

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Four Objectives of the National Defence and Security Council

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



Acting President and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presides over the Financial Commission Meeting 1/2026 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Govt Projects 3.4% Economic Growth for 2026-27 FY

Myanmar's GDP is expected to reach K195,032 billion in the 2026-27 financial year.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing underlined that the incoming government must designate and allocate priority expenditures by sector so that ongoing tasks can continue to be implemented without interruption and with sustained momentum.

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Salient points of the speech delivered by the Senior General at the financial commission meeting

1. Expenditures will be allocated according to needs for the country's priority sector.
2. Allocations of the budget must be carefully assessed and provided according to actual requirements.
3. All ethnic people need to uphold awareness and mindfulness, firmly stand on the NCA (Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement) path, and work together to achieve a durable peace.

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Smoke and Haze Pollution: Dangers, Causes, and Preventive Measures

By Junior Thin

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FIFA donates 42,000+ footballs to schools

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20 Chinese nationals held in Myawady over online crime

NATIONAL

Ethnic Communities Bear the Brunt of Armed Violence

- ❖ It is the local ethnic people themselves who are directly experiencing the harmful effects of armed violence.
- ❖ The actual destruction and losses also extend to the nation's resources and basic infrastructure.
- ❖ In a context where development is gaining momentum, such reckless actions reduce the country's strength and require enormous effort and time to restore conditions to their original state.

(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 78th Anniversary of Chin National Day which fell on 20 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 Our 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

Press Statement on Situation in Middle East

MYANMAR is deeply concerned by the recent attacks in the Middle East Region.
 Myanmar believes that countries can only achieve the resolution of conflicts through constructive dialogue and diplomatic efforts based on the five principles of Peaceful Co-existence.
 All parties concerned in the Middle East conflict need to uphold mutual respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of each and every country. Myanmar urges all parties concerned to de-escalate the conflict and attacks and address the situation through peaceful negotiation.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 Nay Pyi Taw
 Dated: 6 March 2026

Myanmar Gazette

Appointment of Heads of Service Organizations confirmed

THE National Defence and Security Council has confirmed the appointment of the following Heads of Service Organizations on the expiry of a one-year probationary period.

Name	Appointment
(1) Dr Thant Sin Aye	Director-General Myanmar Ethnic Languages Department Ministry of Education
(2) Dr Mya Thandar	Rector Meiktila University of Economics Department of Higher Education Ministry of Education

Myanmar Gazette

Duty Assignment of Permanent Secretary and Director-General

THE National Defence and Security Council has assigned U Kyi Zin Tun, Director-General of the Union Minister's Office of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue, to the duties of the Permanent Secretary and Director-General of the same organization.

Call for Nominations for ASEAN Prize 2026

The ASEAN Secretariat is calling for nominations for the ASEAN Prize 2026, a prestigious regional award, which aims to acknowledge the inspiring and outstanding achievements of an individual or organization in fostering the ASEAN identity, promoting the ASEAN spirit and championing the ASEAN way. Nominees should have exceptional merit in contributing to the following designated focus areas: -

- Collaboration between ASEAN Member States;
- Collaboration between ASEAN and the world;
- People-to-people engagement among ASEAN Member States;
- Economic integration and promotion of standards between ASEAN Member States; or
- Excellent contribution to ASEAN Community Building

A Judging Committee, consisting of eminent high-level members, including incumbent and former ASEAN Secretaries-General, will select a recipient who will be awarded the ASEAN Prize Trophy and a monetary prize of US\$20,000.

Nominations must be accompanied by supporting documents that substantiate the nominee's concrete contributions and achievements for the regional development. A character reference accompanying the supporting documents, highlighting the nominee's eligibility, would be a valuable addition.

Submissions for the ASEAN Prize 2026 are open from now until 25 May 2026. Nominee must be an ASEAN citizen or an ASEAN-based organization. The nomination form for the ASEAN Prize 2026 can be downloaded from the ASEAN Secretariat Website <https://asean.org/nomination-form/>. The Nominee must submit the application form together with the soft copy attached to the ASEAN Affairs Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Office 9, Nay Pyi Taw, no later than the deadline.

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"Rights. Justice. Action. For ALL Women and Girls."

"တရားမျှတမှုနှင့် အခွင့်အရေးများရရှိရေး အမျိုးသမီးများအားလုံးအတွက် ဆောင်ရွက်ပေး"

၂၀၂၆ ခုနှစ်၊ မတ်လ (၈)ရက်

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)

Govt Adopts Comprehensive Approach to Planning

The country must continue advancing its national economic interests while navigating the shifting global political and economic landscape.

Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, who is in the capacity of Chairman of the National Planning Commission, said so at the meeting 1/2026 of the National Planning Commission at the office of the National Defence and Security Council in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General noted that economic development, education, health, and peace and stability are the aspirations of all citizens. As the government emerges from the election results, it must also fulfil the needs of the people. To enable this, the current plan must lay the groundwork and ensure a smooth transition for implementation.

For the country's development, he said that both short-term and long-term plans must be formulated by carefully considering potential scenarios in politics, economics, administration, and defence, and by taking a broad perspective in the planning process.

He emphasized that when formulating policies, the necessary baseline data must be obtained, analyzed, and utilized from the relevant sections of the 2024 Population and Housing Census results. Since population policy is important, plans must be developed and implemented in the Union, regions, and states based on projected population changes, age distribution, labour force, education, health, and other related data.



Acting President and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing chairs the National Planning Commission Meeting 1/2026 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The Senior General highlighted that since the new government will soon assume the responsibilities of the State, it is necessary to ensure that the projects and plans carried out under our tenure from 2021, according to each financial year, are completed properly. In addition, ongoing projects from previous periods

must be systematically documented and handed over.

He underlined that efforts will also continue nationwide to quickly rebuild the basic infrastructure that was damaged due to terrorist activities and natural disasters, in order to promote regional development and progress.

With regard to managing the nation's limited resources for development, the Senior General stressed that all available domestic resources must be used efficiently and effectively without waste. Therefore, State expenditures must be carefully managed to avoid unnecessary spending. All responsible authorities must lead efforts not only to promote economic growth but also to ensure the long-term emergence of a resilient Myanmar society in the future.

He stated that the National Plan for the 2026-2027 financial year will be implemented by the incoming government in coordination with the relevant Hluttaw's agreements. The government and Hluttaws will work together to coordinate and ensure the achievement of the plan's objectives by sector and by region.

He underscored that if school education is weak, it can also create gaps in vocational and technical training. It is necessary to improve general education so that advanced skills and technical knowledge can be acquired. Skilled professionals in key sectors such as agriculture and livestock are still in high demand, and this factor must be taken into account when formulating national plans.

Salient points from the speech delivered by the Senior General at the national planning commission meeting

1. The National Planning Commission must also consider ensuring an adequate supply of oil crops and the reliability of the electricity and energy sectors.
2. Both short-term and long-term plans must be formulated by carefully considering potential scenarios in politics, economics, administration, and defence.
3. The government and Hluttaws will work together to coordinate and ensure the achievement of the plan's objectives by sector and by region.

SEE PAGE 5

NATIONAL

Govt Projects 3.4% Economic Growth for 2026-27 FY

FROM PAGE 1

Chairman of the Financial Commission, Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said so at the financial commission meeting 1/2026 at the office of the National Defence and Security Council in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

In his speech, the Senior General said that the meeting aimed to discuss and approve the estimated Union budget for the 2026-2027 financial year and the Union Budget Bill concerning the Union's revenues and expenditures.

