomes a healthy and safe food for human consumption.

The research was systematically carried out with the objectives of revitalizing degraded paddy soils, enabling farmers to use natural soil nutrients effectively, restoring damaged farmland, improving farmers' socioeconomic conditions, increasing yields through the selection and cultivation of high-quality, regionally

This method is cost-effective, reducing cultivation expenses per acre compared to conventional farming, supports economic sustainability, does not reduce yields, and, due to its high quality, increases farmers' income and improves their socioeconomic well-being. Farming based on natural soil nutrients keeps farmland productive and greatly benefits consumer health. Therefore, cultivating chemical-free Pawsan rice is recognized as the best method for long-term, sustainable agriculture.

Laboratory tests showed that this Pawsan rice, grown with natural soil nutrients, has superior qualities, including a more fragrant aroma, softer and tender texture when eaten, better cooking resilience, and stickiness. In addition, after cultivation, the levels of plant-absorbable potassium (K), phosphorus (P), and nitrogen in the soil increased significantly.

The chemical-free Yekyi Pawsan rice has become popular at MSME exhibitions, and using national economic development funds, cultivation was expanded up to 250 acres. On 6 March 2025, during a competition of 41 Pawsan rice varieties, this chemical-free Yekyi Pawsan rice won the First Prize thanks to the efforts of farmers. The award was based on evaluations of the rice's appearance, cooking and eating quality, and the farmers' cultivation and care practices.

The research efforts have not only produced high-quality, safe rice for consumers but also effectively protected farmland from degradation. Being free of chemicals, it preserves natural nutrients without causing harmful side effects. By using natural soil nutrients, it restores soil health and helps maintain the ecosystem.

This method is cost-effective, reducing cultivation expenses per acre compared to conventional farming, supports economic sustainability, does not reduce yields, and, due to its high quality, increases farmers' income and improves their socioeconomic well-being. Farming based on natural soil nutrients keeps farmland productive and greatly benefits consumer health. Therefore, cultivating chemical-free Pawsan rice is recognized as the best method for long-term, sustainable agriculture.

suitable varieties, developing a chemical-free market, and establishing a strong market for safe rice grown using natural soil nutrients and biological methods.

This research, conducted from 2021 to 2025, followed a farmer-centred research approach. Six Pawsan rice varieties were selected and used for the study: "Myaungmya Pawsan", "Pyapon Pawsan", "Shweyayin Pawsan", "Pyapon Pawsangyi", "Ayeyawady Pawsangyi", and "Shwebo Pawsan".

As part of the efforts of technicians and farmers, the "Ayeyawady Pawsangyi" variety was selected for chemical-free cultivation. Farmers collectively expanded cultivation up to 250 acres using national economic development funds, achieving an average yield of 95 baskets per acre.

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Why Critical Reading is Important in Today's Changing World

IN today's rapidly changing world, the ability to read is no longer enough. We are surrounded by an overwhelming amount of information, news articles, social media posts, advertisements, academic research, political speeches, and artificial intelligence-generated content. In such an environment, critical reading has become an essential life skill. It is not simply about understanding the words on a page; it is about analyzing, questioning, evaluating, and interpreting information thoughtfully. As technology evolves, societies become more interconnected, and global challenges grow more complex, critical reading empowers individuals to make informed decisions, resist manipulation, and participate meaningfully in civic and professional life.

❖ Understanding Critical Reading

Critical reading goes beyond surface comprehension. While basic reading focuses on identifying facts and understanding the

literal meaning of a text, critical reading requires deeper engagement. It involves examining the author's purpose, identifying bias, recognizing assumptions, evaluating evidence, and considering alternative perspectives. A critical reader asks questions such as: Who wrote this? Why was it written? What evidence supports the claims? What viewpoints are missing?

In a world where misinformation spreads quickly, these questions are vital. Without critical reading skills, individuals may accept false information as truth, leading to poor personal decisions and broader societal consequences.

❖ The Rise of Information Overload

The digital age has transformed how we access information. The internet provides instant access to news, research, and opinions from across the globe. Social media platforms distribute content at incredible speed, often without thorough fact-checking.

Artificial intelligence tools can now generate articles, images, and videos that appear realistic but may contain inaccuracies or false information.

This abundance of information creates what many call "information overload". While access to knowledge has increased, the ability to evaluate that knowledge has not always kept pace. Critical reading helps individuals filter through this vast sea of data, distinguishing reliable sources from misleading ones.

For example, during global crises such as pandemics or climate-related disasters, inaccurate information can spread fear and confusion. Individuals who practice critical reading are better equipped to examine scientific evidence, compare credible sources, and avoid panic driven by rumours.

❖ Combatting Misinformation and Fake News

One of the greatest challenges in the modern world is misinformation. Fake news stories,

manipulated images, and misleading headlines can influence public opinion and even political outcomes. Algorithms often prioritize sensational content because it generates more engagement, not because it is accurate.

Critical reading serves as a defence against such manipulation. By analyzing the credibility of a source, checking for supporting evidence, and comparing multiple perspectives, readers can avoid being deceived. Critical readers are less likely to share unverified information, thereby contributing to a healthier information ecosystem.

❖ Enhancing Academic and Professional Success

Critical reading is equally important in education and the workplace. In academic settings, students must evaluate research studies, compare scholarly arguments, and develop their own reasoned conclusions. Memorizing facts is no longer sufficient; students are expected to analyze and synthesize information.

Dr Than Lwin Tun

In professional environments, employees frequently encounter reports, data analyses, policy documents, and market research. A manager who critically evaluates a business proposal is more likely to identify risks and opportunities. A healthcare professional who critically examines medical research can provide better patient care. Engineers, teachers, lawyers, and scientists all rely on critical reading to make informed decisions.

