

# 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.



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

## CBM injects THB1.5M into market

**T**he Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) injected around 1.49 million baht into the forex market on 13 March. Additionally, CBM sold over US\$1.98 million to edible oil-importing companies on the same day.

Furthermore, CBM sold \$1.85 million to edible oil-importing companies on 12 March, in addition to \$1.56 million and a 1.4-million-baht injection into the market.

CBM announced on 11 March that it

would sell \$30 million to those engaged in fuel oil businesses. Furthermore, CBM sold over \$1 million to edible oil-importing companies on that day, along with an injection of \$120,000 and two million baht in the foreign exchange market.

CBM also sold over \$2.1 million to edible oil-importing companies on 10 March, along with an injection of over \$450,000 and 6.7 million baht into the market.

CBM has constantly injected large

amounts of US dollars into the edible oil sector on 3 to 9 March, with \$1.97 million on 9 March, \$1.96 million on 6 March, \$2.65 million on 5 March, over \$1.24 million on 4 March and one million dollars on 3 March. Additionally, CBM injected \$1 million into the fuel oil import sector on 3 March.

CBM injected forex into the market, with a view to curbing the instability in the foreign exchange market and cur-

rency 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

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# NATIONAL

## Union, People, and State Interests Must Be Prioritized to Foster Peace

- ❖ It is the will of all the people to strengthen a genuine and disciplined democratic system and to build a Union based on democracy and a federal system.
- ❖ To achieve such construction, all stakeholders must prioritize the interests of the Union, the welfare of the ethnic peoples, and the interests of the State to promote peace.

*(An excerpt from the message sent by Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing to the ceremony to mark the 105<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of National Victory Day, which fell on 14 November 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

## Republic of the Union of Myanmar National Defence and Security Council

### Space Science and Technology Development Commission Law (National Defence and Security Council Law 17/2026)

12<sup>th</sup> Waning of Taboung 1387 ME  
14 March 2026

THE National Defence and Security Council enacts this Law under Section 427 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar:

#### Chapter I Title and Definition

1. This Law shall be called the Space Science and Technology Development Commission Law.
2. The following terms contained in this law shall have the meanings as specified below: -
  - (a) State means the Republic of the Union of Myanmar;
  - (b) Commission means the Space Science and Technology Development Commission established under this Law.

#### Chapter II Objectives

3. (a) To cooperate internationally for the development of space science and technology,
- (b) To develop human resources and establish the infrastructure necessary for the advancement of space technology,
- (c) To apply space science for socioeconomic development and the promotion of peace,
- (d) To safeguard the nation's security, the environment, and natural resources,
- (e) To support the socioeconomic development activities of the people, including agriculture, natural disaster management, and response efforts, through the use of space technologies.

#### Chapter III Establishment of the Commission

4. The President may establish the Space Science

and Technology Commission with a minimum of five appropriate individuals.

5. The President shall designate the Chairman and Secretary when the Commission is established.
6. The President shall appoint a Hluttaw representative to serve on the commission if deemed appropriate by the commission with the agreement of the Speaker of the relevant Hluttaw.
7. The President shall define the responsibilities and authority of the Commission to implement the objectives set out in Section 3.

#### Chapter IV Resignation from position, duty termination, appointment in vacant positions

8. The Commission Chairman may resign from the position of his own accord at any time for any reason by submitting a letter of resignation to the President.
9. A Commission member, except the Commission Chairman, may resign from the position of his own accord at any time for any reason by submitting a letter of resignation to the President via the Commission Chairman.
10. The President may terminate the duty of any Commission member if the following situation occurs: -
  - (a) a finding of a medical examination reveals that the individual is no longer able to continue performing their duties due to permanently

physical or mental impairment,

- (b) failure to comply with the rules and regulations established by the Commission.

11. Whenever Commission members' positions become vacant, whether due to resignation, termination from duty, death, or any other reason, the President shall fill the vacant position by appointment of appropriate individuals.

#### Chapter V Miscellaneous

12. The Union Government shall determine the monthly remuneration, allowances, insignia, and privileges of the Chairman, Secretary, and members of the Commission.
13. The term of the Commission shall coincide with the term of the President.
14. The Union Government Office shall make arrangements to support the office operations of the Commission.
15. The Union Government Office shall release necessary rules, orders, notifications and directives to implement the provisions of this Law.

I hereby sign the Law under Section 427 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Sd/ Min Aung Hlaing  
Senior General  
Acting President

# 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)*

## MIFER Union Minister attends 32<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Economic Ministers' Retreat

A Myanmar delegation led by Dr Wah Wah Maung, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations and ASEAN Economic Minister for Myanmar, attended the 32<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Economic Ministers' Retreat (32<sup>nd</sup> AEM Retreat) and its related events, which were held in Taguig City, the Philippines, from 12 to 13 March 2026.

The 32<sup>nd</sup> AEM Retreat was conducted in two sessions. During the first session, presentations were delivered by the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC) on its priority projects and initiatives for 2026. The Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) also presented a proposal on developing a new industrial policy framework aimed at strengthening ASEAN's economic resilience. In addition, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) proposed initiatives to enhance the strategic partnership between ASEAN and ADB. ASEAN Economic Ministers noted their presentations and provided recommendations for further strengthening private sector engagement and enhancing public-private partnerships.

During the second session, ASEAN Economic Ministers exchanged views on regional and global outlook, the recommendations of the ASEAN Geoeconomic Task Force (AGTF) and the High-Level Task Force on ASEAN Economic Integration (HLTF-EI). They also discussed the implementation progress of



Delegates from ASEAN countries, including Myanmar's Union Minister Dr Wah Wah Maung, pose for the documentary group photo at the 32<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Economic Ministers' Retreat in Taguig City, the Philippines.

the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and the sustainability initiatives of the AEC Pillar. The Ministers endorsed the concept notes of Priority Economic Deliverables (PEDs) under the AEM's purview that will be implemented under the Philippines ASEAN chairmanship in 2026. Furthermore, ASEAN Economic Ministers provided the necessary guidance on the efforts to conclude and sign the ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement (DEFA) by 2026. They also discussed the matters related to ASEAN Plus One free trade agreements, such as Canada, the Republic of Korea, and India. In addition, ASEAN Economic Ministers exchanged views on enhancing bloc-to-bloc economic cooperation with external part-

ners such as the European Union, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), and the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).

At the meeting, the Union minister emphasized the importance of economic security in the midst of rising geopolitical and geoeconomic uncertainties. The Union Minister highlighted that economic security is essential for strengthening the resilience of regional value chains, ensuring stable economic growth, and deepening cooperation. The Union minister also noted that ongoing conflicts in the Middle East could pose challenges to regional energy security and stressed the need to enhance energy cooperation among ASE-

AN Member States. In addition, the Union minister underscored the necessity of strengthening regional cooperation on food security, rising commodity prices, and supply chain disruptions in order to overcome the challenges arising from increasing energy and transportation costs. In addition, the Union minister emphasized the importance of ASEAN Centrality, ASEAN solidarity with the concept of no member state lagging behind and the need of strengthening public-private partnerships to overcome challenges on economic sector.

The Union minister reaffirmed the close collaboration with other ASEAN Member States to ensure the timely implementation of the Priority Economic Deliverables under

the Philippine Chairmanship in 2026. The Union minister also highlighted the importance of constructive negotiations to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes in ASEAN Plus Free Trade Agreements."

The ASEAN Economic Ministers also adopted the ASEAN Economic Ministers' Joint Statement on Strengthening ASEAN's Economic Resilience in Response to Recent Global Economic and Geoeconomic Developments.