In the 2026-2027 financial year, he underlined that the domestic gross product and services value (GDP) of the entire nation is projected to reach K195,032 billion, with an expected economic growth rate of 3.4 per cent.

He stated that after the elections, State responsibilities will be handed over to the government selected and assigned by the Hluttaw meetings. As the current government has already laid the groundwork through constructive measures and achievements, the incoming government must designate and allocate priority expenditures by sector so that ongoing tasks can continue to be implemented without interruption and with sustained momentum.

He highlighted that expenditures

will be allocated according to needs for the country's priority sectors, including: the agriculture and livestock sector, the development of small, micro, and medium-sized enterprises to boost the national economy and reduce reliance on imported goods, education and health sector spending to develop human resources, mandatory expenditures in other sectors, and expenditures required for the maintenance, new construction, and reconstruction of state-owned basic infrastructure damaged by natural disasters or other hazards. These allocations of the budget must be carefully assessed and provided according to actual requirements.

The Senior General stressed that ongoing projects must be completed on time, ensuring that project completion and financial expenditure are properly coordinated, the quality is fully met, and state funds are strictly managed to prevent any waste or loss.

In the 2026-2027 financial year budget estimates, he underscored that it is important to carefully review and allocate only the amounts that can realistically be completed within the financial year for projects that need to be implemented in accordance with the state's policies, objectives, and procedures.

Commission Vice-Chairman and

SSPC Member Prime Minister U Nyo Saw reported that the 2026-2027 financial year's estimated budgets have been scrutinized at different levels. Allocations for revenue, expenditures, regular expenses, capital expenditures, and debt-related expenditures have also been thoroughly examined. Provisions have been made for expenses arising from unforeseen events and natural disasters, as well as for allowances for government staff and for implementing technological development initiatives.

Commission Secretary Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw presented matters concerning the 2026-2027 Union Budget, the 2026-2027 Union Budget Bill, and the 2026 Union Taxation Bill.

Union Attorney-General and Union Minister for Legal Affairs Dr Thida Oo and Union Auditor-General Dr Khin Naing Oo discussed the 2026-27 FY Union Budget and the 2026-2027 Union Budget Bill, the budgets of the region and state governments, and plans.

In response, the Senior General urged the region and state governments to emphasize development of the State economy and systematically spend the allocated funds.

In the concluding speech, the Senior General pointed out that a strong and resilient economy requires a good and high-quality education system. The development of a country directly de-

pends on the educational quality of its citizens. Hence, it is necessary to enhance the education sector for the betterment of the State's future.

National unity is extremely important for the peace and stability of the country and for the rule of law. Therefore, all ethnic people need to uphold awareness and mindfulness, firmly stand on the NCA (Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement) path, and work together to achieve a durable peace.

To improve the social and economic lives of rural communities, priority is being given to essential infrastructure such as roads and bridges, irrigation for farming, and access to electricity. With better transport networks, rural residents' products can be delivered promptly, increasing household income and helping to reduce poverty.

Union ministries and regional/state governments are urged to work together in a coordinated manner within their respective sectors to promote the nation's future economic development and to systematically lay out a successful development path for the incoming government.

Also, present at the meeting were Union ministers, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman and deputy ministers together with chief ministers of regions and states through videoconferencing. — MNA/TTA

MoI Union Minister attends World Engineering Day events in Jakarta

UNION Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than left Yangon for Jakarta, Indonesia, on 3 March to attend the first-ever World Engineering Day (WED 2026) ceremony, held from 3 to 5 March under the theme Innovative Engineering for a Sustainable Future. The event was jointly organized by the World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO) and the Institution of Engineers Indonesia (Persatuan Insinyur Indonesia, PII), with the support of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

On 4 March, the Union minister attended the opening ceremony of the Strategy and Vision High-Level Dialogue at the Balai Kartini – Exhibition and Convention Centre in Jakarta.

At the ceremony, PII President Mr Ilham Akbar Habibie delivered a welcoming speech. This was followed by UNESCO Director Ms Maki Kasuno Haya-shikawa reading the UNESCO message, and opening remarks by WFEO President Professor Emaratus Dr Seng Chuan Tan and Indonesian Minister of Economic Cooperation Mr Airlangga Hartarto.

In the afternoon, the Union minister, together with Former WFEO President Mr Mustafa Shehu, Minister of Communications and Information Technology Ms Meutya Viada Hafid, and Deputy Minister of Public Works Ms Diana Kusumastuti, attended a panel discussion titled Smart Engineering for a Sustainable Future. The discussion empha-

sized the need to develop not only engineering education but also a skill-based education system to foster the growth of modern engineering in developing countries.

The Union minister highlighted that the success of modern engineering education in developing countries, where advanced technology and skills are limited, depends not only on acquiring technology but also on building human resources capable of deploying, managing, and maintaining it. He stressed that the Engineering Human Resource Pyramid must be established by integrating skill-based education with engineering education. Engineers alone are not sufficient; technicians must maintain systems and continuously enhance the capabilities of



Union Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than is pictured attending the "World Engineering Day" ceremony.

skilled workers. By successfully implementing this approach, countries can create a modern and innovative engineering profession, accelerate economic competitiveness and industrial modernization, and build a sustainable future with resilience and inclusiveness.

The Union minister was accompanied by President of the

Myanmar Engineering Council Dr Aung Kyaw Myat, Chairman of the Committee on Education in Engineering of WFEO Dr Zaw Min Aung, and Vice-President of the Federation of Myanmar Engineering Societies U Tin Latt.

The Union minister returned to Yangon from Jakarta, Indonesia, by air yesterday morning. — MNA/MKKS

NATIONAL

FIFA donates 42,000+ footballs to schools

A ceremony to hand over footballs to the Ministry of Education under the FIFA-supported Football for Schools Programme of the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) was held yesterday afternoon at Hotel Max.

The event was attended by Union Minister for Education Dr Chaw Chaw Sein, Chairman of the Myanmar Olympic Committee and Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs and for Hotels and Tourism Jeng Phang Naw Taung, Chairman of the FIFA Social Responsibility Committee and MFF President U Zaw Zaw, directors-general, MFF officials, administrators, coaches and players from the Myanmar national men's and women's football teams, as well as teachers and students from basic education

high schools.

The ceremony began with the screening of a documentary video on the Grassroots Football Festival organized by the Myanmar Football Federation under the guidance of FIFA.

In her address, Union Minister Dr Chaw Chaw Sein said that the Football for Schools Programme, an international initiative of FIFA involving more than 200 countries, contributes significantly to the implementation of national goals aimed at strengthening the education and health sectors for sustainable development. She noted that sport plays an important role in enhancing both education and health, and expressed appreciation to the President and officials of the Myanmar Football Federa-



The handover ceremony of donated football is underway yesterday, attended by Union Ministers Dr Chaw Chaw Sein and Jeng Phang Naw Taung, and dignitaries.

tion for donating Adidas footballs provided through FIFA's Football for Schools initiative. The ministry, she added, will work closely with the Myanmar Football Federation as well as relevant ministries and organizations to ensure the successful implementation of

the programme in schools across the country.

During the ceremony, Union Minister Jeng Phang Naw Taung and MFF President U Zaw Zaw handed over 42,760 Adidas footballs to Union Minister Dr Chaw Chaw Sein and Director-General

U Kyaw Swa Thwin.