Moreover, innovation often depends on questioning established ideas. Critical reading encourages curiosity and intellectual independence – qualities that drive creativity and problem-solving in a changing global economy.

❖ Promoting Cultural Awareness and Empathy

Globalization has connected people from diverse cultures, backgrounds, and belief systems.

As individuals interact with different perspectives, critical reading helps them understand context and avoid stereotypes. By carefully analyzing texts from various cultural viewpoints, readers develop empathy and broaden their understanding of the world.

Critical reading also enables individuals to recognize cultural bias in texts. Media descriptions may oversimplify or misrepresent certain communities. A critical reader identifies such bias and seeks additional perspectives, promoting free thought and informed dialogue.

❖ Supporting Lifelong Learning

In today's changing world, learning does not end with formal education. Technological advancements, economic shifts, and social transformations require individuals to continuously update their knowledge and skills.

Critical reading supports lifelong learning by enabling individuals to independently assess new information.

For instance, when new technologies emerge, consumers must evaluate claims about their benefits and risks. When financial markets fluctuate, investors must analyze economic reports carefully. When health guidelines change, individuals must interpret new recommendations responsibly. Critical reading empowers people to adapt thoughtfully rather than react spontaneously.

❖ Building Independent Thinkers

Perhaps most importantly, critical reading cultivates independent thinking. It encourages individuals to form their own opinions based on evidence rather than relying only on popular opinion. Independent thinkers are less susceptible to manipulation, propaganda, and peer pressure.

In an era of rapid change – politically, technologically, and socially – societies need citizens

who can think critically. Progress depends on people who question assumptions, evaluate solutions, and contribute informed perspectives to public debates.

The world is changing at an unparalleled speed. Information travels instantly, technologies evolve rapidly, and global challenges demand thoughtful solutions. In such an environment, critical reading is not optional – it is essential. It enables individuals to navigate information overload, combat misinformation, succeed academically and professionally, appreciate diverse perspectives, and continue learning throughout life.

In the long run, critical reading strengthens both individuals and societies. It transforms readers from passive consumers of information into active, informed participants in the world around them. As change continues to accelerate, the importance of critical reading will only grow, shaping a future built on knowledge, judgement, and thoughtful engagement.

ALMOST everyone tends to talk day by day, except speech-impaired people. Such talks will be a good or bad deed depending on the speaker. After all, talking is not a good thing that can be done at any time. To my certain knowledge, the tongue is but three inches long, yet it can kill a man six feet high, as a Japanese proverb states. Thus, for one's food may be another's poison, we had better watch our mouths whenever we talk to our family members, relatives, friends, acquaintances or even strangers. No matter when it takes place, there are several kinds of words that we should avoid while talking as much as possible. They are nothing but religious words, political words, harsh words and words of no use.

It is reasonable to assume that people have been acting in worship since human existence in the world. But apparently, they worship for many logical reasons. Primates are supposed to worship fire, water and air as gods and goddesses for pure fear lest they worry about their life and property. In this way, it comes as

no surprise to learn that we humans have had diverse derived beliefs in our respective religions. However, alongside that context, traditional beliefs, superstitions and even extreme views as regards religions are still flourishing among worshippers. In fact, whatever religion we embrace, we must practise intrapersonal stability within ourselves from this religion critically and rationally at first, then global peace to the greatest degree, not arguments and attacks between religions. If not so, ancestor worship will be in vain for certain. When we need to have a serious talk about religious matters unflinchingly, we must first have studied enough religious teachings of ours as well as others' religious practices. Despite this, it would be best if we do not hold religious talks with any person most of the time at all.

As far as I can see, a nation's politics is often founded on its eth-

nicity and geographical features. Different ethnic groups are living here and there all over the world, we know well. Since diverse races have diverse ideas and opinions on their national identity, political policies adopted in world nations will surely not be the same as one another if we think about it candidly. Additionally, we cannot easily decide which country will certainly develop more than ever before if it relies upon what political policy, just from the point of view of our national state. Even in the same country, nationalities' improvement is quite different to each other very often.

Why ever are these situations still so? I am strongly of the opinion that only a person who knows politics inside out, particularly political science, political geography, political economy, background history, geopolitics or international relations, will be able to criticize the existing situation of a nation

in the globe, looked at objectively rather than subjectively, including in the eyes of the law and the world. Hence, political talks are no easy task, actually. Then, it would be better if we do not say anything, even about domestic politics, to say nothing of foreign affairs, especially when we have hero worship or political bias together with an uncontrolled national spirit and a strong preference for national interests.

I believe that we should never say harsh words, even about ourselves in any time and in any circumstance except in some cases. Of course, harsh words may not be tolerated in every society of the world as they are an offensive manner or aggressive behaviour in many social dealings. In most cases, harsh words can be faux pas or social blunders that must be averted by anyone, mainly between love-hate relationships or extremely fragile relationships.

Words That Are Swallowed

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

of words that should be said by everybody. The words must be of truth, use and others' likes or of truth, use, but others' dislikes. As a matter of fact, the former can be said at any time and in any space, whereas the latter should be done according to the time and circumstances of a situation. But, certainly, any words of no use need not be used anytime or anywhere. Some people habitually talk through their hats in the presence of others, but to no effect. At that time, their words are usually no use to others simply because they take the biscuits, involving trivial matters, black lies, dirty jokes, brainwashing, psywars and false hopes. Really, we had best not keep up a desultory conversation even if it is mere humour or virtual reality now that this wastes too much time and energy imperceptibly and automatically.

