

## 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.

## Frigate King Thalun and 4 riverine combat vessels commissioned

The domestic capability to construct large frigates has significantly strengthened the Tatmadaw's capacity to uphold its national defence and security responsibilities.



Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Htein Win presents the scale model frigate to Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the commissioning of war vessels of Tatmadaw (Navy) at the naval jetty in Yangon yesterday.

A ceremony to launch the 40,000-tonne dry dock for the Naval Dockyard Command of Tatmadaw (Navy) was held in conjunction with the placing of keel for two submarine destroyers and commissioning war vessels yesterday morning.

These ceremony took place at the dockyard workshop and the naval jetty, attended by State Security and Peace Commission Chairman and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

Officials cut the ribbon to open the 40,000-tonne dry dock of the Naval Dockyard Command. The Senior General unveiled the stone post of the dockyard and sprinkled scented water on the stone post and the plaque of the dockyard building. He also inspected the functions of the shipyard management software room.

On the occasion, the Senior General delivered a speech. He said: The 40,000-tonne dry dock will also accommodate the keel-laying ceremony for the

construction of the first two warships. Alongside this, Tatmadaw (Navy) will commission a large frigate, King Thalun, and four multipurpose riverine combat vessels. This achievement is a source of pride for both the nation and Tatmadaw.

Since 2018, plans have been implemented to construct a large dry dock capable not only of building and repairing the war vessels needed for the future Tatmadaw (Navy) but also of constructing and repairing large civilian cargo ships, thereby supporting the economic interests of the nation in multiple ways.

In the shipbuilding sector, the ability to domestically construct large frigates has greatly supported Tatmadaw in fulfilling its national defence and security

responsibilities, while also strengthening the control and security of Myanmar's territorial waters.

The two warships to be placed their keels today at the launching ceremony are the first war vessels at the 40,000-tonne dry dock. The ability to build these ships will enhance Myanmar's maritime defence capabilities. Tatmadaw (Navy) began its shipbuilding activities in 1960, giving it considerable construction experience; however, it must continue to diligently study, learn, and apply modern shipbuilding techniques in line with current advancements.

Since the dry dock is an internationally advanced facility, personnel are encouraged to operate the dock and its

equipment efficiently, fully utilizing their lifespan and capabilities. Efforts should be made to construct and repair large vessels for both domestic and international maritime trade to ensure returns on investment. Ship architecture and shipbuilding operations, as well as the development of human resources, must be steadily advanced. New-generation naval officers and servicemen assigned to various roles should be guided by sound traditions and practices. In fulfilling their duties to protect Myanmar's maritime territory and interests, they are urged to uphold and preserve the Tatmadaw's fine traditions with the same vitality and dedication.

**SEE PAGE 3**

# NATIONAL

## Countries Cultivate Youth as Key Drivers of National Development

❖ When young people are nurtured, supported, and provided with opportunities and hope in many countries around the world, they become driving forces of national development.

*(An excerpt from the speech delivered by Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the ceremony of releasing the Union Report on population and household census 2024 held on 27 October 2025)*

- 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 81<sup>st</sup> Armed Forces Day

- (a) 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
- (b) To cooperate with the government and people in performing measures for State stability, ethnic unity and the nation's development
- (c) To act with utmost care based on the agreements of NCA without deviating from the Our 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
- (d) 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

**မြန်မာ့မျက်နှာတစ်သစ် ဖိုရမ်**  
**FORUM ON THE DAWN OF A NEW STATE**  
 ( Trust, Stability & Development )

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## Weather

### Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7 pm Sunday 8 March 2026)

**BAY INFERENCE:** Weather is a few clouds over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and North Bay of Bengal and generally fair elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 9 March 2026:** Scattered rain or thundershowers are likely in Taninthayi Region and isolated in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin, Kayin and Mon states. Degree of certainty is 60 per cent. Weather will be partly cloudy in Kayah, Chin and Shan states and generally fair in the remaining regions and states.

**THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD:** The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Taninthayi Region. 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 these phenomena.

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Sea will be slight to moderate in the Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about 4-6 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Likelihood of isolated light 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 9 March 2026:** Generally fair weather.

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 9 March 2026:** Generally fair weather.

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 9 March 2026:** Generally fair weather. — DMH

## Gold Market Rate as of 8 March 2025

THE price of one tical (16.329325 grammes) of gold with density of 19.25 grammes per cubic centimetre and above is K6,900,000, as established by the Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee.

## Fuel tankers arrive at Thilawa Port to ensure fuel security

FUEL tankers are arriving at Thilawa Port at a steady pace to ensure a continuous and sufficient energy supply across

Myanmar. Authorities are closely monitoring the distribution process to ensure that imported fuel reaches consumers efficiently, while taking measures to prevent stockpiling and panic buying.

At present, two fuel tankers are berthed at Thilawa Port, with a further four en route.

Additionally, three vessels are currently loading fuel, while five others are awaiting their turn to load. — MNA/KZL



Fuel tanker carrying fuel oil docks at the Thilawa Port, Yangon Region, yesterday.

# 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)*

## Frigate King Thalun and 4 riverine combat ...



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presses the button to weld the keel and frame of submarine destroyer to launch the shipbuilding process at the 40,000-tonne dry dock of the Naval Dockyard Command.

### FROM PAGE 1

The Senior General and attendees watched a video clip on construction of the dry dock.

The chair of the company, taking responsibilities for construction of the dry dock of the Naval Dockyard Command Headquarters handed over documents related to the dry dock to the commander of the Naval Dockyard Command. The Commander-in-Chief (Navy) presented a gift in commemoration of the opening of the dry dock to the Senior General, who gave the fruit basket to the company chair.

An official reported on the construction of war vessels at the ceremony to place the keel of two submarine destroyers.

The Senior General pressed the button to weld the keel and frame of two submarine destroyers to launch the shipbuilding process and sprinkled scented water on the bronze plaque of keel and body parts.

The Senior General and party inspected the shipbuilding process and visited the gallery of shipbuilding and the dry dock, leaving necessary guidance.

The Naval Dockyard Command's shipyard project was initiated in three phases. The first-phase project was successfully constructed and launched between 1998 and 2002, and the second-phase project from 2009 to 2013, enabling the construction and repair of war vessels as well

as departmental and private ships. The third-phase project began construction in 2019, and today the third-phase facilities have been successfully inaugurated.

The Naval Dockyard Command's 40,000-tonne dry dock can construct large war vessels, and is capable of simultaneously building or repairing either one 40,000-tonne commercial ship or two large warships. It can also construct and repair large warships, cargo ships, and container ships, thereby enhancing the country's maritime economic benefits and naval capacity, and providing substantial support for national development.

The commissioning of war vessels of Tatmadaw (Navy) took place at the navy jetty in Yangon, attended by the Senior General.

Also present at the ceremony were his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, Commission Secretary Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Ye Win Oo and his wife, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Htein Win and his wife, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Tun Aung and his wife, Union-level dignitaries and their wives, retired commanders-in-chief (Navy) and their wives, senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, the commander of Yangon Command, commanders of Naval Commands, commanders of Naval Bases, officers and other ranks from Tatmadaw (Navy) and guests.

Admiral Htein Win reported on the

ceremony to commission naval vessels into service. The commander of Naval Dockyard Command handed over documents related to the war vessels to the commander of No 1 Flotilla.

The Senior General presented the banners and flags of the commissioning ceremony to the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), who handed them over to relevant commanding officers of vessels.

Chief of Staff (Navy) Vice-Admiral Aye Min Htwe declared the commissioning of war vessels and led the process of hoisting the State flag, the Tatmadaw (Navy)'s flag and commissioning flags and beat the bell nine times as the commissioning process.

The Senior General and party inspected Frigate King Thalun and four multipurpose riverine combat vessels.

The Senior General took the salute of the Guard of Honour. Meanwhile, warships Yan Taing Aung and Yan Gyi Aung fired a total of 21 rounds in salute to honour the Senior General.

The Senior General presented medals and certificates of honour to officers and other ranks who participated in building the war vessels.