Following the presentation, union ministers, deputy ministers and officials watched a friendly mini-football match played by Myanmar national team players together with students. — MNA/KZL

Govt Adopts Comprehensive Approach to Planning

FROM PAGE 3

The Senior General pointed out that efforts have been made through various means to improve the socioeconomic lives of rural residents and to reduce poverty. It is not only necessary to provide employment opportunities but also to ensure that people can genuinely engage in productive work.

He unveiled that price increases can occur due to imbalances between production and consumption and high production costs. However, if efforts are made to ensure a sufficient local supply of essential goods, vegetables, fish, and various

types of eggs in each region, these price increases can be mitigated. Moreover, selling any surplus to external markets can help improve the socioeconomic well-being of the region.

He provided guidance that the National Planning Commission must also consider ensuring an adequate supply of oil crops and the reliability of the electricity and energy sectors.

He stated that the projects included in the 2026-2027 National Plan will be implemented in accordance with the agreements of the Hluttaws. The government has to make efforts to ensure that all citizens

patiently achieve the expected objectives.

National Planning Commission Vice-Chairman and Prime Minister U Nyo Saw reported that the national planning for the 2026-27 financial year has been formulated for the prosperity of the State, food security, socioeconomic development of the people and all-inclusive sustainable development of the people. In accord with the guidance of the State, the plan aims to develop infrastructure, primary livelihoods of the rural people, agriculture and livestock sectors, MSME business, increase export volumes and in-

itiate the education system for all to develop human resources, improve healthcare services, electricity and energy sectors, as well as maintain the natural environment.

Likewise, he added that the plan has allowed construction, natural disaster prevention and environmental conservation as well as development of agriculture, industrial, electric power, education and health sectors.

National Planning Commission Secretary Union Minister for Finance and Revenue Dr Kan Zaw briefed the meeting on the drafting of the National Plan 2026 and the National Plan Law

(Draft) for the 2026-27 financial year.

Union Ministers also reported on the national plans for the relevant financial years and accomplishments.

Also, present at the meeting were the Union Auditor-General, the Chairman of the Union Civil Service Board, the Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, deputy ministers and chief ministers of regions and states and chairmen of Self-Administered Zone and Division Leading Bodies through videoconferencing. — MNA/TTA

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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

Seminar on State Visits Strengthening Bilateral Relations held

A seminar titled State Visits Strengthening Bilateral Relations, organized by the Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar, was held at the Lawkanat Hall of the Ministry yesterday.

The purpose of the seminar was to broaden the knowledge and understanding of civil service personnel from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and related ministries on the established procedures in organizing bilateral state visits. It was also aimed at strengthening bilateral relations with countries around the world, especially neighbouring countries, in line with Myanmar's foreign policies. Furthermore, the seminar was organized to enhance the capacity of civil service personnel in carrying out their respective responsibilities to ensure that such visits



The Seminar on State Visits Strengthening Bilateral Relations is in progress yesterday, attended by Deputy Ministers U Ko Ko Kyaw and U Naing Min Kyaw, and senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

are arranged efficiently and conducted smoothly.

U Ko Ko Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, delivered the opening remarks at the seminar. Thereafter, the first

session of the Seminar was organized into three thematic discussions on "Organizing Historic State Visits" presented by Former Ambassador U Thar Aung Nyun, "The Nature

of Visits and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) by U Thet Tun, Director-General of the Protocol Department, and "Step-by-Step Preparation of State Visits" by U Htun Aung

Kyaw, Deputy Director-General of the Protocol Department. Additionally, a Simulation of the State Banquet was conducted to provide the participants with a clearer and more understanding of the relevant procedures and arrangements.

In the afternoon, the seminar resumed with a panel discussion, moderated by Dr Chit Win, Deputy Director-General of the Political Department. Former Ambassador U Thar Aung Nyun (Rtd), U Thet Tun, Director-General of the Protocol Department and U Sein Nyunt, a former diplomat, joined as panellists, who shared their insights and experiences, followed by an interactive Q & A session. The seminar concluded with a closing address, delivered by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Naing Min Kyaw. — MNA

31st Myanmar Military Medical Conference concludes

THE third day and closing ceremony of the 31st Myanmar Military Medical Conference was held yesterday morning at Tatmadaw Hospital (700-bed) in Aungban, Shan State (South).

Tatmadaw Medical Research and Development Committee Chairman and Director of Medical Services Maj-Gen Ko Ko Lwin, senior Tatmadaw officers, medics, nurses, specialists from the Ministry of Health, overseas specialists, retired senior officers and other invitees attended the event.

In the major symposium, participants discussed the topic titled Rehabilitation in Military Medicine and Strategic Preparedness for Contemporary Challenges, with three special talks and a Clinicopathological



The concluding event of the 31st Myanmar Military Medical Conference is underway yesterday in Aungban, southern Shan State.

Conference (CPC).

The Tatmadaw Medical Research and Development Committee chairman and party presented the first, second and third prizes for research and posters, the young researcher award, and the hon-

orary certificates were given to the conference organizing subcommittees and those who submitted research papers and posters.

He then made a closing speech to conclude the event. — MNA/KTZH

Public Notice

MOTOR vehicles that were imported into Myanmar with import permits issued by the Department of Trade and paid the taxes at the Customs Department must carry out initial registration at the Road Transport Administration Department. However, it has been found that some of these vehicles are being used without completing the registration process and are fitted with fake or decorative licence plates. These vehicles must complete initial registration processes in accordance with the existing 2020 Road Safety and Motor Vehicle Management Law without fail. Therefore, the vehicles for which import licences were issued by the Department of Trade in 2018 must complete the initial registration processes no later than 30 April 2026, whereas the vehicles with 2019 import licences must complete the initial registration processes no later than 31 May 2026, and vehicles with 2020 import licences no later than 30 June 2026. If the initial registration process is not completed within the specified deadlines, the registration will no longer be processed, and if the registration procedures are not completed in time, action will be taken under the existing laws.

Ministry of Transport and Communications

Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanma Alinn, the Kyemon and The Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit www.moi.gov.mm/mal, www.moi.gov.mm/km, www.moi.gov.mm/nlm and www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper.

News and Periodicals Enterprise

NATIONAL

Second Phase of Mekong-Lancang Science & Tech Cooperation Project launched

THE launching ceremony of the Second Phase of the Mekong-Lancang Science and Technology Cooperation Project was held yesterday morning at the Mingala Thiri Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw in a hybrid format. The ceremony was attended by Deputy Minister for Science and Technology Dr Aung Zeya, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Ms Ma Jia, Minister-Counsellor Dr Zheng Zhihong, Directors-General from the Department of Advanced Science and Technology and other departments, Rectors, the Vice-Chairman and Deputy Directors-General of the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation National Coordination Unit (Myanmar) and other invitees.

At the event, the deputy



The launch of Phase II of the Mekong-Lancang Science & Technology Cooperation Project is underway, addressed by Deputy Minister Dr Aung Zeya.

minister said that the project is the second phase initiative, which will continue to be implemented based on the successful foundations laid by the first phase in order to further enhance cooperation and ex-

changes aimed at achieving balanced development in the science and technology sector across the Mekong region. He added that priority will be given to establishing sustainable knowledge-sharing mechanisms

that can be continuously utilized to promote the development of human resources and technological innovation to keep pace with the world, ensure sustainable regional development, and enable students and youths to

scientifically address global and regional challenges. Therefore, the outcomes of the project will become a model for science and technology universities in the region.