Therefore, some people like to change the subject to religious and political affairs every time they meet their close friends for the simple reason that talking about these affairs may serve as a 'hate bridge' between their reg-



Embracing silence preserves relationships, time, and peace, as "silence is golden" trumps risky speech. ILLUSTRATION: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/MERRIAM-WEBSTER

ular relationships and even cause death sometimes, to say the least. On the other hand, harsh words and words of no use cause no hard feelings between companions, always assuming that they come from the same parents, as usual. Perhaps this will not go well in other situations, I suppose. Truly, the benefits of clamping up without saying words that should be swallowed are many. First of all, it can save our precious time and non-renewable energy to some extent. And we will not need to

resolve the potential implications of such words. As the sayings go, walls have ears and silence is golden. Above all, leaning against a wall of silence on occasions, chiefly when we are not in a position of authority or in a favourable condition, is the best lifestyle of a person, largely because after having said unnecessary words, we cannot have a dog's chance of leading the rest of our lives. Altogether, our sometimes swallowed words are as important as a matter of life and death.

NATIONAL

Mandalay Central Prison releases 1,398 prisoners

THE National Defence and Security Council granted pardon to 1,398 male and female prisoners from Mandalay Central Prison yesterday.

Director U Cho Win and relevant officials of the Prison Department met 1,065 male and 333 female prisoners who were released from the Mandalay Central Prison and delivered words of advice.

They also conducted medical checkups and presented labour compensation and allowance to them.

“Today, those who have been granted amnesty are provided by the government with calculated travel allowances and transportation expenses. Their labour compensations are also calculated and paid out. Those returning to their respective regions are transported in departmental vehicles to the relevant bus terminals. If family members come to receive them, arrangements are made to ensure a warm and



Individuals released from the Mandalay Central Prison are seen being warmly welcomed.

welcoming reunion. As an official in charge, I feel joyful and delighted that those who have now been released can return home in good health, reunite

with their families, contribute to the country, and lead peaceful family lives,” said U Thein Zaw Maung, deputy director of the prison.

One of the released inmates said, “I am very happy to have been granted amnesty. I am extremely delighted to be able to return home quickly. My family

members are already here to pick me up. Now, I can reunite with my family, and I will continue to live and work peacefully in accordance with the law. I would like to express my gratitude to the responsible authorities of the government for showing leniency and granting amnesty to prisoners like us.”

Another released inmate said, “I am serving a sentence of one and a half years. I am very happy to have been released under this pardon. My family members are here outside to receive me. I would like to thank the responsible authorities for granting this amnesty. Once outside, I will make sure not to repeat my mistakes and will live and work within the framework of the law.”

Across the Mandalay Region, a total of 2021 inmates – 1,529 male and 492 female inmates – from five prisons and seven labour camps were granted amnesty yesterday. — Maung Aye Chan/KTZH

2 YBS companies recognized for zero accidents in 2025

THE Yangon Region Public Transport Committee (YRTC) presented road safety excellence awards to two YBS bus companies that maintained a record of zero accidents throughout 2025.

The ceremony was held on 27 February at the YRTC headquarters, and K2 million each was awarded to Konbaung Yangon Public Company Limited and Thet Yin Aung Transport Public Co Ltd.

“Last year, we did not include the road safety award. This year, we noticed that some companies had absolutely no accidents or injuries.

The YRTC meeting decided to honour them. Therefore, we are presenting awards to them this year,” said U Lian Cin Mang, Joint Secretary of the YRTC.

This award was introduced to encourage companies to prioritize safety and ensure there are no losses of life or injuries caused by YBS drivers or traffic accidents.

Furthermore, the YRTC stated that they will increase momentum in 2026 to ensure drivers operate systematically, aiming to further reduce traffic incidents, fatalities, and injuries. — MT/ZN



The YRTC holds an award presentation ceremony for road safety excellence and performance.

Myanmar detains one Korean involved in telecom fraud



Immigration processing the deportation of a Korean national.

MYANMAR detained one Korean involved in telecom fraud and other criminal activities in Myawady, Kayin State, yesterday.

The government is actively collaborating with neighbouring countries, regional partners, and international organizations

to identify and take decisive action against foreign nationals involved in or orchestrating online scam centres. It is also coordinating effectively to ensure the swift repatriation of foreign nationals, victims of human trafficking, to their respective countries. — MNA/KTZH

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Corporate Governance Seminar & Panel Discussion Talk 2026 held at UMFCCI

THE Corporate Governance Seminar & Panel Discussion Talk 2026 took place on 1 March at the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), jointly organized by Parami International College (PIU College) and Myanmar Bamar Ethnic Entrepreneurs Association. The event focused on governance challenges and opportunities in the modern business world.

“Business companies that do not yet have Corporate Governance in place need to comply with three key requirements: adhering to the Myanmar Companies Law, pro-

tecting the rights of company shareholders, and understanding and fulfilling the duties and responsibilities of a company director. We organized this discussion to nurture young people who are interested in doing business and can contribute to national development, and to ensure they understand the ethics and fundamentals of Corporate Governance so they can integrate these principles into their work and advance their businesses,” said Dr Nyi Min Htay, Principal of PIU College.

Five successful CEOs from the business world participated in a discussion under the theme “Corporate Governance Culture for Business”. — ASH/KK



The Corporate Governance Seminar and Panel Discussion Talk is underway in Yangon on 1 March 2026.

CBM injects US\$35M, THB34M, CNY3M in Feb

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold over US\$35 million, 34 million baht and over three million yuan in February.