At the commissioning ceremony, Frigate King Thalun is the largest vessel in the history of the Navy's shipbuilding that has been domestically constructed and commissioned. Over a period of more than one month, it completed over 270 hours of sea trials, covering a distance of

some 3,500 nautical miles. During these trials, standard performance tests were conducted, and the onboard equipment was evaluated to ensure it could be used according to prescribed standards. And, it was commissioned into service yesterday. With the successful commissioning of this domestically built warship, the Navy's capacity to fulfil its national defence and security responsibilities has been significantly strengthened. — MNA/TTA

### Salient points of the speech delivered by the Senior General at the launching of the drydock, commissioning vessels

1. Plans have been implemented to construct a large dry dock capable not only of building and repairing the war vessels needed for the future Tatmadaw (Navy) but also of constructing and repairing large civilian cargo ships since 2018.
2. The Naval Dockyard Command's 40,000-tonne dry dock can construct large war vessels, and is capable of simultaneously building or repairing either one 40,000-tonne commercial ship or two large warships.
3. Frigate King Thalun is the largest vessel in the history of the Navy's shipbuilding that has been domestically constructed and commissioned.

# NATIONAL

## Kayin and Mon states facilitated with newly-opened bridges

PRIME Minister U Nyo Saw joined the ceremonies to inaugurate new Gyaing (Zathabyin) Bridge in Hpa-an of Kayin State and new Attaran Bridge in Mawlamyine of Mon State, through the Myanmar-Japan cooperation, yesterday morning.

On the occasion, Union Ministers U Tun Ohn, U Min Naung and U Myo Thant, Chief Minister of Kayin State U Saw Myint Oo and Chief Minister of Mon State U Aung Kyi Thein cut the ribbon to open Gyaing (Zathabyin) Bridge in Hpa-an.

The Prime Minister unveiled the plaque of Gyaing (Zathabyin) Bridge and presented gifts to engineers who participated in the bridge construction. Union Minister U Myo Thant gave a commemorative gift to the Prime Minister.

In Mawlamyine, Union Minister U Myo Thant, Mon State Chief Minister U Aung Kyi Thein, Deputy Ministers U Aung Kyaw Tun, Maj-Gen Phyto Thant and U Myo Myint opened new Attaran Bridge.



Prime Minister U Nyo Saw strolls along newly opened Attaran Bridge in Mawlamyine, Mon State, yesterday.

The Prime Minister unveiled the plaque of the bridge and accepted the commemorative gift for the bridge from Union Minister U Myo Thant.

Also, present at the ceremonies were the commander

of South-East Command, state ministers, departmental officials, town elders, residents, traditional ethnic dance troupes and students.

Gyaing (Zathabyin) Bridge is of steel cable-stayed type, and

it is 2,615 feet long. The facility has a four-lane motorway with 750 feet wide and 40 feet high water clearance. The bridge can withstand 75-tonne of load. New Attaran Bridge is also a steel cable-stayed bridge with 1,575

feet in length. It has a four-lane motorway with 400 feet wide and 40 feet high water clearance. The bridge can withstand 75-tonne of load.

These steel cable-stayed bridges will not only support national development but also promote regional social and economic life, as well as domestic and international business activities, creating more employment opportunities. Using these bridges, commodity flow will be efficient from Mawlamyine in Mon State to the Special Economic Zone and deep-sea port under construction in Dawei, Taninthayi Region, and to the Thilawa Special Economic Zone in Yangon. This will also enhance connectivity along the East-West economic corridor with countries such as Vietnam, Laos, and Thailand.

At the Mon State government office, the Prime Minister discussed regional development with departmental officials and coordinated with officials to fulfill the needs. — MNA/TTA

## Air separation plant operational at No 2 Steel Mill in Taunggyi



Shan State Chief Minister U Aung Aung views the photo gallery of the construction of No 2 Steel Mill (Pangpet) in Taunggyi, Shan State, yesterday. PHOTO: MAUNG MAUNG THAN (TAUNGGYI)

SHAN State Chief Minister U Aung Aung attended the commercial launch ceremony of the Air Separation Plant (ASP), which produces oxygen and nitrogen, at No 2 Steel Mill (Pangpet) in Taunggyi, Shan State, yesterday afternoon. Shan State Chief Minister U Aung Aung unveiled the plant plaque and signboard and toured the plant control room to observe the test operation.

A brief video of the oxygen and nitrogen production workshop was shown, after which the chief minister described the day as a proud milestone for the country and Shan State, highlighting decades of effort to establish the steel factory, the opening of the oxygen and nitrogen plant to support iron smelting, its role in meeting national steel demand, the contributions of foreign and Myanmar engineers, and the factory's benefits for local development, jobs, and

the ongoing completion of two remaining facilities.

Deputy Minister for Industry U Thwin Aung highlighted the trial operation of the oxygen and nitrogen plant at No 2 Steel Mill (Pangpet) as a milestone for Myanmar's steel sector, highlighting its role in project success, technical transfer for local engineers, safety compliance, Russia-Myanmar cooperation, and ongoing work to complete the remaining facilities on schedule.

Afterward, an official from the Russian Federation gave a presentation on the plant, and the Deputy Minister for Industry presented a commemorative gift to the Chief Minister of Shan State and an honorary gift to the leader of the Russian expert group. They toured the photo gallery of the construction of No 2 Steel Mill (Pangpet). — Maung Maung Than (Taunggyi)/TH

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Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.  
[gnlmnews@gmail.com](mailto:gnlmnews@gmail.com),  
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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

## MYEA signs MoUs with Indian, Hong Kong SAR, Malaysian, and Singaporean chambers of commerce

A signing ceremony for a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation between the Myanmar Young Entrepreneurs Association (MYEA) and chambers of commerce from India, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Malaysia and Singapore was held on the evening of 7 March at the Chatrium Hotel in Yangon, according to the Myanmar Young Entrepreneurs Association (MYEA).

“We signed the MoU between the India-Myanmar Chamber of Commerce (IMCC), the Myanmar-Hong Kong SAR Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MHKCCI), the Malaysia-Myanmar Business

Council (MMBC), the Singapore Association of Myanmar (SAM), and the Myanmar Young Entrepreneurs Association (MYEA). Through the signing of this MoU, closer ties will be fostered between MYEA members and international business communities, and we will work together to create business opportunities,” said Dr Thi Thi Khaing, First Vice-Chair of MYEA.

It is also learnt that the MYEA has signed memoranda of understanding on cooperation with the Australian Chamber of Commerce, the British Chamber of Commerce, the Japan Young Business Association, and the American Chamber of Commerce. — ASH/KNN



Representatives of the Myanmar Young Entrepreneurs Association (MYEA) and chambers of commerce from India, Hong Kong SAR, Malaysia and Singapore sign the MoU.

## World Engineering Day 2026 celebrated in Myanmar

IN honour of World Engineering Day, celebrated annually on 4 March, Myanmar held the World Engineering Day 2026 ceremony on 7 March at the Chatrium Hotel in Yangon.

The World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO) brings together engineering associations from more than 100 countries, and the Myanmar Engineering Council and the Federation of Myanmar Engineering Societies also participate as members.

“Myanmar’s participation in the World Federation of Engineering Organizations has enabled us to contribute to the advancement of Myanmar’s engineers, the development of engineering education in Myanmar, and other scientific and technological progress. All engineers have a responsibility to protect the people living on Earth and to work toward a sustainable world,” said U Thein Zaw, Chairman of the High-Rise and Public Building Project Committee (HPBC).

At the World Engineering Day 2026 ceremony, Dr Seng Chuan Tan, President of the WFEO, and Dr Marlene Kan-



This photo features donors being presented with certificates of appreciation at the World Engineering Day 2026 ceremony.

ga, former President of WFEO, delivered opening remarks via video clips, while the President of the Myanmar Engineering Council and the Vice-President of the Federation of Myanmar Engineering Societies also delivered congratulatory remarks.

At the ceremony, a video recording of the World Engi-

neering Day 2026 event and the activities of the Myanmar Engineering Council was shown, and certificates of appreciation were presented to donors, including an earthquake assessment team, HPBC, Shwe Thanlwin Group, Sae Paing Development Limited, and Chindwin College. — ASH/TH

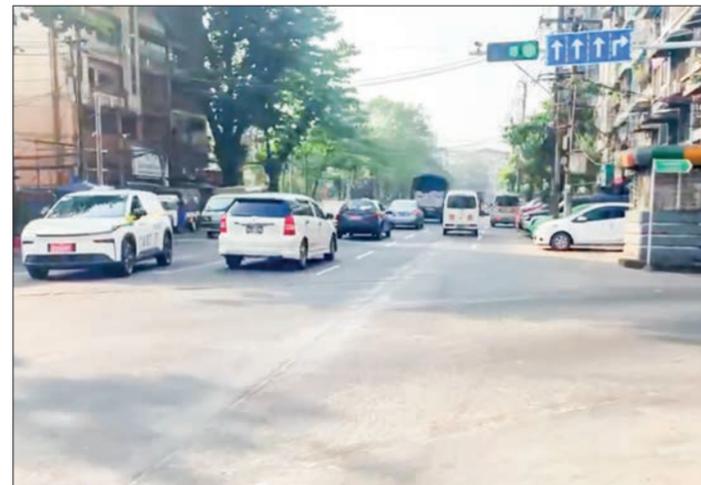
## Imported vehicles must complete initial registration by set deadlines

THE Road Transport Administration Department (RTAD) has announced that vehicles imported under permits from the Department of Trade and cleared by the Customs Department must complete their initial registration within the specified deadlines.