Chinese Ambassador Ms Ma Jia remarked, and the vice-chairperson of the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation National Coordination Unit (Myanmar) made a greeting speech.

During the discussion at noon, the rector of the Mandalay Technological University and the pro-rector of the Kunming University of Science and Technology and project members virtually discussed the reviews for the first phase of the project and work plans for the second phase until 2027. — MNA/KTZH

MoE oversees fuel supply chain



Officials from the Ministry of Energy are seen monitoring the fuel supply chain.

THE Ministry of Energy is closely monitoring and supervising the fuel import and distribution supply chain to ensure that there is no shortage of fuel within the country. Measures are being taken to ensure the continuous arrival of fuel imports from abroad, to prevent shortages at fuel

stations and to ensure the arrival of fuel to the consumers. The ministry also conducts surprise checks on fuel remaining at petrol stations, arrival and withdrawal of fuel at the terminals of Thilawa.

The relevant officials of the Ministry of Energy and affiliated departments

supervise to prevent people from queuing to purchase fuel at fuel stations. Therefore, the number of vehicles queuing at the fuel station began to decrease yesterday evening.

People are urged to avoid unnecessary fuel purchases. — MNA/KTZH

Announcement to Corn Entrepreneurs

1. The Ministry of Commerce has established a “Public-Private Taskforce for Registration of Smoke-Free Certificates” recognized by the Myanmar and Thailand governments, to facilitate the smooth export of corn to Thailand.
2. The taskforce has been examining applications and issuing smoke-free certificates since 3 March for corn intended for export to Thailand. For more information on the certificates, please contact the following numbers of the Ministry of Commerce:

Contact person	phone numbers
(a) Daw Nilar Soe, Assistant Secretary (Union Minister’s Office)	09 5070792, 067 3408247
(b) Daw Cho Thet Mu, Director (Trade Department)	09 5070708, 067 3408319

Public-Private Taskforce for Registration of Smoke-Free Certificates

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09 454237515
09 255597511

OPINION

Expedite efforts to reduce environmental pollution

Air pollution is a problem that commonly occurs in major cities of a country and largely depends on the efforts of the relevant authorities to protect the environment. When industrial development advances and a greater focus is placed on production, if insufficient attention is given to environmental protection, air pollution is likely to arise.

Even in countries like Myanmar, which are still relatively less developed and not yet heavily industrialized, air pollution that naturally occurs during the dry season is commonly experienced. According to the World Health Organization, as the concentration of hazardous gases and particulate matter in the air increases—resulting in air quality that is unsafe for breathing—nine out of ten people worldwide are breathing polluted air. In addition, it is reported that 17 million people die each year due to various forms of air pollution.

To protect against the dangers of air pollution, everyone needs to be aware of health issues. Preventive measures can be learned through various media platforms and from relevant departments, and we are now in an era where preventive technologies are readily available. Therefore, only through cooperation to safeguard personal and community health, as well as to protect the environment, can a cleaner environment with reduced air pollution be sustainably established in the long term.

kilogrammes of air, two kilogrammes of water, and 1.5 kilogrammes of food each day. Therefore, environmental conditions must be appropriate for all living beings. To reduce the dangers of air pollution, people can use high-quality face masks; avoid burning incense and mosquito coils indoors; refrain from smoking and from cooking with firewood or charcoal; clean indoor areas with damp cloths and mops to prevent dust from spreading; and plant trees around their homes.

To protect against the dangers of air pollution, everyone needs to be aware of health issues. Preventive measures can be learned through various media platforms and from relevant departments, and we are now in an era where preventive technologies are readily available. Therefore, only through cooperation to safeguard personal and community health, as well as to protect the environment, can a cleaner environment with reduced air pollution be sustainably established in the long term.

IN recent years, smoke and haze pollution have become one of the most serious environmental problems facing many countries, especially during the dry season. Thick clouds of smoke and haze often cover towns and villages, reducing visibility and making the air difficult to breathe. This problem is not limited to one area, because smoke can travel long distances with the wind and affect neighbouring regions and even other countries. Smoke and haze pollution is not merely an environmental issue; it is also a major threat to human health, agriculture, wildlife, and economic activities. Therefore, understanding its causes and effects and taking effective preventive measures is essential for ensuring a healthier and safer future for all.

Smoke and haze pollution mainly occur when large amounts of smoke, dust, and harmful gases are released into the atmosphere. During the dry season, forest fires, agricultural burning, and waste burning increase significantly, leading to a sharp rise in air pollution. Because the air is dry and there is little rain to wash away pollutants, smoke remains in the atmosphere for long periods. As a result, people suffer from eye irritation, coughing, breathing difficulties, and other health problems. In severe cases, hospitals become crowded with patients suffering from respiratory diseases. This shows clearly that smoke and haze pollution is not a minor inconvenience but a serious public health issue.

Smoke and haze pollution refers to a condition in which fine dust particles, smoke, and various chemical gases mix in the air. These substances include extremely small particles that can easily enter the lungs, as well as gases such as carbon dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, and other toxic compounds. These pollutants reduce air quality and create a dangerous environment for living organisms. When people inhale polluted air every day, their lungs and hearts are gradually damaged. Children, the elderly, and those with existing illnesses are especially vulnerable to these harmful effects.

One important feature of smoke and haze pollution is its ability to spread widely. Smoke does not stay in one place; it is carried by wind from one region to another. Sometimes smoke produced in one country can travel hundreds or even thousands of kilometres and affect neighbouring countries. This makes smoke and haze pollution an international problem rather than a purely local one. It also means that solving the problem requires cooperation among communities, regions, and nations.

There are many causes of smoke and haze pollution. One major cause is shifting cultivation and forest burn-

Smoke and Haze Pollution: Dangers, Causes, and Preventive Measures



Clean and smoke-free air is not a luxury but a basic necessity for human life. PHOTO: ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSE ONLY/ FREEPIK

ing. In some rural areas, farmers clear land by cutting and burning trees and bushes. Although this method is cheap and easy, it releases large amounts of smoke into the air and destroys forest resources. Another cause is the burning of agricultural waste such as rice husks, straw, and corn stalks. Farmers often burn these materials to prepare their fields quickly or to use the ash as fertilizer. However, this practice creates thick smoke and contributes significantly to air pollution.

Vehicles and factories are also major sources of smoke and haze. Old vehicles release large amounts of exhaust fumes, which contain poisonous gases and

fine particles. Factories and workshops often burn fuel such as coal or wood, producing smoke that pollutes the surrounding air. In addition, large garbage dumps and waste disposal sites sometimes catch fire or are deliberately burned, releasing toxic smoke into the atmosphere. Forest fires, whether caused by human activity or natural factors, are another important cause. During the dry season, forests become very dry and can easily catch fire, producing enormous quantities of smoke.

In Myanmar, smoke and haze pollution are most common during the dry season, especially in February,

By Junior Thin

March, and April. During this period, forest fires and agricultural burning occur frequently. The main causes in the country are the burning of crop residues, straw, and rice husks, as well as slash-and-burn farming. Because many rural communities depend on agriculture for their livelihoods, these practices are still widely used. Unfortunately, they cause serious air pollution and harm to both urban and rural populations.

The effects of smoke and haze pollution are far-reaching. The most direct impact is on human health. People exposed to polluted air may suffer from headaches, sore throats, eye irritation, and difficulty breathing. Long-term exposure can lead to chronic respiratory diseases, heart problems, and even cancer. Children may develop asthma, and elderly people may experience worsening of existing illnesses. In addition to health effects, smoke and haze reduce visibility, making road and air travel dangerous. Accidents become more likely, and transport is often delayed or cancelled.