CBM sold over \$1.95 million to edible oil-importing companies and \$1

million to fuel oil-importing companies on 27 February, along with an injection of 130,000 yuan and over 2.55 million baht into the market.

CBM announced on 26 February that it would sell 50 million baht to

importers. Furthermore, CBM injected three million baht into the market on that day and sold over \$2.21 million to edible oil-importing companies and \$1 million to fuel oil-importing companies on that day.

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

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



Fertilizer reference prices stable in Q1

THE Myanmar Fertilizer, Seed and Pesticide Entrepreneurs Association (MFSPEA) announced that fertilizer reference prices remained consistently in the first quarter (January-March) 2026.

The reference prices are stable at K94,000 per 50-kilogramme bag of Urea fertilizer (large granular), and K115,000 per 50-kilogramme bag of Di Ammonium Phosphate.

The prices may vary a bit depending on transport charges in other regions and states, as the aforementioned prices are set for the Yangon Region, MFSPEA stated.

Additionally, reference prices will be further announced as per rules and regulations. For overcharging, consumers can complain to the committee through contact numbers 067 410032 and 09 988539360. MFSPEA has already asked the member companies to stick to the reference prices.

At present, the Fertilizer Committee holds a quarterly meeting to ensure quality fertilizer for growers without facing shortages. Under the approval of the Fertilizer Technology Group, 12,297 fertilizer registrations have been granted after the 43rd meeting of the Fertilizer Committee. With individuals’ consent, 2,088 registrations were voluntarily cancelled. The department revoked 2,867 registrations for expiration of validity, and 7,342 registrations are still under processing. — NN/KK

MTE bids over 440 tonnes of teak, hardwood byproducts

THE Export Marketing and Milling Department of the Myanma Timber Enterprise (MTE), operated under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, called for open tender to sell 442.6 tonnes of firewood of teak and hardwood, offcuts in non-uniform small sizes from resawing the byproducts and

unbid sawn timbers.

The tender form is available at No 8 Mill in Hlaing Township from 3-9 March, and the tender opening will be held at 8 am on 11 March at No 8 Mill.

Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises and interested bidders can compete in bidding to purchase the necessary raw materials. They can ob-

serve details of the open tender on the official website of the Myanma Timber Enterprise, www.mte.gov.mm, or by dialling 09 5038807 or 09 695588560. They can purchase bidding rules and regulations at the respective mills, according to the auction committee of the Export Marketing and Milling Department. — NN/KK

ECONOMY WORLD

KDDI to introduce humanoid robot in retail shops to serve customers



File photo taken in February 2026 shows a sign with KDDI Corp's logo in Tokyo. **PHOTO: KYODO**

KDDI Corp will introduce a humanoid robot controlled by physical artificial intelligence technology to serve customers at retail shops and elsewhere, the Japanese telecommunications operator said Monday.

KDDI will showcase related exhibitions at the Mobile World Congress, one of the world's largest and most influential connectivity trade fairs, opening Monday in Barcelona, Spain.

In cooperation with the Japanese startup Avita Inc, known for developing services powered by avatars and generative AI, KDDI aims to promote the next-generation AI systems that operate in and interact with the physical world by implementing customer-service robots on a trial basis as early as this fall.

These humanoids are expected to learn and acquire more natural conversational ability through interaction with customers.

KDDI will provide communications technologies that link cloud-based data processing infrastructure and robots, with humanoids planned to be operated at "au" mobile phone shops, medical and welfare facilities, art museums and recreational facilities, among others. — Kyodo

Conflict closes Dubai, Abu Dhabi stock markets on 2 and 3 Mar

THE stock exchanges in Dubai and Abu Dhabi will be closed on 2 and 3 March due to the ongoing conflict in the region, the UAE's financial regulatory authority announced Sunday.

The Emirates have been hit by Iranian strikes since

Saturday in response to joint Israeli-US attacks on the Islamic republic. "The Authority confirms that it will continue to closely monitor developments in the region and assess the situation on an ongoing basis, taking any further measures as

necessary," the authority said in a statement.

"All concerned parties are advised to follow official UAE Capital Market Authority, ADX and DFM channels for updates regarding the resumption of trading." — AFP

Amazon to invest another 18 bln euros in Spain data centres

AMAZON on Monday announced another 18 billion euros (\$21 billion) of investment in data centre projects in Spain, more than doubling its spending there on the infrastructure crucial for artificial intelligence and cloud computing.

The total of 33.7 billion in investments through to 2035 would support almost 30,000 jobs, Amazon said in a statement released during the Mobile World Congress telecoms trade fair in Barcelona.

Cash will flow "to expand and support data infrastructure, delivering advanced artificial intelligence and cloud computing capabilities to organizations across Europe", the company added.



A picture taken on 2 March 2026 in Barcelona shows a MWC26 logo at the Mobile World Congress (MWC), the world's biggest mobile technology showcase and fair. **PHOTO: AFP**

The US tech giant had already committed 15.7 billion euros in 2024 to expand data centres in the northeastern Spanish

region of Aragon.

"In a world filled with uncertainty, our country is a safe bet," Spanish Prime Minister

Vietnam's southern hub seeks US\$11 bln in FDI in 2026

VIETNAM'S southern hub Ho Chi Minh City has set a target of attracting US\$11 billion in foreign direct investment (FDI) in 2026, the Vietnam News Agency reported Monday.

The target marks a significant increase from the US\$8.37 billion of FDI recorded in 2025, according to the report.