This reminder follows reports that some vehicles are being operated without proper registration while displaying fraudulent or decorative licence plates.

According to officials, vehicles imported under licences issued in 2018 must complete their initial registration by 30 April 2026, those from 2019 by 31 May 2026, and those from 2020 by 30 June 2026.

Authorities stated that registration is mandatory under the Road Safety and Motor Vehicle Management Law (2020). Vehicles that fail to complete the process by these deadlines will be barred from registration and may face legal action. — ASH/KZL



Vehicles seen travelling along a road in Yangon on 7 March.

# NATIONAL

## National Defence and Security Council Law 13/2026

5<sup>th</sup> Wanning of Taboung 1387ME  
7 March 2026

### CONTINUED FROM YESTERDAY

#### Chapter II Objective

3. The objectives of this law are as follows: -
  - (a) To ensure the systematic public consumption of alcohol and substances of excise.
  - (b) To supervise and ensure that the state receives the full applicable excise taxes.
  - (c) To reduce the habit of alcohol consumption and enable a decrease in alcohol use.
  - (d) To ensure that the production, distribution, and sale of quality alcohol causes minimal social and health harm.
  - (e) To enable the systematic conduct of production, storage, transport, distribution, sale, import, and export of alcoholic beverages.
  - (f) To minimize environmental and social impacts arising from the production, storage, distribution, and sale of alcohol.

#### Chapter III

##### Formation of the Excise Policy Committee and its responsibilities

4. The Union Government -
  - (a) Shall form the Excise Policy Committee with a maximum of 15 members, including the Union Minister of Home Affairs as the chair, representatives from government departments and organizations as members, the Director-General as the secretary, and the Deputy Director-General as the joint secretary.
  - (b) If necessary, may reorganize the Excise Policy Committee in accordance with the provisions specified in Subsection (a).
5. Responsibilities of the Excise Policy Committee are as follows: -
  - (a) Formulating the excise policies in relation to the following matters:
    1. Matters concerning the prevention and control of social and health harms caused by alcohol consumption.
    2. Matters concerning the import or export of alcohol and alcoholic substances.
    3. Matters concerning the establishment of alcohol, beer, or wine factories.
    4. Matters concerning the determination of production methods according to the type of alcohol.
  - (b) Determining the minimum amount of investment required to establish alcohol, beer, or wine factories.
  - (c) Coordinating and implementing treatment and rehabilitation measures for alcohol addicts in collaboration with the relevant departments and organizations.
  - (d) Reviewing excise policies at least once every five years.

#### Chapter IV

##### Excise Management and Excise Business Supervision

6. The Director-General shall supervise matters related to the excise management and these businesses.
7. Excise officers at all levels shall implement the management of excisable substances in coordination with the relevant government departments and government organizations.
8. The relevant excise officer shall —
  - (a) Conduct excise tax collection activities in accordance with the region or state excise law under the supervision of the relevant region or state governments.
  - (b) Conduct excise tax collection activities within the Union territory in accordance with regulations under the supervision of the Nay Pyi Taw Council.
9. The regional or state government or the Nay Pyi Taw Council shall —
  - (a) (1). form a District Excise Supervisory and Inspection Committee with a maximum of seven members, including the relevant district excise officer as the chairperson and appropriate officials from government departments or organizations as members.
  - (2). form a township Excise Supervisory and Inspection Committee with a maximum of seven members, including the relevant township excise officer as the chairperson and appropriate officials from government departments or organizations as members.
  - (b) If necessary, reorganize the relevant excise supervisory and inspection

- committee in accordance with the provisions specified in Subsection (a).
- (c) Determine the duties and responsibilities of the excise supervisory and inspection committee.
- (d) Impose time restrictions on alcohol sales and regulate alcohol consumption within the territory.

#### Chapter V

##### Applying for, allowing and refusing an excise licence

10. The Department shall allow a relevant excise licence for the following intoxicating businesses -
  - (a) production
  - (b) producing value-added products
  - (c) bottling
  - (d) distribution
  - (e) sales
  - (f) matters concerning the excise businesses designated by the Department under the notification
11. The Department shall determine the types of excise licences and the regulations corresponding to each type of licence in relation to excise businesses under Section 10.
12. The following individuals or organizations may apply for an excise licence to operate an excise businesses:
  - (a) Citizens of Myanmar, associate citizens, or naturalized citizens under the Myanmar Citizenship Law.
  - (b) Companies registered in Myanmar in accordance with the Myanmar Companies Law, including Myanmar-owned companies or foreign companies with foreign shareholding of 49 per cent or less.
  - (c) Companies legally organized as wholly Myanmar-owned, business entities formed by Myanmar citizens, or joint venture organizations.
13. Any person wishing to operate an excise business under Section 10 must apply for the relevant type of excise licence from the district excise officer in accordance with the prescribed regulations.
14. (a) The district excise officer shall examine the application under Section 13 and order the township excise officer for verification of compliance with the prescribed regulations to be submitted.
  - (b) The township excise officer shall review the application and submit it, along with their opinion and comments, to the district excise officer in accordance with the prescribed regulations.
  - (c) Upon receiving the submission under subsection (b), the district excise officer shall, together with their opinion and comments —
    1. Submit it to the relevant regional or state excise officer in accordance with the prescribed regulations if the enterprise is in a region or state.
    2. Submit it to the Nay Pyi Taw excise officer in accordance with the prescribed regulations if the enterprise is in the Union territory.
15. The relevant regional or state excise officer, or Nay Pyi Taw excise officer, shall—
  - (a) Upon receiving the submission under Section 14 (c)—
    1. seek the opinion of the relevant regional or state government in the relevant region or state.
    2. seek the opinion of the Nay Pyi Taw Council in the Union territory.
  - (b) Upon receiving the sought opinion under subsection (a), submit it along with their own opinion to the Department.
16. The Department shall—
  - (a) Verify the excise license applications submitted under Section 15 (b) for compliance with the prescribed regulations, and may approve or reject the issuance of the licence.
  - (b) Notify the district excise officer of its decision under subsection (a).
17. If approval is granted under Section 16 (a), the district excise officer shall collect the prescribed excise licence fee and issue the excise licence to the applicant.
18. (a) Any holder of an excise licence who wishes to apply for a licence renewal must submit an application to the township excise officer in accordance with the prescribed regulations.
  - (b) Upon receiving the application under subsection (a), the township excise officer shall examine it for compliance with the regulations and submit it, along with their opinion, to the district excise officer.

SEE PAGE 7

# NATIONAL

## Ethnic cultural troupes hold friendship gathering in Yangon

ETHNIC literature and cultural associations in Yangon Region held a friendship gathering at the Union National Races Village in Thakayta Township on 7 March. The event saw Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, Deputy Minister for Ethnic Affairs U Zaw Aye Maung, regional ministers and representatives of various ethnic groups.

The ceremony featured traditional songs and dances performed by ethnic cultural troupes including Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Shan, Mon, Rakhine, Bamar and others. Officials also presented



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein presents honorary awards to the performers at the friendship gathering of ethnic literature and cultural associations in Yangon. **PHOTO: ZAW HTET KO (IPRD)**

awards to the performers and greeted attendees during the event. — Zaw Htet Ko (IPRD)/KZL

## Reconstruction of quake-damaged Inwa tooth relic building 70% complete



Work in progress at the Inwa sacred tooth relic building reconstruction site.

THE reconstruction of the Inwa sacred tooth relic building, which was destroyed by an earthquake, is currently 70 per cent complete, archaeologist and writer Bo Shake (Yatanapura) told The Global New Light of Myanmar.

The total cost of this is funded by a single donor family. The Department of Archaeology and National Museum granted the official permission for the project in July and Myanmar renowned architect U Win Maung (Tampawady) is supervising the design.

Construction is expected to be completed by June. “The reconstruction is about 70 per cent finished up to the upper terraces. We expect it to be completed around June. Traditional carvings might not be fully integrated yet. Myanmar traditional craftsmen and engineers are working

on it,” he said.