Smoke and haze pollution also affects plants and animals. When leaves are covered with dust and smoke, they cannot receive enough sunlight for photosynthesis. This reduces crop yields and weakens forests. Animals, like humans, suffer from breathing problems and may be forced to move to cleaner areas. Ecosystems are disturbed, and biodiversity is threatened. Furthermore, smoke and haze damage tourism and economic activities. Tourists avoid polluted areas, and businesses suffer losses because people cannot work efficiently in unhealthy conditions.

To prevent dangerous smoke and haze pollution, effective measures must be taken. First, the traditional

practice of shifting cultivation should be reduced as much as possible. Farmers should be encouraged to use modern and environmentally friendly farming methods. If burning cannot be completely avoided, controlled burning should be carried out carefully and only at appropriate times, under the supervision of authorities. This can help reduce the spread of smoke and prevent forest fires from getting out of control.

Agricultural waste, such as straw and stalks, should not be burned but should be reused as natural fertilizer or animal feed. Composting and mulching are better alternatives that improve soil quality without causing air pollution. Waste management must also be improved so that garbage is not burned in open areas. Factories should be required to install proper filters and follow environmental regulations. Old vehicles should be replaced with cleaner and more efficient ones, and public transport should be promoted to reduce the number of private cars on the road.

Public awareness is another key factor. People must understand the dangers of smoke and haze pollution and their own role in causing it. Schools, media, and community organizations should educate citizens about environmental protection and healthy living. When people realize that their actions affect not only themselves but also others, they are more likely to change their behaviour. Cooperation between the public and government departments is essential for controlling and reducing smoke and haze pollution.

Smoke and haze pollution is a serious environmental and health problem that affects not only one community but entire regions and nations. It is mainly caused by forest burning, agricultural waste burning, vehicle emissions, industrial activities, and poor waste management. Its harmful effects include damage to human health, reduced visibility, harm to plants and animals, and negative impacts on the economy. However, this problem is not impossible to solve. By reducing slash-and-burn farming, promoting controlled burning, reusing agricultural waste, improving waste management, and raising public awareness, smoke and haze pollution can be significantly reduced.

Clean and smoke-free air is not a luxury but a basic necessity for human life. To ensure that everyone can breathe healthy air every day, all citizens must take responsibility and work together with the relevant authorities. Only through collective effort and long-term commitment can we protect our environment, safeguard public health, and build a cleaner and more sustainable future for the next generations.

Small Steps Towards a Plastic-Free Yangon

By Kyaw Ye Aung
(Eco-conscious Citizen)

Yangon is a major city known for the cool beauty of its lush trees and elegant ancient buildings. As we approach the pleasant spring season, temperatures are beginning to rise gradually. However, the littering of plastic along the road-

sides and in the drains spoils the beauty of the capital. These sights mar not only the cleanliness of the city but also raise questions about the civic responsibility and citizenship of the city dwellers.

As the saying goes, "A small spark can cause a great fire." This

is a vital lesson for our plastic problem today. Throwing away even a single plastic bag carelessly may seem like a small act, but when trash accumulates, it clogs the drainage systems. This results in urban floods during the monsoon season. Furthermore, we should be aware that soil degradation and health risks for humans and animals often stem from these minor, careless habits.

If we look at developed cities

around the world, we see that cleanliness depends more on the discipline of the people than on government management alone. For example, Singapore has a strict fine system for littering and teaches children about waste management from a young age. Similarly, in Japan, there is no trash on the roads because people separate their waste systematically by type. In Kigali, the capital of Rwanda, plastic bags

are prohibited, and residents participate in a collective cleanup once a month to keep their city clean.

City dwellers can start taking "Small Steps" to make our dream of a "Clean City, Green City" come true. We must cultivate good habits, such as using tote bags instead of plastic bags when we go shopping, and keeping our trash in our own bags until we find a bin. Additionally, keeping the area

in front of our houses and streets clean shows our love for the city and serves as an inspiration for others to do the same.

It is our shared desire to see Yangon as a clean city during the beautiful summer. A sustainable solution depends more on the civic mindset and collective protection of the city dwellers than on action by the government or the City Development Committee alone. Therefore, let us promote the dignity of Yangon by throwing away trash systematically to achieve our goal of a "Clean City, Green City."



City dwellers can start taking "Small Steps" to make our dream of a "Clean City, Green City" come true. IMAGE: ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSE ONLY/ FREEPIK

NATIONAL

Three-day Tech Expo underway in Yangon



Attendees are seen on the opening day of the Myanmar Construction, Housing, Electric Power, and Engineering Technology Exhibition.

FEATURING more than 100 booths, the Myanmar Construction, Housing, Electric Power, and Engineering Technology Exhibition has been ongoing in Yangon for three days, commencing on 6 March.

The event has been in progress at the Yangon Convention Centre (YCC), Inya Lake Hotel compound, for the fourth time. More than 100 booths set

up by up to 30 companies and six organizations have been exhibited.

Construction materials, housing projects, solar, generator, transformer and other electronic products and packaging machines for factories have been on display, plus education talks, panel discussions and product launches have been included.

This year, engineering and technology have been added as new sectors, and household and business electronic products created by local industrialists have been exhibited together. In addition, an air-conditioner installation and repair skills competition has been added. The expo first took place in March 2023, and it is the fourth time this year. — MT/ZS

20 Chinese nationals held in Myawady over online crime



Immigration process is underway for the deportation of undocumented foreign immigrants.

THE Government of Myanmar is identifying and investigating foreign nationals who have illegally entered and resided in border areas and who were involved in criminal activities, including online gambling and online fraud. Those found to be involved are being systematically deported and transferred to their respective countries in accordance with legal procedures.

During the ongoing deportation process, authorities uncovered and detained an additional 20 Chinese nationals who had entered sites located around Myawady, Kayin State, through illegal routes after transiting through certain neighbouring countries, including Thai-

land. Investigations were conducted to facilitate their deportation.

In order to ensure their prompt repatriation to their respective country, joint departmental teams are currently collecting the necessary personal data and records. Under the supervision of District Administrator U Kaung San Lin, Chairman of the Myawady District Management and Administrative Committee, officials led by Deputy Director U Kyaw Kyaw Than, District Head of the Ministry of Immigration and Population, inspected the ongoing documentation and registration process and coordinated the required arrangements on 5 March 2026.

From 30 January 2025 to 6 March 2026, a total of 14,385 foreign nationals who had illegally entered Myawady Township were detained. All of them have been investigated, and 13,262 individuals have already been systematically deported to their respective countries via Thailand in pursuit of legal procedures.

The remaining 1,123 foreign nationals are ready to be transferred to their respective countries and are being properly accommodated and cared for.

Among those awaiting transfer, 154 foreign nationals are currently being held at the Myoma Police Station, and legal proceedings were initiated on 5 March 2026, according to the law.

The Government of Myanmar is actively cooperating with neighbouring and regional countries as well as international organizations to identify, arrest and take effective and stringent action against those involved in online scam centre operations, including foreign nationals who orchestrate such activities from behind the scenes.

In addition, authorities are working effectively to coordinate the swift repatriation of foreign nationals who have fallen into hardship for various reasons, including victims of human trafficking, so that they may be returned to their respective countries as soon as possible, according to reports. — MNA/KZL

YPS services expand to 8 locations with new counter

WITH a newly opened YPS counter in Myaynigon, YPS service has been available at eight locations, according to Yangon Payment Services (YPS).