The city aims to attract selective FDI, focusing on high technology, digital transformation, logistics and financial-commercial services — sectors with high added value, technological spillo-

vers and global supply chain connectivity. To achieve the goal, the municipal authorities will eliminate or simplify all unnecessary or overlapping investment and business conditions, while cutting administrative processing time and compliance costs by half, the state-owned media said.

In the first two months of this year, the city attracted nearly US\$979.6 million in FDI, up 28.4 per cent year on year, including newly licensed projects, capital adjustments and share purchases. — Xinhua

Türkiye bans short selling on stock market amid regional conflict

TÜRKIYE'S capital markets regulator on Monday temporarily banned short selling in the equity markets of Borsa Istanbul, the country's main stock exchange, to mitigate market volatility amid escalating regional conflict.

The Capital Markets Board of Türkiye said in a statement on Sunday evening that the measure, effective through the close of trading on 6 March, was introduced to safeguard market stability and protect investors.

Short selling — a practice that allows investors to profit

from falling share prices — and similar intraday positions are covered by the ban.

The regulator also announced temporary flexibility in margin trading rules, lowering the minimum equity maintenance ratio from 35 per cent to 20 per cent until 6 March to ease pressure on investors.

The move comes as Turkish financial markets react cautiously to coordinated US and Israeli strikes on Iran and Iran's retaliatory attacks across the Middle East. — Xinhua

wind farms — two renewable energy sources that have surged in Spain in recent years.

Local leaders hope the energy boon can help make the region a hub for the data centres needed to power generative artificial intelligence.

Amazon's investment comes as European countries are debating fiercely over the need for tech sovereignty, with some warning especially against relying on American giants for storing or processing data in the cloud.

The vast majority of cloud services aimed at European governments are controlled by Amazon Web Services, Google and Microsoft, with local alternatives struggling to take root. — AFP

Pedro Sanchez posted to the X social network after meeting Amazon representatives at the Mobile World Congress (MWC) telecoms trade fair in Barcelona.

While large, the sums involved in the Spanish investment pale in comparison to the hundreds of billions AI and cloud giants including Amazon, Microsoft, Google and OpenAI plan to spend on computing infrastructure in the coming years.

The upped investment nevertheless marks "a long-term bet on Spain", Amazon's chief global affairs and legal officer David Zapolsky said in the statement.

Aragon is sparsely populated and benefits from strong sunshine and wind, making it a popular site for solar parks and

Energy prices soar, stock markets slide on Iran war fallout

OIL and gas prices soared, stock markets slid and the dollar firmed on Monday as the widening Iran war shook financial markets across the globe.

European natural gas prices rocketed more than 20 per cent and world crude futures surged around eight per cent on fears of disruption to Middle East energy supplies.

Asian and European stock markets retreated as much as around two per cent as investors exited trades in favour of the dollar and gold, seen as safer bets in times of economic unrest.

The greenback jumped nearly one per cent against the British pound, while the precious metal rose 2.1 per cent to \$5,389.5 an ounce.

There were sizeable gains to share prices of energy majors and defence



A financial data screen in Tokyo shows the Nikkei stock index shedding over 1,500 points during morning trading on 2 March 2026. PHOTO: KYODO

companies, with BAE Systems jumping six per cent in London.

“Investors are scuttling towards safe havens, seeking shelter as conflict widens in the Middle East,” noted Susannah Streeter, chief investment strategist at Wealth Club.

After US and Israeli strikes on Iran over the

weekend, Israel bombed Lebanon on Monday following rocket fire from Hezbollah.

Several American warplanes crashed in Kuwait and Iran lashed out against the region with missiles as the war expanded.

The bombings have also seen the vital Strait of Hormuz — through which

around 20 per cent of global seaborne oil passes — effectively shut and several ships attacked.

Airline share prices took a battering as carriers were forced to cancel flights to and from the Middle East — with Qantas, Singapore Airlines and British Airways owner IAG each losing around five per

cent.

Air France-KLM shed more than eight per cent in late morning Paris deals.

However, energy firms rallied, with Australia’s Woodside Energy jumping more than six per cent, PetroChina and TotalEnergies adding almost four per cent and Shell nearly three per cent.

“If higher oil prices persist, it raises the risk of stickier headline inflation,” wrote Saxo Markets’ Charu Chanana.

This could prove troublesome for US President Donald Trump, who has promised his electorate low prices, as the United States approaches mid-term elections in November.

Rising energy prices, increased shipping costs and loss of revenue for air transport could have “a harmful effect on growth”, said economist Eric Dor

from the IESEG School of Management in Paris.

“If it’s a matter of three days, it’s not serious. But if it’s over a longer period, then it will have an additional recessionary effect,” he told AFP.

In theory, oil-importing countries have reserves, with OECD members required to maintain 90 days’ worth of stocks, but prices above \$100 cannot be ruled out according to analysts.

If the disruption at Hormuz continues, “no matter how much spare capacity, (it) is not going to fill that gap. That gap is just too big,” said Amena Bakr, head of Middle East and OPEC+ research at analysts Kpler.

Key members of the OPEC+ oil cartel on Sunday announced a greater-than-expected increase to production quotas. — AFP

Thailand’s manufacturing sector growth slightly quickens in Feb

THAILAND’S manufacturing sector regained growth momentum in February, mainly due to a solid expansion in both output and new order inflows amid a renewed decline in employment, a survey showed on Monday.

The Southeast Asian country’s manufacturing purchasing managers’ in-

dex (PMI) came in at 53.5 last month, slightly quickening from 52.7 in January, marking a strong improvement in overall operating conditions, according to S&P Global.