During the meetings, the Union minister also participated in the launch event of a joint report by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of the Philippines on ASEAN's Green Economic Transition. The Union minister also visited the Likhang Filipino exhibition gallery in Manila, which showcases Philippine MSMEs' products and discussed promoting bilateral trade between Myanmar and the Philippines. Furthermore, the Union minister attended the ASEAN Economic Ministers' welcome dinner hosted by the Government of the Philippines.

The meeting was chaired by Ma. Cristina A. Roque, Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry, the Philippines. The meeting was attended by ASEAN Economic Ministers and the delegates from ASEAN Member States, the Secretary-General of ASEAN, the Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN and officials from the ASEAN Secretariat. — MIFER

### Daily newspapers available online

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# NATIONAL

## Forum on the Dawn of a New State concludes

THE Forum on the Dawn of a New State (Trust, Stability & Development) continued its second day at the Myanmar International Convention Centre I (MICC I) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the forum, the experts continued the discussion on Opportunities and Challenges for Myanmar's Development and Stability that covered the areas of economy, MSMEs, digital marketing, AI, global political issues and education. Those speakers made detailed explanations on the questions raised by those from political parties, Hluttaw representatives, political researchers and attendees.

After the discussion, Union Minister for Information



The Forum on the Dawn of a New State (Trust, Stability & Development) in progress in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

U Maung Maung Ohn made a concluding remark, appreciating the experts and Hluttaw representatives for their

attendance at the forum. He added that all the facts

discussed at the forum are interesting and important for the country. He encouraged Hluttaw representatives to act on practical points raised during the discussions and to understand the needs of the people and the priorities for national development.

He continued that Myanmar is a country rich in compassion and culture. The Hluttaw representatives need to help the public better understand issues related to violence caused by misinformation and fake news. He called on them to work for the benefit of the communities, regions, and the public, and to strive toward placing the country on the right democratic path. — MNA/KTZH

### Appointment of Somali Ambassador to Myanmar agreed on

THE Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the proposed appointment of Mr Ali Mohamed Abukar as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Republic of Somalia to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with residence in Kuala Lumpur.

Mr Ali Mohamed Abukar was born on 6 July 1954 in Mogadishu, Somalia. He obtained a Diploma in English and French Languages from Somali National University, Somalia, in 1983 and a Diploma in Arabic and French Languages from the University of Frenche-Comté, France, in 1990. He also obtained a Diploma of Introduction to Diplomacy from the Somalia Diplomatic Institute in 2024.

He worked as an Educational Consultant, Interpreter and Translator in the United Kingdom and the Netherlands from 2000 to 2010. From 2011 to 2023, he served as First Secretary/ Deputy Head of Mission at the Somalia Embassy in Brussels, Belgium. Since 2024, he has been serving as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Somalia to Malaysia. He is married. — MNA

### Red Cross dissemination workshop held in Mandalay Region

THE Myanmar Red Cross Society, the Mandalay Region Red Cross Supervisory Committee, and the International Committee of the Red Cross are jointly holding a Red Cross dissemination workshop in Mandalay Region. The three-day workshop is taking place at the Win Unity Hotel in Mandalay from 13 to 15 March, according to reports.

The workshop is organized to help participants clearly understand the values of the Red Cross

Movement, its fundamental principles, as well as its activities and responsibilities.

A total of 29 Red Cross volunteers from townships in Mandalay Region are attending the workshop. They come from Nyaung-U, PyinOoLwin, Myittha, Thazi, Madaya, Meiktila, Mahaaungmyay, Chanmyathazi, Pyigyidagun, Chanayethazan, Aungmyaythazan, Singaing, Kyaukse and Yamethin townships. — ASH/KZL



Participants attending the Red Cross dissemination workshop are seen in the group photo.



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# NATIONAL

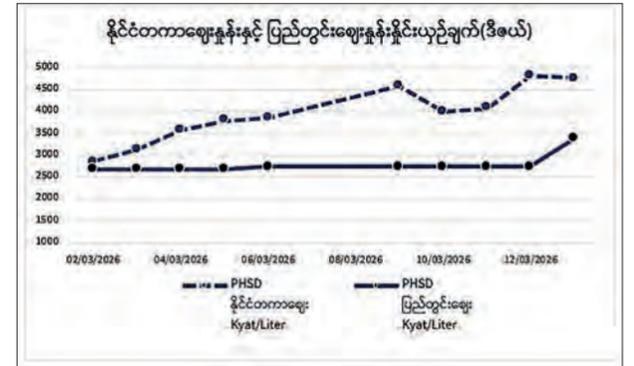
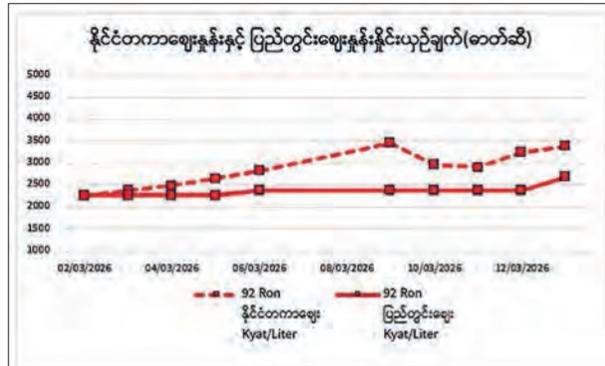
## MoE announcement on fuel distribution and pricing

THE Ministry of Energy has announced the implementation of Barcode and QR Code systems at petrol stations, as well as a comparison between international and domestic fuel prices.

To prevent fuel shortages and ensure that those in genuine need can purchase fuel conveniently, a new system was launched on 12 March 2026 at fuel stations across the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, Yangon, Mandalay, and Taunggyi. Under this system, the barcode included on a motor vehicle's Wheel Tax certificate, and the data contained on a motorcycle's certificate, are used to generate specific QR codes. These codes are verified via a mobile application at the time of purchase. Continuous efforts are being made to enhance the software and technical infrastructure to improve efficiency and user convenience.

On the launch day, petrol stations in the designated areas successfully served 62,017 motor vehicles and 56,080 motorcycles through the application system in an orderly manner. During this trial phase, some difficulties were encountered. These included faded wheel tax barcodes, which made scanning difficult, discrepancies between vehicle information contained in the wheel tax barcode and the system database, and attempts by some vehicles to purchase fuel more than once within a single day. Therefore, coordination is currently being carried out with the relevant departments in order to ensure that vehicle information is more comprehensive and accurate.

Starting from 15 March 2026, for vehicles with



These graphics show differences in oil and diesel prices between domestic and international markets.

unscannable barcodes, fuel stations will record the vehicle details and issue a temporary QR code solely for the purpose of purchasing fuel. However, owners of such vehicles are required to visit the Road Transport Administration Department as soon as possible to resolve the issue.

For private vehicles undertaking long-distance journeys, additional fuel can be purchased without the need for a second scan. By presenting a receipt of a purchase made earlier that day, drivers may buy fuel again at stations located along highways or in other cities more than 100 miles away.

International fuel prices have been rising sharply. Compared to prices before the global oil crisis, international petrol prices have increased by over 70 per cent, while diesel has risen by more than 100 per cent. Despite this, the Government and the Myanmar Petroleum Trade Association are cooperating to

maintain domestic stability. Consequently, as of 13th March 2026, domestic prices have increased by only 12 per cent for petrol and 23 per cent for diesel relative to pre-crisis levels.