For the efficient use of YPS services, a new YPS counter was opened near Myaynigon bus stop on Bargaya Road in March.

YPS services are available at counters located in Sule, Pansodan, Thakin Mya Park, Hledan, Myanmar Plaza, Thamine, 8th Mile and Myaynigon.

YPS services can be used for YBS bus fare payment, avoiding the problem of changes, and YPS said the public can contact its call centre at 09 772666699 or send messages through the Facebook page messenger from Monday to Friday during office hours from 9 am to 5 pm for any dissatisfaction.

YPS services are available for YBS bus lines- YBS 2, YBS 3, YBS 4, YBS 6, YBS 7, YBS 8, YBS 10, YBS 11, YBS 12, YBS 13, YBS 14, YBS 15, YBS 17, YBS 18, YBS 19, YBS 21, YBS 22, YBS 23, YBS 24, YBS 25, YBS 26, YBS 27, YBS 28, YBS 29, YBS 30, YBS 31, YBS 32, YBS 35, YBS 36, YBS 37, YBS 38, YBS 39, YBS 40, YBS 42, YBS 43, YBS 55, YBS 57, YBS 58, YBS 59, YBS 60, YBS 61, YBS 62, YBS 63, YBS 64, YBS 65, YBS 66, YBS 68, YBS 72, YBS 76, YBS 77, YBS 78, YBS 79, YBS 80, YBS 81, YBS 84, YBS 85, YBS 87, YBS 88, YBS 89, YBS 90, YBS 92, YBS 93, YBS 94, YBS 96, YBS 97, YBS 100, YBS 103, YBS 104, YBS 105, YBS 106, YBS 107, YBS 108, YBS 109, YBS 110, YBS 111, YBS 112, YBS 113, YBS 114, YBS 115, YBS 116, YBS 117, YBS 118, YBS 119, YBS 120, YBS 128, YBS 130, YBS 131, YBS 132, YBS 133, YBS 134, YBS 135, YBS 136, YBS 137, YBS 138, YBS 139, YBS 140, YBS 141, YBS 142, YBS 143, YBS 144 and YBS 145. — MT/ZS



This image showcases a new YPS counter in Myaynigon.

Yangon palm oil reference price set at K6,430

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil for the Yangon market was relatively unchanged at K6,430 per viss during the week ending 12 March, indicating a small gap of K30 compared to that of last week, according to the Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution.

The rise in palm oil price was attributed to a sharp drop in the palm oil output in major producing countries starting from January 2026, a large stockpile and a surge in demand during the Chinese New Year Festival and Ramadan. According to Reuters and industry reports, palm oil output in major producing nations is experiencing stagnant production levels in the first quarter of 2026, keeping the price supported. The Department of Consumer Affairs speculated palm oil market constraints that

other factors include strengthening Malaysia Ringgits, Indonesia's tax hike in palm oil export from 10 per cent to 12.5 per cent starting from 1 March, low global stock levels in palm oil reserve situation with tight supplies dropping to 19 per cent in 2025-2026 Financial Year from 20 per cent, increase in palm oil demand ahead of Eid al-Fitr, pushing the FOB price to US\$1,078 per tonne in February from \$1,047 in January. The Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has been closely observing the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia, adding transport costs, tariffs and banking services to decide the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil weekly. Despite the reference price, the market price is still high. To con-



Bottles of cooking oil are organized for distribution.

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

The Committee notified that any person who is involved in price gouging and oil storage to attempt market manipulation will

face legal action under the Essential Goods and Services Law. The department is working together with the Myanmar Oil Dealers' Association and the cooking oil importing companies to offer affordable rates of imported palm oil for consumers. The complaints for overcharging can be lodged over hotline 1535 of the call centre of the Consumers Affairs Department, or sent to

the Facebook page of the department and the region and state departments concerned.

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

MGMA to conduct Ready to Wear Pattern Training

THE Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association will offer Ready to Wear Pattern Training from 9 to 12 March at the Myanmar Garment Human Resources Development Training Centre (MGHRDC) in Insein Township, Yangon Region.

This four-day intensive programme will be facilitated by professional designers of B-Pro Fashion Design Academy. It is a production-oriented skill upgrade programme for factory real application, with an aim to improve pattern accuracy, fit correction skill and industrial efficiency of the attendees.

This training with a practical workshop format is tailored to Pattern Makers, Assistant Pattern Makers, Sample Room Staff and Production/Cutting Supervisors. It will also help set a standard size system to cut production delay and fabric waste.

This program will highlight RTW foundation & size system in which participants will be able to draft a correct Basic Block Pattern on Day 1, pattern development & fit

correction on Day 2, covering convert design into production-ready pattern with correct fitting, sleeve, variation & commercial adaptation on Day 3 to efficiently modify and adapt patterns for different styles, and industrial application & productivity on Day 4, in which participants can apply pattern knowledge directly into factory production system.

Upon completion of the course, the trainees will be equipped with skills related to accurate RTW pattern drafting, professional fit correction, efficient style modification, fabric consumption planning and production-oriented thinking.

This employee training will result in improvement of pattern accuracy, reducing rework, and an increase in production speed. Trainees will receive the B-Pro Fashion Design Academy and MGHRDC Joint Certificate upon completion.

Those who want to attend the training can enrol through the MGHRDC at 09 795405583, 09 940858350, and 09 770289289. — NN/KK

CBM to inject US\$32M into fuel oil industry

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) announced on 5 March that it would sell US\$32 million to those engaged in the fuel oil industry.

Furthermore, CBM sold over \$2.65 million to edible oil-importing companies, in addition to an injection of \$580,000 and over 2.4 million baht into the market.

CBM injected \$1 million each into the edible oil and fuel oil import sectors on 3 March, along with selling over 470,990 yuan and over 631,800 baht in the foreign exchange market.

CBM sold over \$35 million, 34 million baht and over three million yuan in February.

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

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



Vehicles are refuelling at the petrol station.

NATIONAL

Ceremony honours Rakhine monks offered State religious titles

A ceremony to honour Rakhine monks from across Myanmar who were conferred religious titles by the State, was held on 5 March at the Rakhine State Dhamma Hall in Bahan Township, Yangon.

The ceremony was jointly organized by the Board of Trustees of the Rakhine State Dhamma Hall, Rakhine social organizations, and Rakhine donors to honour 24 Rakhine monks, one nun and two laypersons on whom the State conferred religious titles on 4 January 2026.

“The Guṇavasiṭṭha Puja Ceremony has now reached its 39th

anniversary. This celebration is an effort to further encourage and honour the religion,” said U Saw Thein, chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Rakhine State Dhamma Hall.

At the ceremony, officials and donors presented certificates of honour and donated items to the monks who received religious titles. — ASH/TH

This photo features a ceremony to honour Rakhine monks from across Myanmar who were conferred religious titles by the State.



Hospital exam centres open for students under medical care



This photo depicts hospital examination centres to be opened for students receiving medical treatment.

THE Ministry of Education has announced that hospital examination centres will be opened for students receiving medical treatment during the matriculation examination to be held from 11 to 17 March 2026.