It was originally built and renovated by three kings: King Nyaungyan, King Myedu, and King Sagaing. It is historically unique as a royal stupa located at the front of the palace grounds.

“When we uncovered the base, we found some original remnants. We are preserving those without any destruction and rebuilding according to the exact measurements found in ancient records,” he added.

Once completed, this 70-foot building is expected to become a major attraction, allowing visitors to climb and watch, similar to a tower. To ensure year-round access, a gravel road is being constructed before the rainy season begins with funds donated by the building donor, Dr Hla Myint. — MT/ZN

## 28.4M baht provided to families of Myanmar workers in Thailand building collapse

A total of 28.4 million baht has been provided to Myanmar workers affected by a building collapse caused by an earthquake in March 2025 in Thailand and the compensation includes one million baht for each of the 27 deceased workers and 200,000 baht for each of the seven injured individuals, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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A humanitarian assistance ceremony for the bereaved Myanmar families in Chatuchak, Bangkok.

### FROM PAGE 6

19. Upon receiving the submission under Section 18 (b), the district excise officer shall examine it in accordance with the prescribed regulations and, together with their opinion—
  - (a) Submit it to the relevant regional or state excise officer if the business is in a region or state.
  - (b) Submit it to the Nay Pyi Taw excise officer if the business is in the Union territory.
20. The relevant regional or state excise officer, or Nay Pyi Taw excise officer, shall—
  - (a) Upon receiving the submission under Section 19 —
    1. seek the opinion of the relevant regional or state government if the business is located in a region or state.
    2. seek the opinion of the Nay Pyi Taw Council if the business is located in the Union territory.
  - (b) Upon receiving the requested opinion under subsection (a), examine it in accordance with the prescribed regulations and submit it, together with

their own opinion, to the Department.

21. The Department shall—
  - (a) Examine the submission under Section 20 (b) in accordance with the prescribed regulations and may approve or reject the licence renewal.
  - (b) Notify the district excise officer of its decision under subsection (a).
22. If approval for renewal is granted under Section 21(a), the district excise officer shall collect the prescribed excisable substance licence renewal fee and issue the renewed licence to the applicant.
23. (a) The Department may determine the types of excise businesses that may be permitted under a quota system.
  - (b) The district excise officer shall, in accordance with the prescribed regulations, issue the relevant excise licence to any applicant wishing to operate the business types determined under subsection (a).
24. Regardless of the date of issuance, the term of an excise licence shall only be valid until the end of the relevant financial year.

**TO BE CONTINUED**

# OPINION

## Display literary and cultural works at Sarso Beikman

EVERY country and every people in the world place great value on literature and culture for the development of their national cultural identity. This is because when one nation interacts with another, the exchange of literature and culture enables the spread and sharing of religion, economic activities, culture, and other aspects among them.

Literature represents the cultural face of a nation and is also one of the most important sectors in the development of a country and its people. Myanmar, beginning from the era of the Pyu civilization at Sri Ksetra and through successive historical periods, has been a fertile land where literature and culture have flourished and spread. Owing to the literary works with a strong patriotic and nationalistic spirit, Myanmar has been able to stand among the nations of the world as a country with literary and cultural development.

As a mark of appreciation and recognition for the contributions of monk writers and scholars who recorded the nation's development processes, traditions, cultural heritage, and ideas through their writings, the State inaugurated the Sarso Beikman (Literati Building) on 4 March this year. The building exhibits showing the stages of development of Myanmar literature throughout different eras, as well as various types of literary awards and medals conferred by the State, award-winning books, and records of distinguished literary scholars.

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In addition, the building includes exhibition rooms and display sections for different fields of art, along with a mini-theatre where literary talks, discussions, and exchange programmes can be held. Literature represents the face of a nation's culture, and the development of the literary sector contributes to the growth of the moral character and intellectual capacity of the nation's people. As such, not only eminent literary scholars but also a new generation of young writers and literary enthusiasts have to join hands with the State in striving for the development of the literary sector.

The development of the literature sector contributes to the intellectual and moral growth of the nation's citizens. It not only enhances the knowledge and wisdom of the people but also plays an important role in shaping the younger generation, who represent the human resources. Through literature, young people can become more knowledgeable and cultivate a strong sense of patriotism and national spirit.

Therefore, literature should be promoted to help guide and educate young people. For this reason, literary figures and renowned writers have strived to produce various forms of literary works with the sincere intention of developing the knowledge, awareness, and moral strength of the nation and its people.

As a mark of appreciation and recognition for the contributions of monk writers and scholars who recorded the nation's development processes, traditions, cultural heritage,

THE people of a State are the source of its sovereign power. The Members of Parliament, who are chosen by the people, use this authority. In a democracy, the people themselves hold the power and can use it directly or through representatives they have freely chosen. A parliament, which is made up of elected and occasionally appointed representatives, is the highest legislative body and is in charge of representing the people. Although it is known as Parliament in the majority of States, it goes by other names in some, including Diet in Japan, Congress in the United States, the National People's Congress in China, and Duma in the Russian Federation. Bicameral Parliaments, which have two chambers, exist in certain States. Certain States have Unicameral Parliaments, meaning they only have one chamber. Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw make up Myanmar's Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, a bicameral parliament. Furthermore, the 2008 Constitution also establishes Region and State Hluttaws. The qualifications and quantity of Members of Parliament are provided in the respective constitutions.

The three main powers of State sovereignty are legislative, executive, and judiciary. Parliament, primarily referred to as the legislature, is responsible for granting legislative power. It



Members of Parliament ensure that the needs and concerns of their local constituency are brought up in Parliament by representing their voters and serving as their voice. PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

is referred to differently by the Constitution in some countries. The legislatures are made up of either People's Representatives or Members of Parliament (in Myanmar, Hluttaw Representatives). Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is the term used to describe it in Myanmar. Parliament is made

up of the people's elected members who serve in the legislature. The primary duty of Parliament is legislation. The process of legislation is conducted in accordance with the Constitution and the relevant laws and regulations. Once a bill is approved by the legislature (in Myanmar,

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw), the President formally signs the bill and subsequently enacts it as a law. Although their duties are generally the same, members of Parliament have slightly different responsibilities depending on their respective constituencies.

# Members of Parliament

By A Retired Law Officer

### Legislation

A member of Parliament's primary responsibility is to enact laws. A member of parliament is required to propose new laws that are necessary for the nation. It is necessary for the parliament to discuss, debate, and vote on the proposed laws. Additionally, they review and supervise the current laws and make any necessary amendments, repeals, or replacements.

### Representation

Members of Parliament ensure that the needs and concerns of their local constituency are brought up in Parliament by representing their voters and serving as their voice.

### Check and Balance

In order to maintain checks and balances between the legislative, administrative, and judicial branches of government, the majority of nations in the world implement the constitutional principle of separation of powers. Members of Parliament are responsible for monitoring the government and public services as well as review-

ing government policies.

### Committee Work

Parliaments create committees and commissions in accordance with their respective constitutions. For example, the Human Rights Committee, the Bill Committee, the Public Accounts Committee, the Health and Sports Committee, and so forth. It is the duty of members of parliament to take part in their committees and commissions.

### Party Responsibilities

The majority of Parliamentarians are representatives of political parties, but some are independent candidates. Parliamentarians from various political parties collaborate with their party to develop consensus and shape policy.

### Myanmar Hluttaw Representatives

According to the 2008 Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is made up of Amyotha and Pyithu Hluttaw. Making laws is Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's prima-

ry duty. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw has the authority to enact laws for the entire nation or for a specific region in accordance with the Constitution. It is within the rights of these Hluttaws' Members of Parliament to present draft legislation to their respective Hluttaws. Therefore, passing legislation is one of the Hluttaw Representatives' primary duties.

According to the 2008 Constitution, state sovereignty is separated into judicial, administrative, and legislative branches, which serve as mutual checks and balances. Thus, through submitting committee reports, introducing motions, and posing questions, Hluttaw Representatives serve to check and balance the executive and judicial branches.

It is imperative that Hluttaw representatives stay in contact with the electorate and actively participate in the constituency's development.

Both Amyotha Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw have standing committees, including the Undertaking Vetting Committee, Government's Guarantees, Pledges, Bill Committee, Public Accounts Committee, and Hluttaw Rights Committee.

Additionally, Hluttaws will establish issue committees to look at issues for a limited period of time that pertain to foreign affairs, economics, finances, social crimes, governance, legislation, and ethnic nationality. These committees are mandatory for the designated Hluttaw Representatives.