National fuel reserves are currently sufficient for approximately 40 days of petrol and 50 days of diesel. Currently, three tankers are unloading at Thilawa, two are at the pilot station awaiting entry, three are en route, and 12 are waiting to load, bringing the total to 20 tankers involved in the current transport cycle. Furthermore, arrangements have been made to import an additional 19 tankers during March.

Through public cooperation, national fuel reserves can be further strengthened. The Ministry of Energy remains committed to the fair and sufficient distribution of fuel across the country and kindly requests the continued cooperation of the public.

Ministry of Energy

## 86 undocumented foreign immigrants arrested in Myawady

THE Myanmar government emphasizes the elimination process of online scams and gambling, which harm the international community as well as the entire world, as a national duty. To ensure that such activities gain no foothold in the country, the government is actively conducting suppression operations in coordination with domestic forces and the governments of neighbouring countries.

Acting on information that foreigners were hiding in the area, a combined security team in Myawady Township raided a building located about 1,500 metres from Maethawtalay village in Myawady Township, Kayin State.

During the operation at 4 pm on 14 March, authorities arrested 45 individuals at the building and nearby houses 2,500 metres southeast from Maethawtalay village, including 43 Chinese men, one Filipino man,

and one Thai woman. In addition, officials arrested 27 individuals (26 Chinese men and one Chinese woman) at buildings and houses 2,800 metres southeast from Maethawtalay village, and 14 individuals, including 10 Chinese men, one Malaysian man, one Filipino woman, one

Thai woman, and one Vietnamese woman, at buildings and houses 2,700 metres southeast from the village.

The arrestees are currently detained in Myawady, while a joint departmental team is collecting their personal data and records. — MNA/MKKS



This map shows the locations where 86 illegal entrants were arrested near Maethawtalay Village, Myawady Township.



This photo shows detained individuals who entered the country illegally through the location near Maethawtalay Village, Myawady Township.

# NATIONAL

## Ceremony highlights achievements, screens Lancang-Mekong Cooperation documentary

THE Sharing Successes in Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Efforts and Documentary Screening Programme event, jointly organized by Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV) under the Ministry of Information, the Chinese Embassy to Myanmar, and China Media Group (CMG), was held at MRTV's Studio A in Yangon on the morning of 13 March. The event was attended by Minister-Counsellor Dr Zheng Zhihong of the Chinese Embassy to Myanmar, MRTV officials, and invitees.

An introductory video of the Lancang-Mekong Week interview activities was shown.

The programme Discussing the Future of Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Together was launched, and a video message from Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn was



The Sharing Successes in Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Efforts and Documentary Screening Programme event in progress at MRTV in Yangon on 13 March 2026.

shown.

Dr Zheng Zhihong from the Chinese Embassy to Myanmar

also explained matters related to the Sharing Successes in Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Ef-

forts and Documentary Screening Programme.

The second part of the dis-

cussion featured the screening of the documentary film *The River Flowing South*. Officials from the MRTV discussed the documentary and the role of the media in the Myanmar Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Project.

Afterwards, the third part of the ceremony featured the screening of the video *Celebrating the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Lancang-Mekong National Cooperation*, followed by the interview videos of the Myanmar Crop Yield Assessment and Data Centre and the Myanmar Tourism Research Centre.

Subsequently, regarding Myanmar's Lancang-Mekong cooperation and development promotion, members of the Myanmar Press Council and an official from the MRTV shared and discussed their views before the ceremony concluded. — MNA/TH

## 2026 matriculation exams enter Day 4



Students sit for the Chemistry and Geography subjects exam on the fourth day in the matriculation examination for 2025-2026 academic year at the No 1 Basic Education High School, Aungmyethazan Township, Mandalay.

THE 2026 matriculation examination and the 2026 industrial, agricultural and livestock matriculation examinations continued yesterday morning nationwide, and the students took Chemistry, Geography, industrial (combined science)

and agricultural (crop production-3) at different exam centres.

A total of 254,717 students (94.78 per cent) sat Chemistry and Geography subjects at 887 exam centres opened in Nay Pyi Taw, regions, states and

townships, including overseas, whereas 2,869 students (99.27 per cent) sat industrial (combined science) and agricultural (crop production-3) at 53 exam centres.

The security forces, health staff, Fire Brigade members, ward, village administrative boards provided security measures for the students to be able to take the exam peacefully, and Union Minister for Education Dr Chaw Chaw Sein, the Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman, chief ministers of regions and states and relevant officials of military stations also inspected the exam centres.

Students will take Physics and History on 16 March, Biology and Economics on 17 March, whereas industrial, agriculture and livestock matriculation examinations will be on 18 March. 15 March is designated as a holiday. — MNA/KTZH

## 2026 matriculation and vocational exams enter Day 4

THE 2026 matriculation examination and the 2026 industrial, agricultural and livestock matriculation examinations continued yesterday nationwide, including at overseas examination centres.

For the 2026 matriculation examination, a total of 887 examination centres were opened this year, comprising 16 overseas centres and 871 domestic centres. Altogether, 268,753 candidates registered for the examination. On the fourth

day, 254,717 candidates sat the chemistry and geography, while 14,036 were absent, resulting in an attendance rate of 94.78 per cent.

For the 2026 industrial, agricultural and livestock matriculation examinations, a total of 53 domestic examination centres were opened. A total of 2,869 sat the examinations, while 21 candidates were absent, giving an attendance rate of 99.27 per cent, according to the Ministry of Education. — MNA/KZL



Students appear after sitting Chemistry/Geography subjects for the 2026 matriculation examinations in Toungoo, Bago Region, on the fourth day of the examination.

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# NATIONAL

## Myanmar imports over 1M tonnes of fertilizer in 2025-2026 FY

MYANMAR has brought in over one million tonnes of fertilizer in the 2025-2026 financial year, according to the Urea Fertilizer Purchasing and Distribution Steering Committee.

Union Minister for Cooperatives and Rural Development U Hla Moe, who acts as the chair of the steering committee, gave an opening remark at the work coordination meeting held on 13 March regarding the objectives of the meeting, performances in the current financial year, and preparations for the monsoon paddy season in the New Government term.

This FY, Myanmar is targeting to import 1.6 million tonnes of fertilizer and 32,000 tonnes of pesticide. The committee has recommended companies to import over 1.68 million tonnes of fertilizer and 32,676.87 tonnes of pesticide while seeking an import licence.

Myanmar Fertilizer, Seed and Pesticide Entrepreneurs Association's report indicated that over 1.1 million tonnes of fertilizer was imported between 1 April 2025 and 2 February 2026. Over 983,560 tonnes were distributed. Currently, over 285,000 tonnes are in stock, and over 22,500 tonnes have been placed on the dock, totalling 300,000 tonnes. He urged the Department of Agriculture to discuss the monthly requirements for fertilizer to secure input for the upcoming monsoon paddy season. He also



Fertilizers and pesticides are displayed at a shop in DaikU Township.

addressed preparations to receive an import licence within a set timeframe.

Afterwards, he stated that fertilizers were distributed to farmers under the post-harvest repayment system in August and September last year. He asked officials concerned to ensure full repayment. He also expressed appreciation to those who cooperated in this scheme, as the field inspection findings showed that farmers were able to purchase fertilizer at a lower price than the market price. Furthermore, the scheme helped to boost output and maintain the quality of the crops.

Additionally, the reference prices for March 2026 were set at K94,000 per 50-kilogramme bag of Urea fertilizer (large granular), and K115,000 per 50-kilogramme bag of Di Ammonium

Phosphate. Yet, the ongoing issues in the Middle East might push the price up. The Union minister urged those in the supply chain to maintain price stability and import the remaining quantity by licence. He also instructed the department concerned to monitor the market to ensure there is no overcharging based on Yangon's reference price, price manipulation or hoarding.