The hospital examination centres will be opened at Yan-

gon General Hospital, North Okkalapa General and Teaching Hospital, Central Women's Hospital and Waibargi Speciality Hospital in Yangon; Mandalay General Hospital in Mandalay Region; and Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital (1,000-bed) in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

In addition, in other town-

ships and districts across the states and regions, if students receiving medical treatment at major township hospitals wish to sit for the examination, the relevant education officers and schoolheads will coordinate to open hospital examination centres at those hospitals. — ASH/MKKS

Weather

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7 pm Friday 6 March 2026)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL MORNING OF 7 March 2026: Isolated light rain or thundershowers are likely in Taninthayi Region and Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Mon and (southern and eastern) Shan States. The degree of certainty is 60 per cent. The weather will be partly cloudy in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Upper Sagaing and Ayeyawady Regions and Chin, Rakhine and northern Shan State and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Taninthayi Region. In the area along the cumulonimbus clouds movement, the weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied with rain, thunder, lightning and hail may occur and therefore it is recommended to be aware in advance of these phenomena.

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

OUTLOOK FOR THE SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayin, Mon and eastern Shan States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 7 March 2026: A few clouds.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 7 March 2026: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 7 March 2026: Partly cloudy.

WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR WEEKEND: The weather will be a few clouds in Nay Pyi Taw, generally fair in Yangon Region and partly cloudy in Mandalay Region. — DMH

Union loses fight against Tesla at German factory

GERMANY'S largest union Thursday accused Tesla of intimidating staff at the US carmaker's factory outside Berlin after it lost a vote to gain control of a body representing workers' interests.

The works council, an elected body of employees that negotiates pay deals and working hours with management, has long been an unshakeable component of German corporate life, especially in the auto sector. At Tesla's "Gigafactory" outside Berlin, the IG

Metall union was seeking to win a majority in the council at elections this week, as they fight back against what they claim are poor working conditions at the site.

But the union came in second place, according to results released late Wednesday, behind the management-aligned "Giga United" list.

IG Metall official Jan Otto accused electric carmaker Tesla and its US owner Elon Musk of putting undue pressure on employees. — AFP



Tesla's German factory in Gruenheide near Berlin. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Mideast war is heightening uncertainty, Lufthansa warns

GERMAN aviation giant Lufthansa warned Friday it faced a more uncertain outlook because of the unfolding Middle East conflict, and that the fallout showed how vulnerable air traffic remains to geopolitical shocks.

The war — which began last weekend with US-Israeli attacks on Iran, triggering retaliatory strikes from the Islamic republic — has caused the biggest disruption to air travel since the Covid pandemic. With airspace closed and transit hubs in the Gulf disrupted, Lufthansa also said it

was scrambling to put on extra long-haul flights as demand surges from passengers looking for alternative routes.

"The war in the Middle East proves once again how exposed air traffic is and how vulnerable it remains, even though the industry is now more resilient to crises than it used to be," Lufthansa CEO Carsten Spohr said, as the group announced its 2025 results. "The massive concentration of global traffic flows via the Gulf hubs is increasingly proving to be a geopolitical Achilles' heel." — AFP

Bessent confirms 30-day waiver for India to buy Russian oil

THE United States has temporarily allowed India to purchase oil from Russia stored on tankers at sea, US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent confirmed.

"To enable oil to keep flowing into the global market, the Treasury Department is issuing a temporary 30-day waiver to allow Indian refiners to purchase Russian oil. This deliberately short-term measure will not provide significant financial benefit to the Russian government as it only authorizes transactions involving oil already stranded at sea,"

Bessent wrote on X. He said India is an



The waiver applies specifically to Russian oil and petroleum products already stranded at sea on tankers as of 5 March 2026. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/PIXABAY

essential partner of the United States, and added

that the US anticipates purchases of US oil". — New Delhi to "ramp up SPUTNIK

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V AS SUSANNA VOY.NO. (0041N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V AS SUSANNA VOY.NO. (0041N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **7-3-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

(ONE) OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY.NO. (225N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY.NO. (225N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **7-3-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V STRAITS CITY VOY.NO. (0253N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V STRAITS CITY VOY.NO. (0253N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **7-3-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

(ONE) OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CANDOUR 8 VOY.NO. (SW2602)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CANDOUR 8 VOY.NO. (SW2602)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **7-3-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S WILHELMSSEN PORT SERVICES (S) PTE LTD

GLOBAL VIEWPOINTS: WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS



War in the Middle East: latest developments



As of 6 March 2026, Maersk has officially suspended two major intercontinental transit routes due to escalating conflict in the Middle East. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Here are the latest main events related to the war in the Middle East:

Underestimated

Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian said "some countries" had begun mediation efforts to end the war. **Iran attacks US bases**

Iran's army said on Friday it had attacked US bases

in Kuwait and vowed that it would press on with further strikes.

"These attacks will continue in the coming hours," the army said, according to Iranian state TV.

Israel strikes Sidon

Israel struck a building on a main thoroughfare of the southern Lebanese city of Sidon, state media said, without prior warning.

The strike targeted the tenth floor of an office build-

ing near two shelters for displaced people, an AFP photographer said.

Rescuers removed at least one body and were gathering human remains, the photographer said.

Maersk halts further shipping

Danish shipping giant Maersk said it was suspending two intercontinental transit routes because of the war; its service connecting the Far East to the Middle East, and the route connecting the Middle East to Europe.

'Humanitarian disaster'

Lebanese Prime Minister Nawaf Salam warned that "a humanitarian disaster is looming" as a result of Israeli evacuation orders that are causing a massive displacement of the population.

Residents of the southern suburbs of Beirut and of the south of the country, both Hezbollah strongholds, have fled in large numbers following unprecedentedly wide evacuation orders from the Israeli military.

Kuwait casualties

Kuwait's defence ministry said 67 army personnel have been injured since the beginning of Iran's retaliation campaign — the highest number by far of any Gulf military.

Missile alerts by phone

Residents of Dubai received an Emirati interior ministry alert on their phones urging them to shelter from potential missile threats, AFP correspondents reported.

"Due to the current situation, potential missile threats, seek immediate shelter in the closest secure building and steer away from windows, doors and open areas," the alert read. — AFP

Crude linked sectors, basmati rice will be impacted if Middle East crisis escalates: Crisil

IF the ongoing geopolitical uncertainties in West Asia escalate further or persist for a longer period, it could have an adverse impact on several Indian sectors, including basmati rice, fertilizers, diamond polishing, travel operators and airlines due to their direct exposure to the region, according to a report by Crisil Ratings.

The report noted that sectors such as ceramics and fertilizers, which are highly dependent on imported liquefied natural gas (LNG), could also face near-term production challenges and will require close monitoring.

It stated, "Middle East uncertainties, Direct trade, LNG-dependent and crude-linked sectors could bear the brunt of prolonged disruption".

Crude-linked sectors such as downstream oil refiners, tyres, paints, speciality chemicals, flexible packaging and



The Indian Basmati rice sector is likely to have a significant impact, weighed down by ongoing uncertainties in the Middle East. **PHOTO: ANI**

synthetic textiles may also be affected if energy prices remain elevated.

India imports around 85 per cent of its crude oil and half of its LNG requirement, with about 40-50 per cent of crude oil and 50-60 per cent of LNG shipments passing through the Strait of Hormuz. — ANI

Japan Cabinet approves bill to launch disaster management agency

JAPAN'S Cabinet approved Friday a bill to create a new government agency that will lead disaster response, recovery and reconstruction efforts under the leadership of the prime minister.

After its likely launch later this year, the new agency will be responsible for drafting basic policies and plans as well as coordinating responses for large-scale disasters. It would have the authority to urge other government offices to improve their disaster-related measures through strong recommendations.