According to the 2008 Constitution, State and Region Hluttaws are established. The respective laws govern how State and Region Representatives carry out their responsibilities.

### Role of the Members of Parliament

The separation of powers is established and practised in democratic nations by their own constitutions. Parliament and other legislatures are empowered to exercise legislative power. As per the Constitution, the people freely elect the members of parliament. The Head of State (President) is chosen by the parliamentarians. The President of some nations is chosen by popular vote. Members of the Parliament elect the Cabinet and Authorities as well.

The primary responsibilities of members of Parliament are legislation, oversight and representation. That is why the members of Parliament are essential in every country. To that end, the role of members of Parliament and their responsibilities are briefly presented in this article.

# The Moment the Body Interrupts

By Khin Maung Myint

THERE are times when life tightens around us, and the body becomes the first to register the strain. Breathing – normally an unnoticed rhythm – turns deliberate, shallow, or heavy. Stress researchers describe this shift as a hallmark of sympathetic arousal, when the body's automatic regulation gives way to conscious effort as it mobilizes against perceived threat (Sapolsky, 2017). The breath becomes a barometer: its constriction signals that something in the internal or external environment demands attention.

Yet this physiological struggle is not simply a sign of distress. It is also evidence of life's ongoing responsiveness. A body that strains is a body still fighting to adapt. In contrast, the absence of struggle is the signature of lifelessness. The very sensation of suffocation – uncomfortable as it is – confirms vitality.

### When Discomfort Becomes Information

Psychologists increasingly argue that discomfort is not merely a symptom but a form of communication. Cognitive and contextual behavioural theories suggest that distress often marks a threshold where old patterns no longer suffice, prompting a search for new meaning or strategies (Hayes et al., 2012). The tightening of breath, the sense of being pressed inward, can therefore be read as a summons to reorient.

Resilience research reinforces this view. Systems – biological or psychological – often destabilise before reorganizing at a more adaptive level. Turbulence is not failure; it is transition (Masten, 2014). The struggle to breathe freely becomes part of this transitional turbulence, a sign that the system is still capable of recalibration.

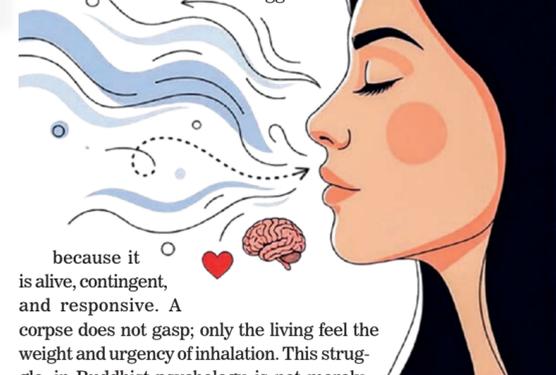
### Key psychological insights include:

- Distress as a signal – indicating misalignment between demands and resources.
- Effortful breath as threshold – marking a point where meaning must be renegotiated.
- Strain as resilience – evidence that the system is still mobilizing, not collapsing.

### Buddhist Psychology and the Friction of Being Alive

Buddhist thought offers a parallel interpretation. The experience of breath becoming effortful resonates with dukkha, a term often mistranslated as suffering but more accurately describing the inherent friction of embodied existence. Dukkha is not a moral failing; it is the texture of life lived in flux.

Classical teachings treat the breath as both a metaphor and a diagnostic tool. Its irregularity under strain reflects Anicca – impermanence – and the ceaseless interplay of conditions. The living body struggles



because it is alive, contingent, and responsive. A corpse does not gasp; only the living feel the weight and urgency of inhalation. This struggle, in Buddhist psychology, is not merely tolerated but recognised as the very ground from which insight can arise (Analayo, 2006).

### Buddhist psychology reframes the moment of constriction as:

- A reminder of impermanence – breath changes because conditions

change.

- A site of awareness – discomfort becomes an object of mindful observation.
- An invitation to insight – recognizing Dukkha is the first step toward understanding its causes.

### Meaning as the Re-Opening of Breath

When life constricts, both psychology and Buddhism converge on a shared proposition: discomfort can be an invitation. In psychological terms, it is a call to renegotiate values, direction, or purpose. In Buddhist terms, it is an opportunity to observe the workings of mind and body with clarity, loosening the grip of reactivity.

Movement – however slight – matters. Where there is breath, there is motion; where there is motion, there is possibility. The effort to inhale becomes a quiet testament to the capacity for renewal.

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# DELICACY/NATIONAL

## Kayah Sausage: A Distinctive Myanmar Traditional Delicacy

When people talk about food from Kayah, the first thing that usually comes to mind is the spiral-shaped sausage. There is even a saying that if you have visited Kayah State but have never tasted Kayah sausage, then you have not truly been to Kayah.

Kayah sausage is different from other types of sausages. It is a traditional food made from local ingredients such as Makha fruit, mountain-grown chillies, hill pork, and pork intestines. The slightly tangy and distinctive flavour of the local Makha fruit, combined with the unique taste of the sausage, creates an exceptionally delicious dish. Because of its distinctive taste, Kayah sausage has become a well-known delicacy throughout Myanmar.

Therefore, this week we present the traditional recipe for making Kayah sausage, a speciality of the Kayah ethnic people.

### Ingredients

1. Pork belly – 50 ticals (about 800 grammes)
2. Pork intestine casing – about 4 feet (or collagen casing)
3. A little salt
4. Sugar – 4 tablespoons
5. Thick soy sauce – 2 tablespoons
6. Light soy sauce – 2 tablespoons
7. Sichuan pepper powder (or Chinese five-spice) – a small amount
8. Makha powder (for its distinctive aroma and flavour) – a little
9. Food colouring – a small amount
10. Corn starch – a small amount
11. Cooking wine – 2 tablespoons

### Preparation

First, remove the skin from the pork and either mince or grind the meat.

Next, mix all the ingredients together and knead them well with the minced pork. Let the mixture marinate for about one hour.

If using pork intestines as the casing, clean them thoroughly beforehand. Alternatively, collagen casing can be used. Collagen casing is a material commonly used as a substitute for natural sausage casings.

Insert either the cleaned intestine or the collagen casing into the sausage funnel tube. Pull it along the tube to the end and tie the other end tightly to prevent the filling from leaking out.

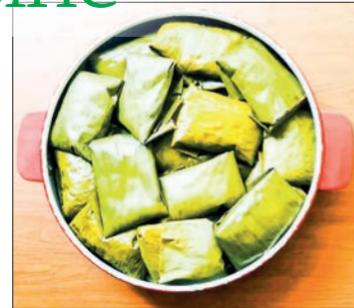
Take a small portion of the minced pork mixture, form about five small balls, and fry them to taste. If the seasoning is satisfactory, you may proceed to stuff the remaining mixture into the casing.

Press the marinated pork mixture into the funnel so it passes through the tube and fills the casing. Use a toothpick to prick any air pockets that form in the sausage to prevent trapped air.

When one casing is filled, remove it from the tube



## Traditional Myanmar Cuisine



and tie the end securely.

Hang the prepared sausages in strong sunlight for about four hours a day for three days to dry. Alternatively, they can be placed on a tray in an oven and heated at 80°C for about one hour.

Once dried, the delicious Kayah sausages are ready. They can be fried and eaten immediately or stored for later consumption when needed.

### Kayah Steamed Parcel (Kayah Hinhtoke)

Another traditional Kayah dish that never becomes tiresome, no matter how often it is eaten, is Kayah Hinhtoke, a steamed parcel with a fragrant aroma of spring onions. The preparation method is described below.

### Ingredients

- Spring onions – 500 grammes (one large bunch)
- Rice flour – 150 grammes
- Pork (or chicken) – 100 grammes (Reduce the amount if you prefer less meat.)
- Oil – 1 tablespoon
- Salt – a small amount
- Banana leaves for wrapping

### Preparation

Wash the pork and boil it with a little salt until the water evaporates.

Then cut the meat into small pieces.

Wash the spring onions and slice them thinly.

Place the spring onions in a bowl and add the rice flour, pork, oil, and a little salt. Mix thoroughly. If the mixture is too dry, add a small amount of water and knead again.

Wash the banana leaves and wipe them dry.

Wrap portions of the mixture in the banana leaves. Slightly warm the banana leaves over a gentle flame to prevent them from cracking, and cut them into the desired size.

Secure the parcels with toothpicks to prevent them from opening, then place them in a steamer tray.