The fertilizer association also needs to supervise companies holding a licence to conduct actual import and distribution, and only apply when necessary. He encouraged relevant departments to cooperate in achieving the Steering Committee's objectives: timely availability of fertilizers, affordable prices, and ensuring quality. — NN/KK

## Myanmar Cotton Body negotiates with IFBIC to import quality cotton seed

MYANMAR Cotton and Cotton Products Merchants Association discussed matters regarding the importation of quality cotton seed from India and long-staple cotton (non-hybrid) with the International Federation of Business Intellectuals and Changemakers (IFBIC) during the fourth hybrid meeting held on 12 March at the meeting hall of the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization.

They also addressed the standard and characteristics of Myanmar's 2/40 and 2/80 cotton varieties. Officials of the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization under the Ministry of Commerce and Myanmar Economic Counsellors in Kolkata were also present at the hybrid meeting. The association is also connecting with India and Uzbekistan to get quality cotton seeds that are aligned with Myanmar's climate and soil type.

Uzbekistan also informed Myanmar



This image shows a cotton field with buds and blossoms.

that the Agriculture Department wants to deliver pest-free high-yielding cotton varieties to Myanmar, according to MyanTrade's notification dated 7 August.

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Myanmar Cotton and Cotton Products Merchants and Manufacturers Association have sent

the list of premium cotton varieties to the department concerned for further processing.

There is a large price gap between premium cotton and non-premium cotton. Therefore, cotton growers need to grow premium pedigree cotton for commercial benefits. If they grow whatever, they might experience low yield and high risks. Cotton ginners also need to maintain quality control, and so, cotton ginners must prioritize cleanliness and systematic operations to ensure product quality, minimize waste and maintain a safe working environment, the Myanmar Cotton and Cotton Products Merchants Association stated. The association has already informed the department concerned of this. The association has been coordinating matters to increase quality cotton output and achieve good prices. — NN/KK

## 21 March deadline set for 2026 JLPT individual profile updates



Records of applicant information

THE JLPT Organizing Committee of the Myanmar Association of Japan Alumni (MAJA) has announced that individual applicants for the 2026 Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) may update their user information from 14 March until 4 pm on 21 March.

Once an application is confirmed, applicants can click the "User Information" button to make edits. However, MAJA strictly notes that updates resulting in a change of identity will not be accepted. The update process is divided into two parts: Part 1: updating personal identity information such as the profile photo, full name, ID number, gender, date of birth, and signature. The system does not allow more than three changes. Select the checkbox next to the specific field you wish to change on the left side of the screen. After entering the new details, click the Request button. If the request is not approved within three days, applicants are advised to contact MAJA directly.

In Part 2, applicants can manually update their own contact details, including email address, physical address, and phone number. After editing the fields, click the Preview button. If the information is correct, click Save. MAJA urges all applicants to log in and double-check their updated information for accuracy. For further inquiries, they can contact the JLPT Organizing Committee (MAJA) at 01 7571015 (Ext-1). — MT/ZK

# OPINION

# BOOKRACK POEM

## Emphasize consumer rights with safe products

**T**HE trade and commercial sector has long highlighted the well-known sayings “the customer is always right” and “the customer is king.” These expressions underline the importance of consumers in economic activities and emphasize that businesses should give priority to the needs and satisfaction of their customers. In a healthy market environment, consumers play a central role, and their confidence and trust are essential for the success and sustainability of businesses.

In some areas, the role of consumers appears to have weakened as some traders fail to prioritize their interests. As a result, some producers and sellers offer low-quality goods or services without sufficient regard for consumer expectations. They sometimes

assume that their products will automatically secure a place in the market and that consumers will have no choice but to accept what is available. Such a misconception undermines the basic principle that businesses exist to serve consumers and respond to their needs.

The importance of protecting consumer rights has gained increasing attention at the international level. In 2023, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) called for greater awareness of consumers’ rights to essential services such as energy and water. According to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), it is crucial to ensure access to safe and affordable drinking water and reliable energy services for people around the world within the coming years.

The United Nations Guidelines for Consumer Protection also emphasize that consumers should have access to essential goods and services, while special attention should be given to vulnerable and disadvantaged groups. In reality, producers and consumers depend on one another within the global economic system. Manufacturers rely on consumers to purchase their products, while consumers depend on producers to provide safe, reliable and affordable goods and services. This mutual relationship contributes to the overall development of the economy.

Global challenges such as climate change and environmental degradation continue to pose serious threats. UNCTAD has also stressed the importance of improving consumers’ access to essential services, including energy, water and sanitation. The UN Guidelines recommend that member states promote universal access to public utilities and strengthen national policies governing service provision. Such policies should address consumer information, service charges, deposits, payment systems, dispute resolution mechanisms and protections for vulnerable consumers.

To further promote consumer welfare, countries around the world will observe World Consumer Rights Day 2026 under the theme “Safe Products, Confident Consumers”. Ensuring consumer choice and access to safe, affordable services will ultimately contribute to a more prosperous and harmonious society.



Book Title	-	On Faith and Science
Translator	-	Thet Paing
Publishing House	-	Thar Nge
Publication Date	-	March 2026 (1 <sup>st</sup> Edition)
Price	-	K19,000

CHOICE magazine, the journal of the American Library Association, also praised it as a balanced and insightful discussion of the relationship between science and religion. Professor Ronald L Numbers of the University of Wisconsin-Madison commented that it is the most accessible, most brilliant, and most reliable introduction to science and religion currently available. Professor Christiana Zenner of Theology, Science, and Ethics at Fordham University notes that the book succeeds spectacularly in portraying the historical figures and epistemological revolutions that shaped contemporary sciences in post-Enlightenment England and post-Darwinian America.

This book is not one that dictates whether religion or science is correct. Instead, it highlights the complex, intertwined issues of good and bad throughout history and demonstrates that faith and science are disciplines that complement each other. The two authors state that they published this book for students, scholars, and the general public, aiming not to provide definitive answers about the relationship between science and religion but to cultivate questions for continued discussion and debate.

## On Faith and Science

THIS week’s pick is an intriguing book presenting how religion and science have interpreted various aspects of human existence, survival, progress and the future of the earth from the perspectives of a historian and a philosopher. The volume also offers a view of the present and even future predictions. Saya Thet Paing analyzed this book entitled “On Faith and Science: A Historical and Philosophical Journey,” co-authored by Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Edward J Larson and philosopher Michael Ruse, into English and simply put the title “Religion and Science”.

The book raises questions: Do religious beliefs lead to better moral conduct, or is human intelligence heightened solely through evolution? What is the purpose of being human? What factors influence the way people

live today? What could be the future goal of human beings? Each chapter is presented with dialogue between the historical researcher and the philosopher discussing these topics, making readers feel as if they are listening to two close friends conversing.

Readers need to contemplate each chapter and weigh it against their critical thinking and intellectual independence. It explores the meaning given by religion and the answers provided by science regarding the origin of the world and the emergence of humankind, why humans think the way they do, whether the soul truly exists within the body, why humans have superior brains compared to animals, Darwinism (survival of fittest), the Holocaust, dinosaur fossils, sexual orientation, genetic diseases, the environ-

ment, and other questions concerning human beings and its surroundings, through the precise historical records and philosophical perspectives on why things happened the way they did.