A PMI reading above 50 indicates expansion in the manufacturing sector, while a reading below 50 reflects contraction.

Thai manufacturers

expanded their purchasing activity for a ninth consecutive month in February as a result of increased production requirements, higher customer demand, and efforts to replenish stocks, S&P Global said in a statement.

Despite elevated backlogs of work, firms recorded a marginal de-

crease in employment for the second time in three months, the survey noted.

The reduction in staffing capacity reflected cost considerations, with firms apparently seeking to lower output prices to secure more business, said Phil Smith, economics associate director at S&P Global Market Intelligence. — Xinhua

Laos prioritizes food security, agricultural modernization

LAO Prime Minister Sonexay Siphandone has called for accelerated efforts to strengthen food security, modernize agricultural production, and improve the management of land, forest, and water resources.

According to a report by the Lao News Agency on Monday, Sonexay delivered the message during a meeting held on

Saturday to review the agriculture and forestry sector in 2025.

Speaking at the meeting, Sonexay stressed that agricultural production must follow a self-reliant economic path, with priority given to strengthening domestic capacity in plant and animal breeding, scientific innovation, and key production inputs.

He called for greater

attention to soil improvement, protection of productive farmland, and the development of concentrated production zones supported by appropriate infrastructure. Expanding domestic production of animal feed, fertilizers, pesticides, and veterinary medicine was also emphasized to reduce reliance on imports.

Effective water man-

agement was highlighted as vital to increasing output, with expanded wet-season rice cultivation and greater focus on high-value dry-season crops. Strengthening food processing, sanitation standards, trade circulation, seed banks, and food reserves would improve resilience against natural disasters and climate change. — Xinhua

The Global New Light of Myanmar
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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V NORDLEOPARD VOY.NO. (606W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V NORDLEOPARD VOY.NO. (606W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **3-3-2026** 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

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Uranium supply deal among key pacts signed between India, Canada

INDIA and Canada on Monday signed a long-term deal worth US\$1.9 billion for uranium supply aimed at expanding nuclear energy generation projects in India.

The significant deal was inked in the presence of visiting Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Carney was in New Delhi on a four-day official visit.

The uranium supply deal would contribute towards India's vision for its nuclear power programme under the federal government's ambitious "Viksit Bharat" (Developed India) initiative, and also achieve 100 GW of nuclear power by 2047, said sources familiar with the deal.

"The uranium supply deal will contribute to India's civil nuclear energy generation, clean energy transition objectives, and long-term energy security," they added.

Besides, the two countries also signed several other memorandums of understanding (MoU) in different areas like renewable energy, critical minerals, technical education and research, and a trilateral MoU among India, Canada and Australia on technology and innovation



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi (R) walks with his Canadian counterpart Mark Carney before their meeting at the Hyderabad House in New Delhi on 2 March 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

cooperation.

On the occasion, the two sides also finalized the terms of reference for the launch of negotiations toward an ambitious and mutually beneficial Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).

"Once concluded, the CEPA will significantly strengthen India-Canada economic engagement and accelerate progress toward achieving the bilateral trade target of US\$50 billion by 2030," said the list of outcomes issued by India's Ministry of External Affairs. — Xinhua

UN nuclear agency holds special meeting on Iran



The Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Rafael Grossi attends the special meeting on Iran, initiated by Russia, prior to the IAEA's Board of Governors meeting at the agency's headquarters in Vienna, Austria on 2 March 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

DELEGATES at the United Nations' nuclear agency began meeting on Monday for an extraordinary session on Iran in the wake of the US-Israeli strikes on the Islamic republic.

Russia, a key ally of Tehran, requested the meeting on Saturday at the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), following the same request by Iran. The extraordinary meeting precedes an already scheduled regular session of the IAEA's board of governors, which represents 35 countries. Following the strikes, the IAEA — which monitors Iran's nuclear programme — said on Saturday that it was "closely monitoring developments in the Middle East, and urges restraint to avoid any nuclear safety risks to people in the region". — AFP

Germany has no intention of participating in military action against Iran: FM

GERMAN Foreign Minister Johann Wadepful on Monday clarified that Germany has no intention of participating in military operations against Iran.

In an interview with German radio station Deutschlandfunk, Wadepful expressed concerns over the escalation in the Middle East.

France, Britain, and Germany on Sunday issued a joint statement saying they would "take steps to defend our interests and those of our allies in the region".

Wadepful emphasized that the interpretation of this statement varies by country.

"For us, it means nothing more than that our Bun-

deswehr soldiers would defend themselves if they were attacked," he added.

He noted that while Britain has decided to provide bases for US use, Germany has neither the military assets in the area nor the intention to join such actions.

— Xinhua

Nepal PM urges voters to take part in 5 Mar elections

NEPAL'S interim Prime Minister Sushila Karki on Monday urged citizens to actively participate in the parliamentary elections scheduled for 5 March, calling the vote as an opportunity to shape their future and that of their children.

Addressing the nation ahead of the elections, Karki said public participation is crucial to steering Nepal towards political stability and economic prosperity.

"Casting your vote is not merely stamping an election symbol and securing victory for someone, but it is a decision about the future for yourself and your children," she said.

Nepal is holding fresh elections after the House of Representatives, the lower house, was dissolved following the unrest in the country last September. — Xinhua

Life-threatening flash flooding warning issued for southeast Australia

EMERGENCY warnings for life-threatening flash flooding have been issued for vast areas of the southeast Australian states of Victoria and New South Wales (NSW).

The Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) on Monday issued severe weather warnings for heavy and locally intense rainfall across regions in central and northern Victoria and south and south-western NSW.