The disaster management agency would have a minister while regional bureaus are expected to open in fiscal 2027 or later. A government official said that November is an option for the launch, which will depend on the passage of the bill during the current parliamentary session. The government aims to create

an educational institution, tentatively called a disaster management college, for local government officials and others to receive training and conduct disaster-related research. — Kyodo



Photo taken from a Kyodo News helicopter on 29 June 2025 shows Shimizu Ward in Shizuoka, Shizuoka Prefecture, which if a megaquake occurs in the Nankai Trough may experience tsunamis over five meters high just four minutes later. **PHOTO: KYODO/FILE**

SPORTS

FIFA ruling thwarting Madjo's start to Villa life

FOLLOWING a €12 million transfer from FC Metz to Aston Villa in January, the former Luxembourg international is yet to kick a ball for the Premier League high flyers.

The Athletic has reported that this is not due to Unai Emery's lack of faith in the 17-year-old but down to a FIFA ruling which has meant he has not even represented the youth sides.

Despite Madjo being born in England, the fact that he signed from abroad and is under 18 means he is not eligible to register as stated in Article 19 of FIFA's rules which prohibits international transfers of players who are not of legal age. This came into place in 2020 when

Britain left the European Union.

Once dubbed the next Romelu Lukaku, the rising star currently finds himself in limbo. He resorted to social media to share his frustration, where he reposted a story of himself with the caption "free my dawg". His last competitive match was on 7 December 2025 for Metz against Auxerre. His last competitive goal came for England U17s where he netted twice against Sweden U17s. — AFP



Due to his age, the 17-year-old is not able to register for competitive football. PHOTO: CYRIL LESTAGE/DPPI VIA AFP



The Myanmar men's U17 team. PHOTO: SOE NYUNT THAW

Myanmar drawn in Group B for 2026 AFF U17 Championship

THE 2026 AFF U17 Championship group draw placed Myanmar in Group B with Thailand, Laos, and the Philippines.

The tournament will be held in Indonesia from 11 to

23 April, featuring 12 member countries of AFF. Myanmar U17 will also compete in the 2026 AFC U17 Championship in May. Ahead of these tournaments, the team played two preparato-

ry matches against India U17 in Yangon, drawing one and losing one, while continuing training and preparations for the international competitions. — Shine Htet Zaw/KZL

Pirovano in 'seventh heaven' after first World Cup victory

ITALIAN skier Laura Pirovano vowed to "savour this victory" after finally claiming her first World Cup win on Friday in the first of two downhills on home snow in Val di Fassa.

The 28-year-old, who is in her ninth season on the circuit, edged out Emma Aicher by just 0.01 seconds, while

Olympic and world champion Breezy Johnson had to make do with third, 0.29 seconds off the pace.

"I'm in seventh heaven," said Pirovano.

"I felt that I was skiing well, I felt good on this course.

"I still need to take it all in, because this is new for me."

Pirovano has been among the most consistent downhill performers without previously reaching the podium.

This season, she had scored three World Cup top-five finishes, including fourth place in the downhill at Zauchensee, Austria in early January, her best result ever on the circuit until Friday.

"I'm going to savour this victory, even though it breaks my heart for Emma, but for once the hundredths are on my side," said Pirovano who finished fifth in the super-G and sixth in the downhill at the Olympics in Cortina d'Ampezzo.

"I've often finished fourth, fifth or sixth, and I couldn't really say what went best today.

"It's really incredible, everyone seemed happy for me. Lots of skiers told me 'Finally, you've won,'" she added. — AFP



At the 2026 Olympics in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Laura Pirovano finished fifth in the super-G and sixth in the downhill. PHOTO: AFP

North Korea, China power into Women's Asian Cup quarterfinals



North Korea's Myong Yu Jong scored a hat-trick against Uzbekistan. PHOTO: AFP

NORTH Korea and defending champions China both eased ominously into the Women's Asian Cup quarterfinals on Friday, joining South Korea and hosts Australia in the last eight.

China beat Uzbekistan 3-0 in Sydney while North Korea hammered Bangladesh 5-0 also in Group B.

Both teams are yet to con-

cede a goal at the tournament.

China took the lead on the half-hour mark when Shao Ziqin was dragged down in the box and she made no mistake from the penalty spot. The holders, who beat Bangladesh 2-0 in their opening match, scored twice in the second half through Li Qingtong to seal their place in the next round. — AFP



Iran President says some countries made mediation efforts amid conflict with US, Israel



Several countries made mediation efforts amid the conflict between Iran, the United States and Israel, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Friday. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

President Masoud Pezeshkian emphasizes unwavering resolve to defend the nation's dignity and sovereignty without hesitation.

Several countries made mediation efforts amid the conflict between Iran, the United States and Israel, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Friday.

“Some countries have begun mediation efforts. Let’s be clear: we are committed to lasting peace in the region yet we have no hesitation in defending our nation’s dignity and sovereignty. Mediation should address those who underestimated the Iranian people and ignited this conflict,” Pezeshkian said on X.

The United States and Israel carried out a coordinated series of strikes on 28 February targeting multiple sites in Iran, including locations in Tehran. In response, Iran launched retaliatory strikes against Israeli territory and US military bases across the Middle East. — SPUTNIK

South Korea strikes crude oil deal with UAE

South Korea struck a deal Friday to ship around four million barrels of oil from the United Arab Emirates, bolstering supplies as the US-Israel war on Iran upends energy markets.

Iran claims it is now in control of the crucial Strait of Hormuz, the Gulf chokepoint through which a fifth of the world’s crude oil flows.

Heavily reliant on oil shipped through the strait, South Korea said it had despatched tankers to secure alternative supplies of fuel.

“We plan to immediately berth two South Korean-flagged oil tankers – each with a capacity of two million barrels – at alternative ports within the UAE that do not require passage through the Strait of Hormuz,” said presidential chief of staff Kang Hoon-sik.

Seoul also secured a pledge that “up to two million barrels from the jointly held strategic reserves that the UAE stores in South Korea can be made available at any time upon request,” Kang said.

South Korea is the fourth-largest importer of crude oil in the world. — AFP

‘Plenty of oil’ in market despite Mideast turmoil: IEA chief

INTERNATIONAL Energy Agency (IEA) chief Fatih Birol sought Friday to tamp down fears of a global oil crisis as conflict rages in the Middle East, saying there was “plenty of oil in the market”.

The US-Israel war on Iran and Tehran’s retaliatory attacks across the Gulf region have sent crude prices soaring – fanning fears of a fresh spike in inflation that could hit the global economy.

Addressing reporters in Brussels,

Birol said “logistical disruption” from the war was “creating challenges for many countries” but stressed there was more than enough oil in the global market.

Asked whether the IEA was mulling the release of emergency stocks, Birol said “all options are on the table” but that “at this stage” there were no plans for “collective action”. “There is plenty of oil, we have no oil shortage,” he said, after a meeting with European

Union chief Ursula von der Leyen and EU commissioners. “There is a huge surplus in the market.” “We are facing a temporary disruption, a logistical disruption,” he said.

While Iran has not officially shut off the Strait of Hormuz – through which a fifth of the world’s crude supplies and a substantial amount of gas run – shipping through the critical waterway has all but dried up. — AFP



This photo shows a gas station in Ankara, Türkiye, 22 February 2026. **PHOTO: MUSTAFA KAYA/HANDOUT VIA XINHUA**