Add water to the steamer pot, place the tray on top, cover it, and steam for about 40 minutes.

After 40 minutes, the parcels are ready.

You can unwrap the parcels and enjoy this delicious traditional Kayah dish as a snack, often served together with fried chilli and garlic chives. — MOON

## 28.4M baht provided to families of ...

### FROM PAGE 7

The ceremony to provide humanitarian assistance to the families of those who died in the collapse of the Office of the Auditor-General building in the

Chatuchak district was held on 2 March. It was presided over by U Zaw Zaw Soe, Myanmar Ambassador to Thailand, and Dr Thonaphon Khongtheing, President of the Lawyers Council of

Thailand. Attendees included various Thai officials and the families of the victims.

According to the MOFA, a special committee was established with the agreement of

the Thai Lawyers Council to facilitate compensation for the victims.

The ITD-CREC Joint Venture provided one million baht each to the families of 12 Myanmar workers. This event marked the fourth and final round of disbursements. In three previous rounds, the joint venture had

already provided compensation to 15 deceased workers and seven injured workers.

Through the coordination of the embassy and the labour office with the relevant committees, compensation has now been successfully secured for all 34 victims, totalling 28.4 million baht. — MT/ZN

# Chinese pianist Lang Lang's foundation promotes music education, cultural exchanges

A local children's choir opened the evening with a heartfelt rendition of the song "Heal the World," filling the historic Metropolitan Club in Manhattan, New York City, with warmth and hope.

The performance set the tone for the Lang Lang International Music Foundation's New York gala on Wednesday night. At the event themed "Music Heals," Chinese pianist Lang Lang joined young musicians in promoting music education and cultural exchange.

"In today's turbulent world, we hope music and education can bring some positive impact to the world," Lang said.

Founded in 2008, the foundation has focused on supporting the development of young musicians while expanding access to music education for students from diverse backgrounds. Its flagship programmes, "Keys

*Founded in 2008, the foundation has focused on supporting the development of young musicians while expanding access to music education for students from diverse backgrounds.*



Young scholars of the Lang Lang International Music Foundation, Sencheng Zhang, Taige Wang, Anna Kesselman, Ryan Wang, Alexander Liu and Ryan Huang, play the piano together at the foundation's New York City gala on Wednesday. **PHOTO: MINGMEI LI/ CHINA DAILY**

of Joy" and "Keys of Inspiration," have reached hundreds of schools and hospitals across China, the United States and Europe since 2013.

"Music education can shape a child's character and how they see the world," Lang said. "It builds confidence and gives them positive energy to face challenges." For Lang, music is not only an art form but also serves as a bridge between cultures. "Musicians are not only performers, but also cultural ambassadors," he noted, hoping they would become "people who spread love and positive energy." In 2025, the foundation brought young musicians to perform on the Great Wall in Beijing, part of its efforts to create similar opportunities each year to help strengthen musical connections between China, the United States and Europe. — Xinhua

## Philippines' 'Cockroach Lord' goes to bat for misunderstood bugs

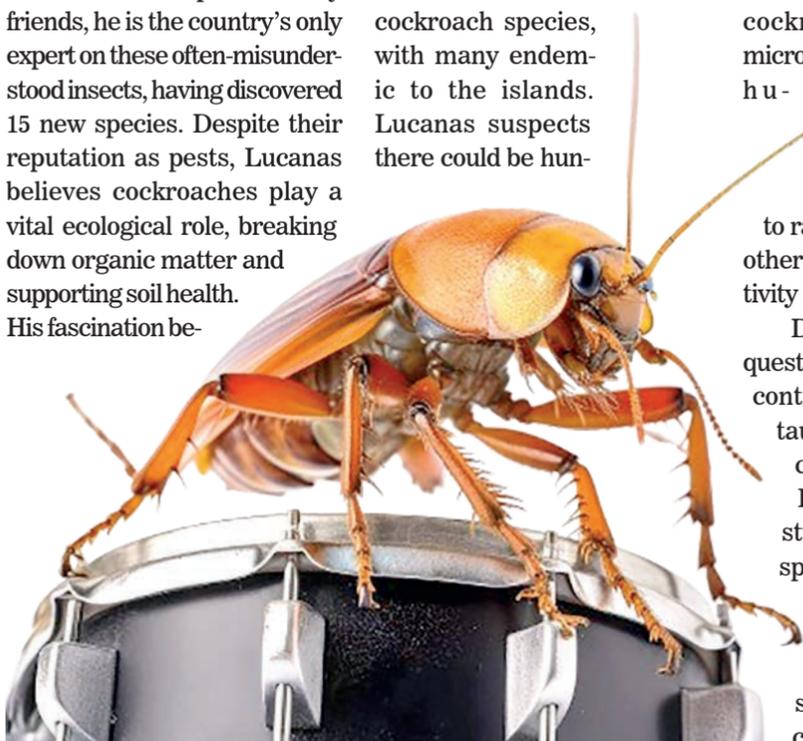
CRISTIAN Lucanas, a dedicated entomologist from the Philippines, shines a flashlight into the darkness of a rainforest as he carefully uncovers a cockroach. Known as the "Ipis Lord" by friends, he is the country's only expert on these often-misunderstood insects, having discovered 15 new species. Despite their reputation as pests, Lucanas believes cockroaches play a vital ecological role, breaking down organic matter and supporting soil health. His fascination be-

gan 12 years ago during a field trip to a bat cave, where he first encountered these resilient creatures.

The Philippines boasts around 130 known cockroach species, with many endemic to the islands. Lucanas suspects there could be hun-

dreds more awaiting discovery. He emphasizes that losing these insects would disrupt ecosystems, as they are key decomposers, similar to earthworms and dung beetles. While some cockroaches can carry microbes harmful to humans, Lucanas stresses that they are not invincible — resistance to radiation is comparable to other insects, and human activity threatens their habitats.

Despite occasional requests for expertise from pest control companies and restaurants, Lucanas admits control is not his focus. Instead, he finds joy in studying and naming new species, often inspired by Tolkien. His passion underscores the importance of understanding these overlooked creatures, even as funding for such research remains limited. — AFP



The Philippines boasts around 130 known cockroach species, with many endemic to the islands. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/PIXABAY**

## 'One Battle After Another' location manager explains THAT car chase



Cars drive on a road where a car chase scene was filmed for the movie "One Battle After Another" outside of Borrego Springs, California, on 2 March 2026. **PHOTO: SANDY HUFFAKER / AFP**

IN Paul Thomas Anderson's Oscar-nominated "One Battle After Another," the climactic car chase ditches urban chaos for a sinuous desert highway in Southern California—the "River of Hills" on Highway 78 in Imperial County. This undulating asphalt serpent, with blind peaks and hidden troughs, delivers a pulse-pounding cat-and-mouse pursuit unlike any in modern cinema. "Things appear and then disappear," location manager Michael Glaser told AFP, capturing the road's treacherous ebbs

and flows. Low camera angles immerse viewers in the roaring Ford Mustang, Dodge Charger, and purple Nissan Sentra. The 13-time nominee follows pot-addled ex-revolutionary Bob Ferguson (Leonardo DiCaprio) racing to save his daughter (Chase Infiniti) from Colonel Lockjaw (Sean Penn), a racist-hired hunter. The chase symbolizes their "pulling and pushing," filmed over days on "The Texas Dip" in Borrego Springs, with editor Andy Jurgenen piecing shots for spatial coherence. — AFP

# ECONOMY WORLD

## Türkiye's tourism city on tenterhooks as fallout from US-Israeli strikes on Iran spreads

*Border trade halted and economic uncertainty now jeopardize long-term investments.*

IN early spring, the streets of Van, a border city in eastern Türkiye, usually buzz with Persian accents. Iranian families stroll past shop windows, couples linger in lakeside cafes, and tour boats drift across the sparkling waters of Lake Van, the country's largest lake and the Middle East's second-largest.

In recent years, hundreds of thousands of Iranians have made their way to Van annually for short holidays, shopping sprees, and seasonal getaways, with early spring marking the peak season.

To cater to Iranian visitors, Persian-language signs now line the city's main streets. Retailers adjust prices and product selections to match Iranian tastes, while hotels, restaurants, and transport services have expanded rapidly to keep up with



Tourists raft in a canyon in the Manavgat district of Antalya province, Türkiye, 18 March 2025. **PHOTO: MUSTAFA KAYA/HANDOUT VIA XINHUA**

growing demand.