It said that six-hourly rainfall totalling up to 100 mm was possible on Monday across the warning area spanning over 650 kilometres from the central Victorian town of Seymour to the outback mining town of Broken Hill in far western NSW.

"Locally intense rainfall, which may lead to dangerous and life-threatening flash flooding, is possible throughout the warning area with thunderstorms this morning," it said. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Arsenal beats Chelsea to stay 5 points clear in Premier League

WILLIAM Saliba and Jurrien Timber both scored from corner kicks as Arsenal beat Chelsea 2-1 at the Emirates Stadium on Sunday to retain its five-point lead at the top of the Premier League.

Saliba opened the scoring in the 21st minute, flicking the ball home with the help of a deflection, and Timber restored Arsenal's lead in the 66th with a header from another corner.

Chelsea had equalized on the stroke of halftime when Piero Hincapie turned the ball into his own net to make it 1-1.

Chelsea winger Pedro Neto

was sent off in the 70th minute after picking up two yellow cards in three minutes.

Benjamin Sesko continued his impressive form as Manchester United came from behind to beat Crystal Palace 2-1 at home and climb to third in the table.

Manchester United fell behind early when Maxence Lacroix scored for Palace, but Bruno Fernandes equalized from the penalty spot after Lacroix was sent off for conceding the spot-kick and denying a clear goal-scoring opportunity. — Xinhua



Chelsea's English midfielder (10) Cole Palmer (R) and Chelsea's Belgian midfielder (45) Romeo Lavia (C) challenge Arsenal's English midfielder (7) Bukayo Saka (L) during the English Premier League football match between Arsenal and Chelsea at the Emirates Stadium in London on 1 March 2026. PHOTO: AFP

Free summer football and futsal training offered in 5 cities



The summer basic football training class previously held.

SUMMER basic football and futsal training programmes will be provided free in five cities, according to the Myanmar Football Federation.

Basic soccer training classes for kids 10-15 years old will be opened in Yangon, Mandalay, Taunggyi, Pathein and Mawlamyine, aiming to encourage the development of physical, intellectual and personal skills for young people, having a passion for football sport and more new genera-

tion players to appear.

It will be conducted in two batches- from 9 March to 8 April for the first batch and from 20 April to 20 May for second batch, and basic football playing tactics will be trained for a total of 1,700; 500 football trainees and 200 futsal trainees in Yangon, 400 football trainees in Mandalay and each 200 football trainees in Taunggyi, Pathein and Mawlamyine.

Training uniforms will be

provided free for all trainees. Parents or guardians can contact respective football institutions between 3 and 8 March during office hours: 09 698858827 for Pathein, 09 250345219 for Mawlamyine, 09 691241995 and 09 402394496 for Taunggyi, 09 694488008 (Grassroots Hotline) and 09 40372542 for Yangon (Thuwunna Stadium gate 2) and 09 696463565 and 09 428360656 for Mandalay (Myanmar Football Academy), said MFF. — MT/ZS

Barca must 'make the impossible possible': coach Flick on Atletico cup challenge

BARCELONA coach Hansi Flick insisted Monday his team could turn around a 4-0 deficit in the Copa del Rey semifinal tie against Atletico Madrid.

The Catalan giants host Diego Simeone's side on Tuesday in the second leg after a heavy defeat by the Rojiblancos in February, needing a spectacular comeback if they are to defend the trophy.

"We are four goals behind, so we want to make the impossible possible, this is our goal for tomorrow," Flick told reporters.

"We all know that it's not easy but in the end we never give up, and we start this match (aiming) for a clean sheet, believing in our strengths and that we can do it."



Barcelona's Spanish forward (10) Lamine Yamal reacts to their defeat at the end of the Spanish Copa del Rey (King's Cup) semifinal first leg football match between Club Atletico de Madrid and FC Barcelona at Metropolitano Stadium in Madrid on 12 February 2026. PHOTO: AFP

Barca thrashed Villarreal 4-1 on Saturday at Camp Nou

in La Liga, with a hat-trick from teenager star Lamine Yamal,

the first of his career.

Flick said the winger would be important against Atletico but the team as a whole needed to deliver for Barca to make a comeback.

"The team is always in focus," said Flick. "The first goal from him was a great recovery of the ball and a great pass from Fermin (Lopez), (Yamal) has the outstanding quality to score this goal and be in the right position at this moment.

"How he played after that was great to see, really happy about that, but in the end we need everyone, not only Lamine."

Flick said the performance against Villarreal was a significant step forward for Barca and

called on his players to deliver in similar fashion against Atletico.

"We play against a fantastic team, they hurt us a lot in the last match, but we can do this," said Flick.

"We have to play smart, but with this hunger to make it happen. Last game against Villarreal we saw a totally different team, a different dynamic, a different intensity in our game.

"We have to play like one unit and this is the key for tomorrow."

Barca will be without injured striker Robert Lewandowski but Pedri Gonzalez may be in line to start after a couple of substitute appearances following a hamstring problem. — AFP



Iran war spreads with strikes across Middle East and beyond

The war launched by the United States and Israel against Iran spread across the Middle East and beyond on Monday with Lebanon's Hezbollah entering the fray and a British air base in Cyprus targeted.

The Israeli military said it began a new "broad strike" on Tehran, as AFP reporters in the Iranian capital heard explosions ring out on the third day of the US-Israeli joint assault.

Gulf monarchies threatened to retaliate as a Saudi oil refinery burned, Qatar halted LNG production, tankers were attacked off Oman and energy prices soared.