The book contains nine chapters, (1) Cosmology: Perspectives on God or the origin of the universe; (2) Physics: The relationship between modern physics and religion; (3) Neurobiology: The connection between the brain, mind, and soul; (4) Geology: Fossils and concepts of Divine creation; (5) Darwinism: Darwinian theory and faith; (6) Human Nature: The evolution of humankind; (7) Sex and Gender: Perspectives from science and religion; (8) Genetics: Ethical questions related to eugenics, genetic modification, and playing God and (9) Ecology: The meaning of living on Earth.



Book Title	-	Jain Abhidhamma in the Buddha's Era (Indian Literature)
Translator	-	Ashin Zagara Bhivamsa
Publishing House	-	Su Young Sin
Publication Date	-	August 2025 (2 <sup>nd</sup> Edition)
Price	-	K12,000

## Jain Abhidhamma in the Buddha's Era (Indian Literature)

THIS book is a Myanmar translation of selected sections on Jain literature and its distinctive doctrines from the second volume, second part of the major work on Indian literary history written by the Western scholar Professor Dr Maurice Winternitz. It is a research-based book that examines Mahavira, the leader of Jainism who emerged in the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC and was a contemporary of the Buddha, from the perspectives of literature, social life, and religious beliefs.

Jainism is believed to have emerged even before Gotama Buddha. Under the leadership of Vardhamana Mahavira (Jina Mahavira), it developed from an ancient religious group of the Nigantha (those free from bonds).

According to Jainism, the entire universe is divided into two parts: Jiva (soul) and Ajiva (lifeless). Jainism holds that the combination of these two, Jiva and Ajiva, is the cause of suffering in the world. In other words, living beings such as humans are regarded as masses of suffering. To escape

from this suffering, the Atman (ego) must be purified. Only then can the soul, which is believed to reside separately within the human body, be liberated from the bondage of suffering. Jains believe that by rejecting the body, the soul or living spirit believed to dwell within the body can attain liberation.

Readers can read the differences between the Digambara (Sky Clad or Naked) and Svetambara (White Clad), two types of Jiva (soul) and Ajiva (lifeless) and practices to be free from ego (Atman).

The translator is Ashin Zagara Bhivamsa. Due to the Sayadaw’s deep proficiency in Pali, English, and Myanmar, he was able to translate the work in a way that preserves the essence of the original text while making it easily understandable for Myanmar readers.

In Myanmar’s Dhamma literary world, it is quite natural that most studies and readings focus mainly on the Theravada Buddhist Abhidhamma. However, studying the ideas and literature of other religions that flourished in neighbouring countries

when the Buddha gained enlightenment can help readers better understand the distinctive features of the Buddha’s teachings. For such studies, the book titled “Jain Abhidhamma in the Buddha’s Era” can now serve as a guiding light for scholars and literature enthusiasts.

By reading about Jain Abhidhamma, readers will be able to observe the differences between the Buddha’s Kamma and the Jains’ Kamma. The Jain concept of Kamma is based on the Atma (ego) and places emphasis on reflecting upon the past and the future. In contrast, the Buddha’s teaching on Kamma does not rely on the concept of Atma (ego) but emphasizes reflection on the present.

Therefore, the book can be regarded as an essential book not only for students of Buddhism but also for those interested in the history of Indian philosophy, comparative religious studies, and oriental studies.

### Noble Qualities of the Victorious

By Mya Thae (Research)

1. Precepts The victorious person has good morals. He owns five precepts forever.	5. Belief He believes all mankind and creatures are body and mind. Moreover, he has a belief in the four ways of faithful truth and signs.
2. Wisdom The victorious person has wisdom that is good deeds for creatures and human beings. So, he performs good deeds and avoids sin.	6. Shame and fear He has shame and fear of sinning. He has a desire to perform well.
3. Knowledge He has a good knowledge of general knowledge. Besides, he tries to know all the cases.	7. Modesty He has the modesty to carry out evil things. Moreover, he has always wanted to perform for the global and human beings. Ref: Buddha's Sermon
4. Charity The victorious person has charity. He can donate his property.	

### The Symbol of Summer

By Min Min Zan

Golden sunlight warms the sky so bright,  
Flowers dance in gentle light,  
Children laugh in fields of green,  
Summer shows a joyful scene.  
Warm winds whisper through the trees,  
Bees are humming with the breeze,  
Shining days and starry night,  
Summer is the heart of light.

### Time

By Tin Moe (Translated by Myint Zan)

though one tries to hide away from 'it'  
it arrives in one's hiding place taking my energy and strength to whither?

အချိန်  
သူ့ကို ပုန်းလည်း  
ပုန်းသည့် နေရာ  
သူ့ရှောက်လာလျက်  
ငါ့မှာ ရှိပြီး  
အင် နှင့် အား ကို  
ယူသွားခဲ့ပြီ  
အဘယ်ခေတ် နည်း။

တင်မိုး

Composed on 12 March 1966  
Translated on 12 March 2026, sixty years to the day after Tin Moe composed the poem

# NATION Entertainment



### Yu Thandar Tin

ACTRESS Yu Thandar Tin is now visiting Mandalay, and posted her photos with captions: "Each year that I grow older, I learn to love myself more. My dreams feel closer. May this become one of the most beautiful years of my life, and may my mind and actions always move forward together." She also posted photos, with a caption saying, "Can I be a girl from Mandalay?"

### Wyne Lay

SINGER Wyne Lay released a new Thingyan song music video titled 'Yay Tway Pet'. The song is her own tune and is one she prepared especially for this year's Thingyan festival. It costs about K25 million for such a kind of music video. She said, "It combines traditional Myanmar style with Western music elements and was created to capture the spirit of Thingyan. I put my heart and effort into it, so please support it. Even though I spent a lot of money, I'm happy that I truly like."



## Fan meeting of 'Nway Thingyan' film

THE fan meeting of artistes from the 'Nway Thingyan' film and audience was organized at the Time City promotion area on 10 March.

The event included Thingyan dance, food donation, fun games, photo shooting and other fun activities.

The cast of the film that will be screened on 20 March are Paing Takhon, Charlie Nyein, Thin Zar Wint Kyaw, May Myint Mo, Aung Khine, Sin Ma, Wah Wah Aung, Yoon Shwe Yi, Super Min and Yan Pyay. It was directed by director Ko Zaw (Aryon Oo), the story was by Aye Thiri Ko and the script was by Yazaw-in Ko. – Htun Htun/KTZH

# CELEBRITY



### Yoon Myat Thu

SINGER Yoon Myat Thu will release a Water Festival Mini Album titled 'Thingyan Lu Lal', which will include six songs. Two songs, 'Thingyan Moe' and 'Thingyan Yay So Tae Telephone', are old songs, while 'Thingyan Lu Lal' is her own composition. Other tracks, such as 'Myan Myan Laung', 'Let Lay Swel Htar', and 'Yay Thanat' are remake versions performed in the Yoon Myat Thu style. The album is created with a great deal of manpower, financial resource and effort, and it also includes the performance of actor Nay Toe.

### Oak Aw Than Thar

ACTRESS Oak Aw Than Thar, who became famous from the MRTV 4 stage, has recently been appearing continuously in films and TV series. She is currently acting in a series titled 'Thingyan Chit Saga'. Her fan commented on her post, "The actress who played the villain role in the film Feeling performed so well. I kept wondering where I had seen her before, and it turns out she is Oak Aw Than Thar, who acted as the wife of Chantha in the movie 'Mae Cho'. I would also like to see her more in films with strong acting skills, especially silent acting. Producers, please consider giving her more opportunities."