"Tourism and border trade are of vital importance for Van," Necdet Takva, president of the

Van Chamber of Commerce and Industry, told Xinhua, noting that the latest figures show the number of Iranian visitors to the city

has surpassed 800,000 in a single year.

But in the past few days, a tense quiet has settled over the

border city.

On 28 February, the United States and Israel launched sudden strikes on Iran, prompting widespread Iranian retaliation across the region.

Van, Türkiye's border city reliant on Iranian tourists, reels from escalating regional conflict. Iranian visitors have vanished from streets, slashing expected 2026 arrivals from one million. Border trade plummets, with tourism and commerce losses in hundreds of millions of dollars, says business leader Takva.

Nowruz peak season sees hotel bookings evaporate. "Normally full occupancy, now sudden stop," says Elite World Van Hotel GM Oktay Aksoy. Short disruptions ripple through hotels, restaurants, and shops, threatening future investments amid uncertainty. — Xinhua



Travellers navigating an airport that is adapting to new technology, such as the upcoming JESTA system and potential digital immigration checks. **PHOTO: KYODO**

### Japan mulls abolishing face-to-face immigration checks amid tourism surge

THE Japanese government is moving to abolish with the need for most foreign tourists to meet face-to-face with immigration officers to enter the country as it seeks to streamline entry procedures amid the inbound tourism surge.

The Immigration Services Agency said it would instead rely on visitor information collected through an online pre-travel screening system called Japan Electronic System for Travel Authorization, or JESTA, set to launch in fiscal 2028.

Doing away with in-person immigration checks to reduce airport congestion is rare by global standards, the agency said. The government plans to develop the legal framework for the system through a bill to amend the immigration control law that is expected to be submitted in the current Diet session.

Foreign visitors from countries exempt from short-stay visas would be subject to the new system. Currently, 74 countries and regions meet this requirement. — Kyodo

## US court voids mass layoffs at Voice of America parent

A federal judge ruled Saturday that President Donald Trump's pick to oversee mass layoffs at Voice of America and other government-funded media was unlawfully appointed, rendering the job cuts invalid.

Kari Lake, a former TV anchor, was hired by Trump to head the US Agency for Global Media, part of his administration's efforts to clamp down on what he considers unfriendly journalism.

She soon announced funding and job cuts, including the dismissal of more than 500 employees of Voice of America, created in the wake of World War II as a key instrument of American soft power worldwide.

Employees sued Lake over the firings, which were temporarily halted last September pending judicial review.

In his ruling, US District Judge Royce Lamberth determined that Lake's appointment as senior advisor to the agency



Senior Advisor for the US Agency for Global Media Kari Lake holds up a photograph, which she says shows an empty Voice of America (VOA) newsroom, as she speaks during a House Committee on Foreign Affairs hearing on 25 June 2025 in Washington, DC. **PHOTO: JOE RAEDLE /AFP/FILE**

was made "in violation of the Appointments Clause and the Federal Vacancies Reform Act."

As a result, he wrote, "any actions taken by Lake during her asserted tenure as acting CEO between 31 July and 19 November 2025, including but not limited to the 9 August reduction-in-force efforts...are

void."

The Agency for Global Media is an independent agency tasked with promoting democracy and countering propaganda overseas through entities that include VOA, Radio Free Europe, Radio Free Asia and the Office of Cuba Broadcasting. — AFP

# Japan newspaper group calls for consideration over tighter drone rules

JAPAN'S newspaper industry association has called for maximum consideration to be given to the need to use drones for news gathering as the National Police Agency considers tightening regulations on the unmanned aircraft.

While expressing understanding that the legal revisions are aimed at counterterrorism, the Japan Newspaper Publishers & Editors Association said in a statement released Friday that such measures must not unduly infringe on the public's right to know or

the freedom of news gathering and reporting.

In December, an expert panel of the agency proposed expanding drone no-fly zones from about 300 metres to 1,000 metres around designated facilities, including the prime minister's office, and enabling immediate enforcement within those zones.

The agency is seeking to revise the law banning small unmanned aircraft flights, with the newspaper industry group arguing that drones are an indispensable tool for news coverage

at disaster sites and scenes of major accidents.

The group also said that cracking down on flights near such facilities could have a chilling effect on drone operations even outside those areas and adversely affect their use beyond news reporting. — Kyodo

Japan's newspaper industry association has called for maximum consideration to be given to the need to use drones for news gathering. **PHOTO: KYODO/FILE**



## Fuel distribution in Tehran 'temporarily' halted after oil depot strikes: Iranian official

FUEL distribution in the Iranian capital has been "temporarily interrupted" after US and Israeli strikes on oil depots in and near the city, an official said on Sunday.

"Due to damage to the fuel supply network, distribution has been temporarily interrupted," said Tehran's governor Mohammad Sadeh Motamedian, as quoted by the official IRNA news agency.

"The problem is being resolved," he added. — AFP



Fuel distribution in the Iranian capital has been "temporarily interrupted" after US and Israeli strikes on oil depots in and near the city. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Sony faces \$2.7 bln class action from UK PlayStation users

JAPANESE entertainment giant Sony will face a £2 billion (\$2.7 billion) class action lawsuit starting Tuesday in London, accused of allegedly breaching competition law by overcharging millions of UK PlayStation users.

The claimants' website accuses Sony of "exploiting its UK customers" for nearly a decade by charging them "too much for PlayStation digital games and in-game content".

"This case seeks to

bring that conduct to an end and to secure compensation for those affected," consumer campaigner Alex Neill, who brought the action on behalf of an estimated 12.2 million users, told AFP. The PlayStation Store is the official digital platform where gamers can buy Sony classics like "Gran Turismo" and "God of War", as well as blockbuster titles like "Call of Duty", "GTA" and "Assassin's Creed" from other studios. — AFP

## Kuwait's national oil company announces production cut

KUWAIT'S national oil company on Saturday announced a cut to its production of crude due to Iranian attacks and threats to the Strait of Hormuz, a key transit point for Gulf hydrocarbons.

"In light of the ongoing aggression by the Islamic Republic of Iran against the State of Kuwait, including Iranian threats

against safe passage of ships through the Strait of Hormuz, KPC (Kuwait Petroleum Corporation) has implemented a precautionary reduction in crude oil production and refining throughput as part of its risk management and business continuity strategy," it said, adding that it would be "reviewed as the situation develops". — AFP

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CTP FORTUNE VOY.NO. (359W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V CTP FORTUNE VOY.NO. (359W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9-3-2026 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:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MSC QINGDAO F VOY.NO. (SB609A)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MSC QINGDAO F VOY.NO. (SB609A) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9-3-2026 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.

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Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY S.A

# ROLLING UPDATES WORLD

## War in the Middle East: latest developments

HERE are the latest events in the Middle East war on Sunday:

- Fuel distribution in the Iranian capital has been temporarily halted after US-Israeli strikes on depots, an official said. Huge fires burned after the strikes on five facilities in and around Tehran, casting a dark haze across the city as morning broke, AFP journalists said.
- Iran's clerical body tasked with choosing the country's next supreme leader has agreed on a candidate but the name is yet to be announced, members said. Iranian officials have rejected US President Donald Trump's demand he have a say in selecting a successor.
- Lebanon said an Israeli strike on a Beirut hotel killed four people. The Israeli military said it carried out a "precise strike" in Beirut targeting commanders from the foreign operations arm of Iran's Revolutionary Guards, the Quds Force.



France's Ministry of the Economy met fuel distributors on 5 March 2026, to ensure petrol prices remain reasonable amid rising costs due to Middle East conflict impacts. This photograph shows the daily price panel for E10, SP98, Supreme diesel, diesel and GPL at an Esso petrol station in Rely, northern France on 5 March 2026. **PHOTO: SAMEER AL-DOUMY / AFP**

- Explosions hit Iran's central Yazd province on Sunday, state media said. It was not immediately clear what was struck but the official IRNA news agency said the blasts occurred on the periphery of Yazd city.
- Three Indonesian crew members are missing after a UAE-flagged tugboat

was hit by a blast and sank in the Strait of Hormuz on Friday, Jakarta's foreign ministry said. Of the ship's seven crew members, one survivor was receiving burn treatment in Oman, and search missions continue for the missing three.

- Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Ku-

wait and Bahrain all reported new attacks. In Kuwait, two border guards were killed while on duty, the interior ministry said. The military said fuel tanks at the country's international airport were targeted in a drone attack. Saudi Arabia's defence ministry reported intercepting 15 drones, including an attempted attack in the diplo-

matic quarter of the capital Riyadh.