Meanwhile, black smoke rose from the US embassy complex in Kuwait as Iran pressed on with attacks it launched in retaliation for the US and Israeli campaign that killed its supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Greek frigates

An Iranian drone hit the runway of a UK air force base in Akrotiri in Cyprus, whose government announced that the airport in its town of Paphos and the area around the British facility would be evacuated.

A Cypriot government spokesman said two more drones targeting the base were "dealt with in a timely manner" and Greece announced it was deploying frig-



Smoke rises from a reported Iranian strike in the area where the US Embassy is located in Kuwait City on 2 March 2026. Black smoke was seen rising from the US embassy in Kuwait City on 2 March after the latest volley of Iranian strikes, an AFP correspondent saw. **PHOTO: AFP**

ates and jets to help protect Cyprus, a fellow EU member.

Israel and the US have been striking targets across Iran since Saturday. The war that began with Khamenei's killing has engulfed the region, with explosions ringing out in Dubai, Bahrain, Iraq and elsewhere.

Flights through the region's hub airports have been cancelled, disrupting international travel for many thousands of people.

In Lebanon, the strikes have triggered a new round of violence between Israel

and Hezbollah, with the Iran-backed group firing rockets and its enemy responding with bombing.

Israeli's Defence Minister Israel Katz predicted that Hezbollah's leader would perish, as the army issued a warning for Lebanese civilians to evacuate areas of south Beirut.

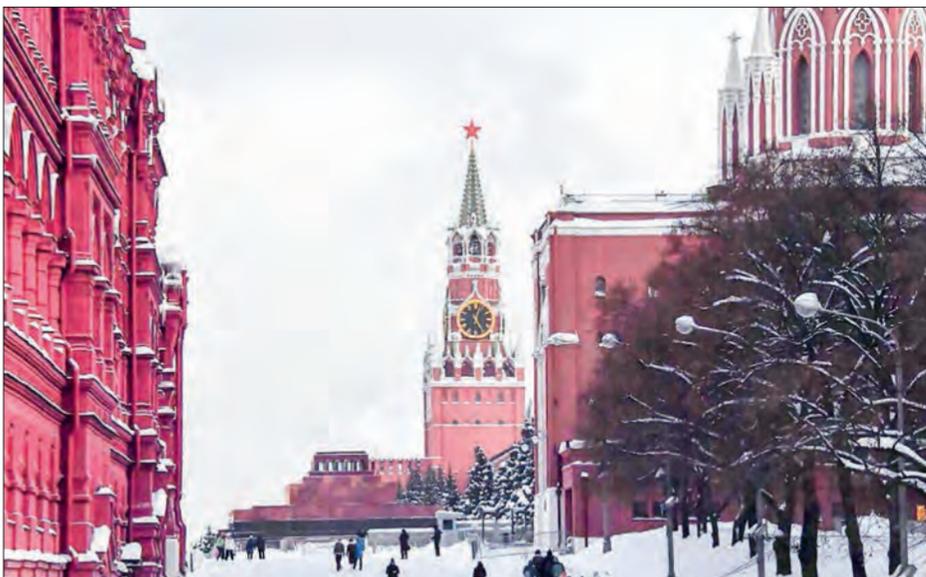
"We will strike Hezbollah hard, and Naim Qassem, chairman of the Hezbollah terrorist organization, will discover that whoever follows Khamenei's path ends up like Khamenei — at the bottom of hell," he said.

As Lebanon, which had vowed to disarm Hezbollah, was dragged into the war, Prime Minister Nawaf Salam announced "the immediate ban of all Hezbollah security and military activities and considering them illegal".

Explosions rocked Beirut while, in southern Lebanon residents fled, according to AFP journalists, after the Israeli military announced it was striking several parts of the country.

In the southern city of Sidon, cars of families fled on packed roads with mattresses tied to their roofs. — AFP

Moscow in constant contact with leadership of Iran – Kremlin



Moscow Kremlin. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

MOSCOW is in constant contact with the leadership of Iran, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Monday.

"I can say that we are in constant contact with the Iranian leadership. And we are discussing the situation around this

country," Peskov told reporters.

Russia also continues to communicate with the leadership of the countries affected by the Iranian conflict, including Persian Gulf states, Peskov added.

Russia expresses disappointment that

the situation has deteriorated to direct aggression amid the information about progress in the Iranian-US negotiations, Dmitry Peskov said.

"As for the negotiations that were mediated by Oman between the United States and Iran, then, of course, one can express deep disappointment that, against the background of incoming information about significant progress in these negotiations, the situation has deteriorated to direct aggression anyway," Peskov told reporters. Russia remains committed to a political and diplomatic settlement even after the US attack on Iran, Peskov said.

Membership in the BRICS does not provide for obligations to provide mutual assistance in the event of armed aggression, and there are no contacts on Iran within the framework of the association yet, Peskov said.

"Membership in BRICS does not provide for obligations to provide mutual assistance during armed aggression — it is an organization of a different nature, and it is about cooperation in other areas. This is the first one. There are no contacts with the BRICS countries yet," Peskov told reporters. — SPUTNIK

Chinese FM calls for immediate stop of military operations in Middle East

CHINESE Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Monday that the urgent priority concerning the current situation in the Middle East is to immediately halt military operations and prevent the conflict from further spilling over. Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, made the remarks in phone talks with Omani Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi. During the phone call, Al Busaidi said that, with Oman's mediation, Iran-US negotiations had achieved unprecedented progress. However, he added, it was regrettable that the United States and Israel abandoned the existing outcomes of the talks and launched a war. If the war continues, it will lead to further casualties and property losses, he said, urging all parties to work together for an early ceasefire. — Xinhua