### Mi Sandi

SINGER Mi Sandi shared on social media that she attended the Flow Gala event and performed the song 'New Year Thingyan Water' together with friends. She also posted Thingyan-themed photos with the caption reading, "Here is Thingyan Girl." She described them as rare and special photos taken as memories during the 'New Year Thingyan Water' music video. She also informed fans that she recreated the Thingyan song "Taing Pyaw Mal", which she really likes, in her own version with an 80s disco vibe.

### Aye Thandar Bo

TRADITIONAL dancer Aye Thandar Bo recently shared a solo dance performance on social media using a song she loves from the film 'Padauk Kae Tae Gita'. She also shared her music video with the song 'Thingyan Moe' with the caption saying, "Thingyan is perfect only with the 'Thingyan Moe' song." Currently, the actress is Pindaya, as she is involved in the making of the 'Thin Mar' film, which will broadcast on MRTV-4 and Hey Play. – Htun Htun/KTZH



# NATIONAL

## MFF urges April fishing extension for Taninthayi fishers

AN official from the Myanmar Fisheries Federation (MFF) has submitted a request to the Department of Fisheries to allow fishing permits to remain valid until the end of April to ensure the socioeconomic well-being of fishermen in Taninthayi Region, which mainly exports seafood, according to a statement from the Myanmar Fisheries Federation.

The fish spawning season, which is a closed season in Myanmar's seas, usually runs from May to the end of July or from April to the end of June. Therefore, the fishing season normally ends at the end of March, and fishing boats have to stop fishing for about three months.

"For the long-term conservation of marine resources, we have to take a three-month break every year in accordance with the rules. According to the



Fishing trawlers seen in Myanmar waters offshore Taninthayi Region.

procedure, we have issued a notice to stop fishing at the end of March. Since the fishing season will end at the end of March, there will be no exports. The MFF has submitted a request to allow fishing in April for fishermen in both Yangon

and Taninthayi regions. Some fishing gear can be used in the summer, but they are not useful in June, July, and August, depending on the type. They are not suitable during the rainy season," said an official from the MFF.

Currently, there are around 30,000 fishermen in Taninthayi Region. The fishermen have requested permission to continue fishing until the end of April to improve their socioeconomic conditions, so the MFF has submitted a letter to the relevant

departments.

In the last financial year (2024-2025), the country earned more than US\$700 million from seafood exports, while Taninthayi Region earned over \$300 million in export revenue. — MNA/MKKS

## Sitagu Hospital to conduct 17<sup>th</sup> eye care donation starting 17 Mar



Patients are seen waiting for receiving treatment during the 16<sup>th</sup> Sitagu Eye Care Donation programme.

THE Sitagu Cakkhu Dana Hospital (Yangon) has announced that its 17<sup>th</sup> eye care donation programme will commence on 17 March, providing examinations and surgeries over seven days.

The programme includes outpatient examinations (17-

19 March, three days) and surgeries (18-23 March). This session will focus on the remaining 1,500 patients from the registration list of the 16<sup>th</sup> edition, and no new patients will be accepted.

"We are starting the 17<sup>th</sup> session on 17 March. We aren't

taking new registrations because during the 16<sup>th</sup> round, over 3,000 people signed up. We treated 1,500 then, and the remaining 1,500 will be treated now. We are currently contacting those on the list by phone," a hospital official stated.

The 1,500 registered patients have been grouped into batches to arrive between 17 and 19 March. The 16<sup>th</sup> session results (3-9 February) include examinations for 1,527 patients, surgeries for 450 patients, and laser treatments for 17 patients.

The mission operates under the leadership and guidance of the Sitagu Sayadaw. To date, the Sitagu Eye Care mission has provided the following free services — total consultations: 20,025 patients, total surgeries: 6,070 patients, total laser treatments: 380 patients. — MT/ZN

## Local zoos release dos and don'ts for visitors

THERE are 13 rules visitors will need to follow when they visit zoos to protect the wildlife and the natural world, according to local zoos.

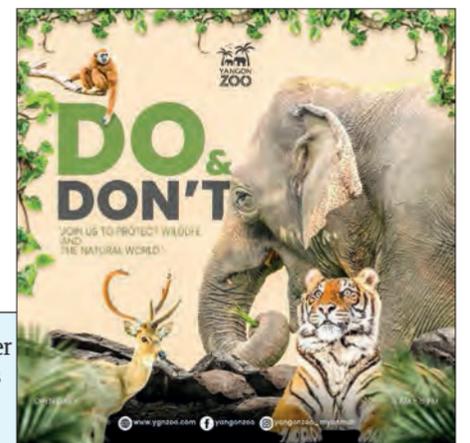
Zoos are open, aiming to share knowledge, help research works, preserve wildlife species and help their reproduction.

Visitors are required to respect animals and nature and follow the following dos and don'ts so that they can explore safely.

The rules include visitors having empathy for wild animals, caring for and valuing the landscape gardening, exploring the nature of wild animals, observing animals from a safe zone and not bringing pets.

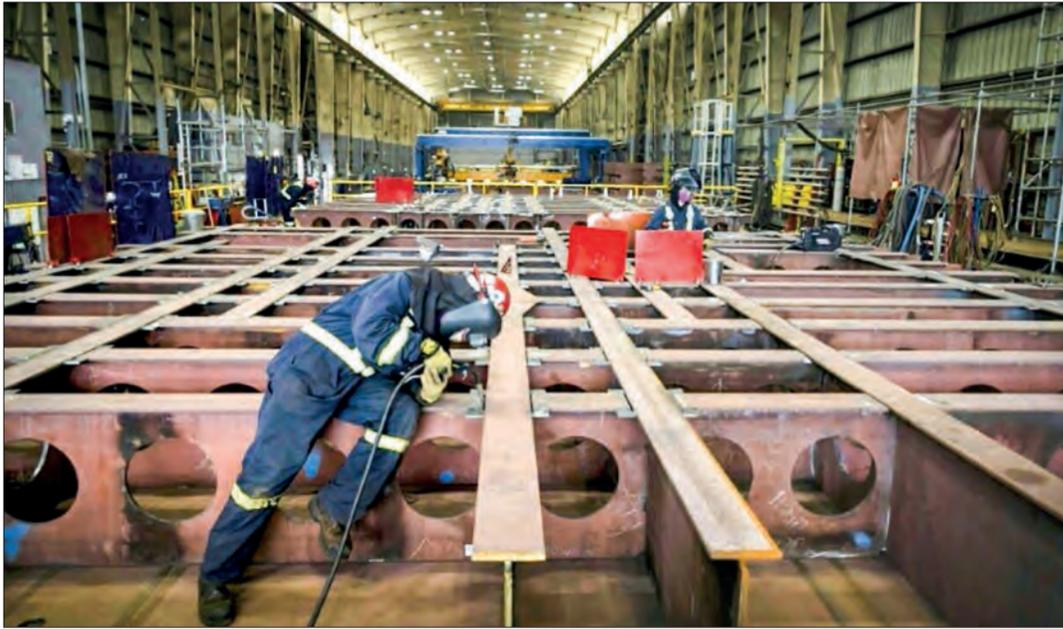
In addition, visitors should dispose of litter properly. The use of speakers and sound boxes is prohibited. Do not tease animals or release them without official permission. Do not fish and swim. Do not make fires or use illicit drugs in the park. Do not bring harmful weapons.

Visitors need to follow these rules and cooperate in the protection of wildlife and the natural world, said local zoos. — MT/ZS



This image shows a poster regarding Dos and Don'ts at zoos.