Bahrain said three people were wounded by falling missile debris and that a water desalination plant was damaged.

- Iran's Revolutionary Guards said the country's forces can fight an "intense war" for six months, with a spokesman saying more advanced missiles would be used in the coming days.
- Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said his country "will be forced to respond" to any attack or invasion attempt from a neighbouring country. "Responding does not mean we have disputes with that country or wish to harm its people — we would be responding out of necessity," he said in remarks broadcast on state TV.
- A Sri Lanka hospital discharged 22 Iranian crew members who survived the sinking of their warship by a US submarine, with another 10 still receiving treatment. — AFP

## China calls for translating Asia-Pacific community vision into reality: FM

The 33<sup>rd</sup> Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting will be held in Shenzhen in November.

CHINA will work toward the goal of translating the vision and blueprint for building an Asia-Pacific community into actions and reality, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said Sunday.

The 2026 APEC meeting to be held in China's Shenzhen will focus on the three priorities of openness, innovation and cooperation, and, once again, chart the course and rally strengths for Asia-Pacific cooperation at the crossroads, Wang said at a press conference on the sidelines of the ongoing session of the national legislature.

The 33<sup>rd</sup> Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting will be held in Shenzhen in November. This marks China's third time hosting the event, following Shanghai in 2001 and Beijing in 2014.

Noting that decades have passed



The 33<sup>rd</sup> Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting will be held in Shenzhen in November. A drone photo taken on 1 November 2025 shows a view of Shenzhen Bay Culture Square in Shenzhen, south China's Guangdong Province. **PHOTO: LIANG XU/XINHUA**

since the concept of the Asia-Pacific community was first put forward, Wang said the idea must not stay on paper or remain

just a vision. He called for finding broad consensus, clear priorities and workable steps in APEC Shenzhen. — Xinhua

## US-Israel consider Special Forces deployment to seize Iran nuke stock

THE US and Israel have held discussions regarding the potential deployment of special forces into Iran to secure the country's stockpile of highly enriched uranium, as reported by Axios.

According to four sources with knowledge of the discussions cited by Axios, such an operation would be considered at a later stage of the ongoing war. The move highlights the critical focus on Iranian nuclear assets as hostilities continue to escalate. — ANI

# SPORTS

## Myanmar launches first AFC Pro Diploma coaching course

THE Myanmar Football Federation (MFF), in cooperation with the Asian Football Confederation (AFC), opened the AFC/MFF Pro Diploma Coaching Course Module-I in Yangon on 8 March.

The course, the first of its kind in Myanmar, aims to raise the standard of football coaching in the country.

A total of 16 trainees — 12 Myanmar and four foreign coaches — are attending the programme, which runs from March 2026 to June 2027 in five modules held in Myanmar, Japan and Saudi Arabia. The AFC Pro Diploma is the highest coaching qualification in Asia and is required to manage teams in major com. — Chit Ko Ko/KZL



The opening of AFC/MFF Pro Diploma Coaching Course in progress. PHOTO: MFF



Caption: Shan United and Yadanabon United players compete during the MNL match. PHOTO:MNL

## Shan United extend unbeaten run to 98 matches

DEFENDING champions Shan United thrashed Yamanya United 5-0 in a 2025-2026 Myanmar National League (MNL) match on 8 March in Taunggyi, extending their league unbeaten run to 98 matches. The victory moved

Shan United closer to securing their seventh MNL title with two matches remaining. Their unbeaten streak, which began in the 2020 season could reach 100 matches if they avoid defeat in the remaining fixtures.

Goals from Bakayoko, Ye Yint Aung, Khun Kyaw Zin Hein and a brace by Sa Aung Pyae Ko sealed the win as Shan United maintained their lead at the top of the table with 52 points. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

## McGrath earns cathartic World Cup slalom win after Olympic pain

NORWAY'S Atle Lie McGrath won his third World Cup slalom of the season at Kranjska Gora on Sunday, edging out compatriot Henrik Kristoffersen by the finest of margins.

McGrath, who suffered Olympic heartbreak last month when he clattered into a gate with gold in sight, produced the fastest first run in Slovenia and narrowly held on for victory.

He beat Kristoffersen by one hundredth of a second with Lucas Pinheiro Braathen a close third, 0.04 second back, a day after the Brazilian won the giant slalom to back up his Olympic title.

The US-born McGrath dedicated the win to his grandfather, who died at the age of 83 after a battle with dementia on the eve of the Winter Games.

"To bounce back like this after the Olympics, I think he has something to do with it, he was looking over me today," said McGrath, who hurled his ski poles in disgust and trudged into the woods in Bormio after his Olympic dreams fizzled in the slalom.

The 25-year-old opened up a 41-point lead over childhood friend Braathen in the slalom standings, with one more race to come at Hafjell, Norway, on 25 March at the World Cup finals. — AFP



Atle Lie McGrath took victory in the slalom in Slovenia. PHOTO: AFP

## F1 world champion Norris fears 'long, tough season'



World champion Lando Norris fears a 'long tough season'. PHOTO: POOL/AFP

WORLD champion Lando Norris said he feared it will be a "long, tough season" after steering his McLaren to a distant fifth at the Australian Grand Prix on Sunday.

The Briton was well off the pace all weekend as Mercedes and Ferrari dominated, having adapted more quickly to new rules around engines, chassis and aerodynamics.

Norris has been critical of the regulation changes, claiming they are taking the sport

backwards.

But he was content with finishing fifth in Melbourne given how far McLaren seem to be behind their arch-rivals at the start of the season.

"P5 is a good result, I think we maximised what we could achieve today," he said.

"The gap to the guys ahead is pretty big and we clearly have a lot of work to do, which we thought might be the case coming into this weekend." — AFP



# China-proposed Global Governance Initiative could not be more timely: FM

*Creating parallel structures outside the UN or, worse still, putting together various exclusive blocs and circles is unpopular and unsustainable, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said.*



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, attends a press conference on China's foreign policy and external relations on the sidelines of the fourth session of the 14<sup>th</sup> National People's Congress (NPC) in Beijing, capital of China, 8 March 2026. **PHOTO: LI XIN/XINHUA**

**T**HE Global Governance Initiative (GGI) proposed by China could not be more timely, which quickly received support and responses from more than 150 countries and international organizations, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Sunday.

The GGI fully meets the common

expectations of the international community and reflects the shared aspirations of people from all countries, Wang told a press conference on the sidelines of the ongoing session of the National People's Congress.

Wang said the most clear-cut signal from the GGI is that the leading status of

the United Nations (UN) must be upheld, not challenged; the central role of the UN must be strengthened, not weakened.

"Without the UN, the world would be worse," the foreign minister said.

Creating parallel structures outside the UN or, worse still, putting together various exclusive blocs and circles is un-

popular and unsustainable, he said.

As a founding member of the UN and a staunch defender of its cause, China calls on more countries to participate in and support the GGI, and to work together to revitalize the UN, defend the UN and make the UN stronger, according to Wang. — Xinhua



Many protesters came out in support of Reza Pahlavi, the son of the late shah overthrown in Iran's 1979 revolution. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Protests across globe mark one week of Iran war

THOUSANDS took to the streets across the globe on Saturday to mark one week since US and Israeli airstrikes ignited a major war in the Middle East. The demonstrations, spanning four continents, underscored the deep political fractures surrounding the Iranian leadership and the escalating military conflict.

### Clashing Visions in Europe

In Paris, the streets became a flashpoint for rival Iranian factions. Supporters of Reza Pahlavi, the son of the late Shah, gathered in large numbers waving the lion-and-sun flags of pre-revolutionary Iran alongside US and Israeli banners. Protesters hailed Pahlavi as a democratic figurehead for a transitional government. However, they were met by "Yellow Vest" counter-protesters who rejected both the monarchy and the current clerical establishment, chanting, "No Shah, no Mullah." Similar monarchist-leaning rallies

were reported in Stockholm and Amsterdam, where marchers also demanded the immediate closure of Iranian embassies.

### Anti-War Sentiment and Base Protests

In the United Kingdom, demonstrators gathered outside the Fairford airbase, brandishing "Yanks Go Home" placards in opposition to US military involvement. In Tel Aviv, anti-war activists clashed with security forces at HaBima Square, calling for an immediate cessation of hostilities.

### A Divided America

The United States saw a surge in localized protests with starkly different agendas. In Detroit, marchers carrying Palestinian flags chanted "No war on Iran," while in Washington DC and Boston, crowds called for the fall of the Islamic Republic and a return to secular governance. — AFP