# ECONOMY WORLD



Polar Icebreaker under construction at Seaspan Shipyards in Vancouver. **PHOTO: AFP**

## With new ships, Canada aims to be 'icebreaking superpower'

Carney announced nearly CAN\$35 billion (\$25.7 billion) in Arctic funding, with most of the funds dedicated to upgrading existing military infrastructure.

AT a massive shipyard in North Vancouver, Canadian workers grind metal beams for a powerful new icebreaker crucial to cementing the country's presence in the increasingly contested Arctic.

Icebreakers are specialized, expensive vessels able to navigate in the frozen far north.

And "this is the crown jewel", Eddie Schehr, vice president of production at the Seaspan shipyard, told AFP.

For Prime Minister Mark Carney, who heads to Norway on Friday to observe Arctic defence drills involving troops from 14 NATO states, Canada's extreme north has emerged as a strategic priority.

"Canada is, and forever will be, an Arctic nation," he said ahead of the trip.

During a stop in Canada's Northwest Territories before flying to Norway, Carney announced nearly CAN\$35 billion (\$25.7 billion) in Arctic funding, with most of the funds dedicated to upgrading existing military infrastructure. — AFP

## Middle East turmoil revives Norway push for Arctic drilling



NORWAY eyes Arctic drilling amid Middle East tensions, leveraging its status as Europe's top gas supplier post-Ukraine invasion. With Iran reportedly blocking the Strait of Hormuz, Norwegian officials and industry lobby Brussels to scrap the EU's proposed 2021 Arctic oil/

In the Arctic, the expansion of the oil and gas industry increasingly encroaches upon the traditional grazing lands and migration routes of Reindeer herds.

**PHOTO: PEXELS**

gas moratorium during the Commission's strategy review.

Norway, supplying nearly a third of EU gas, pushes exploration in the Barents Sea — home to 60 per cent of its estimated 3.48 billion cubic metres of undiscovered resources. Energy Minister Terje Aasland insists Middle East unrest is unrelated, touting stable supplies from a "democratic" ally, warning prices would soar without them. Unions highlight jobs securing northern regions against Russia. — AFP

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Japan, S Korea finance chiefs express "serious concern" on yen, won falls

THE finance ministers of Japan and South Korea expressed "serious concern" about the sharp fall of their respective currencies to the US dollar amid Middle East tensions, vowing to remain "vigilant" and "agile" in policy actions to support financial stability.

Japanese Finance Minister Satsuki Katayama and her South Korean counterpart Koo Yun Cheol said they will "take appropriate actions against excessive volatility and disorderly movements in exchange rates", according to a joint press statement released following the 10<sup>th</sup> round of bilateral finance ministerial dialogue.

"Financial markets in both countries have seen significant movements. Japan, by keeping in mind the effect of surges in crude oil prices on people's lives, will take all possible measures at any times," Katayama said at a press conference.

She spoke as the US dollar attracted safe-haven buying amid the crisis triggered by the US Israeli attacks on Iran. In New York on Friday, the dollar briefly hit 159.75 yen, its highest level in around 20 months.— Kyodo

## Iran strikes end Dubai dreams for Pakistani workers



Migrant workers sit on a wall against the backdrop of the city skyline as they take a break in Dubai on 11 March 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

IRANIAN missile barrages and US counterstrikes have shattered the Gulf job pipeline for Pakistan's aspiring migrants. Dubai's glittering skyscrapers lured 1.2 million Pakistanis with construction gigs paying \$800 monthly — triple Lahore wages — but airport deportations now spike as visas evaporate amid wartime chaos.

"Three years' savings gone in days," mourns Ali Khan, 29, who arrived last week only to board a PIA flight home after UAE firms halted hiring. Pakistani agents report 70 per cent cancellations since Iran's 7 March volleys, with Dubai's Jebel Ali port — handling 15 per cent

of Pakistan's exports — paralyzed by insurance hikes and crew shortages.

Islamabad scrambled 12 repatriation flights, stranding 8,000 workers in Karachi limbo. Remittances, 10 per cent of GDP, plunged 22 per cent week-on-week as OFW families face ruin. "We sold land for this," Sobs Khan's mother. Tehran's Strait of Hormuz threats compound woes: fuel prices soared 40 per cent, grounding buses to job fairs.

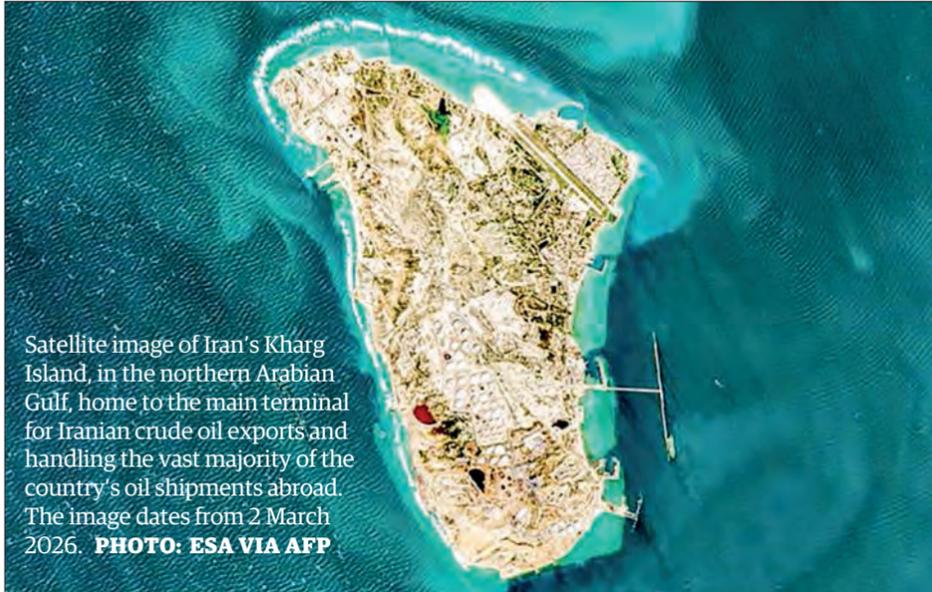
For millions, the Gulf mirage fades — Iran's war trades neon dreams for breadline reality back home. Pakistan's youth bulge turns desperate as borders slam shut. — AFP

# Iranian media reports no damage to Kharg oil infrastructure after US strike

NO oil infrastructure was damaged in US strikes on Kharg Island, Tehran's crude export hub in the Gulf, Iranian media reported on Saturday.

The Fars news agency, citing sources on the island, reported there had been no damage to oil facilities after President Donald Trump said US strikes had destroyed only military targets.

Trump had threatened in a social media post to target oil infrastructure on the island, a crucial hub for Iran, if Tehran continues to



Satellite image of Iran's Kharg Island, in the northern Arabian Gulf, home to the main terminal for Iranian crude oil exports and handling the vast majority of the country's oil shipments abroad. The image dates from 2 March 2026. PHOTO: ESA VIA AFP

block the strategic Strait of Hormuz.

Iran has, in turn, threatened to target US-linked oil infrastructure. — AFP

## Petrol price in Cambodia stable as diesel price further increases due to ME conflict

REGULAR petrol price in Cambodia is stable for the next three days as diesel price has continued to rise due to the escalation of the Middle East conflict, the Ministry of Commerce said late on Friday.

In an announcement, the Ministry of Commerce said a litre of regular petrol will still cost 5,200 riels (US\$1.29) from Saturday to Monday, as diesel will go for 6,400 riels (\$1.59) per litre, up 5.7 per cent from 6,050 riels (\$1.5) on Friday. — Xinhua

## Oil holds onto gains as investors hope for OPEC action

OIL kept its recent gains on world markets on Friday, ending a week of rallying on encouraging remarks from producing countries. A barrel of West Texas Intermediate for September delivery finished up 22 cents on the New York Mercantile Exchange to close at \$49.11.

In London, North Sea Brent for October delivery fell one cent to settle at

\$50.88 a barrel. Oil futures had tumbled during a bearish July as investors worried about a global supply glut, bloated inventories and weak demand.

But officials from Saudi Arabia and Russia this month have acted to reassure markets, suggesting that producing countries could agree to limit output in an effort to stabilize prices. — AFP



Saudi Aramco engineers and journalists look at the Hawiyah Natural Gas Liquids Recovery Plant, in Hawiyah, in the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**  
M.V OTANA BHUM VOY.NO. (247N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V OTANA BHUM VOY.NO. (247N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **15-3-2026** 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 REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES**

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**  
M.V ERASMUS ICON VOY.NO. (607W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ERASMUS ICON VOY.NO. (607W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **15-3-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

**M/S MAERSK A/S**

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**  
M.V MSC SUPARNA F VOY.NO. (SB610A)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MSC SUPARNA F VOY.NO. (SB610A)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **15-3-2026** 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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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 MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY S.A**

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**  
M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (3604S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (3604S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **15-3-2026** 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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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 BLPL SHIPPING LINE**

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**  
M.V TC MESSENGER VOY.NO. (163N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V TC MESSENGER VOY.NO. (163N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **15-3-2026** 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 LINES**

# WEEKLY WORLD NEWS DIGEST

March 14

## Japan, US discuss energy security cooperation amid Hormuz Strait closure

TOP Japanese and US officials on Saturday discussed cooperation on energy security at a time when oil and gas shipping through the Strait of Hormuz has been effectively halted amid the conflict in the Middle East.

Japanese Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Ryosei Akazawa and US Interior Secretary Doug Burgum held talks in Tokyo on the sidelines of an energy security forum attended by government

ministers, business leaders and others from over a dozen countries.

Akazawa said he hopes the two-day event cohosted by Japan and the United States "will be the first step of a new energy security cooperation in the Indo-Pacific", while touching on the situation in the narrow waterway through which most Middle East oil destined for Asia is shipped. — Kyodo



Japanese Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Ryosei Akazawa (2<sup>nd</sup> from R) and US Interior Secretary Doug Burgum (3<sup>rd</sup> from L) shake hands at their talks in Tokyo on 14 March 2026. PHOTO: MINISTRY OF ECONOMY, TRADE AND INDUSTRY / KYODO

March 13

## Cambodia approves harsh laws against fraudsters

CAMBODIA'S government approved a draft law Friday that will hand down harsh sentences against fraudsters running cyberscam operations, a minister told AFP.

Cambodia has emerged as a hotspot for crime syndicates running a multibillion-dollar fraud industry that sees scammers lure internet users globally into fake romantic relationships and cryptocurrency investments. Largely concentrated in Southeast Asia, the global cyberscam industry has reached "industrial proportions", with estimates of its annual revenues as high as \$64 billion, according to the UN Office on Drugs and Crime.

Some of the hundreds of thousands of people carrying out scams in the region are trafficked and held against their will, while others work voluntarily.

The draft law was approved during a cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Hun Manet. — AFP

March 11

## Military AI must remain under human control

HUMAN primacy must be upheld in military applications of artificial intelligence (AI), and all relevant weapon systems must be put under human control to avoid technological runaway, a Chinese defence spokesperson said on Wednesday.

Jiang Bin, spokesperson for China's Ministry of National Defence, made the remarks in response to a media question regarding reports that the US Department of War demanded that American technology companies allow unrestricted use of AI technologies by the military, and the US military employed AI tools extensively in military operations against Venezuela and Iran.

Such choices as the unrestricted application of AI by the military, using AI as a tool to violate the sovereignty of other nations, allowing AI to excessively affect war decisions, and giving algorithms the power to determine life and death, not only erode ethical restraints and accountability in wars, but also risk technological runaway, Jiang said. — Xinhua

March 9

## French AMI announces \$1B raised in funding

FRENCH artificial intelligence startup AMI, co-founded by Meta's former chief AI scientist Yann LeCun, announced it has raised \$1 billion to develop models able to understand the physical world.

This first funding round for AMI (Advanced Machine Intelligence) was carried out by five investment funds and attracted investment from several big groups, including Toyota, Nvidia and Samsung. Notable names in tech, including former Google CEO Eric Schmidt and Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, also bought in. LeCun told AFP that, with the funding round complete, AMI would bring aboard 20-30 people "in the very short term". He and five co-founders plan to "shift into a higher gear" on developing "world models", or AI systems designed to understand the physical world. — AFP

March 12

## ROK parliament approves US investment bill

SOUTH Korea's parliament passed a bill Thursday that paves the way for \$350 billion in US investments under a deal struck with Washington last year to avoid the worst of President Donald Trump's tariffs.

The countries finalized an agreement in November under which Seoul pledged a huge investment package, including \$150 billion for shipbuilding cooperation and the remainder for strategic sectors such as semiconductors.

The bill's passing comes after Washington launched new probes Wednesday into alleged unfair trade practices by countries including South Korea, potentially opening the door to additional tariffs.

The deal struck last year was agreed in exchange for a reduction of tariffs on South Korean exports from 25 per cent to 15 per cent under Trump's widespread levies. — AFP

March 10

## India tightens gas supplies over Mideast war

INDIA ordered tighter controls over natural and cooking gas on Tuesday following import disruptions caused by the Middle East war, with restaurants warning it could spark widespread closures.

The world's most populous nation is the fourth largest liquefied natural gas (LNG) buyer, and second-largest buyer of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), such as that used for cooking — much of which is sourced from the Middle East.

"The ongoing conflict in the Middle East has resulted in the disruption of liquefied natural gas shipments through the Strait of Hormuz," the Ministry of Petroleum said in an order issued on Tuesday.

It said the new rules would "ensure equitable distribution and continued availability for priority sectors". The ministry ordered that LNG supplies be prioritised to supply households, transport sectors and production of LPG. — AFP

March 8

## Venezuelan lawmakers advance mining reforms

THE National Assembly of Venezuela on Monday moved forward with mining reforms pushed by the United States, which is anxious to secure access to the country's critical minerals. The bill, according to a draft seen by AFP, would allow for private companies to become more involved in Venezuelan mining endeavors, as well as outline mechanisms for arbitration and dispute resolution between parties.

Orlando Camacho, a lawmaker on the Energy and Petroleum commission, said during the debate that the reforms "can help increase all the legal guarantees that allow us to give confidence to national and international investment." Last week, US Interior Secretary Doug Burgum visited Venezuela to push for a liberalization of the country's mining laws. — AFP

# SPORTS

## Road cycling race held in Yangon to mark 81<sup>st</sup> Armed Forces Day

A men's and women's (open category) road bike cycling race was held at 6 am yesterday on Kan Yeiktha Road in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Yangon, to mark the 81<sup>st</sup> Armed Forces Day, under the leadership of the Yangon Region government. Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein launched the race by firing the starting gun.

Male cyclists competed

over seven laps, while female cyclists raced over five laps, starting and finishing near the Tank mound entrance at the corner of Kan Yeiktha Road and U Aung Myat Road.

A total of 363 cyclists took part in the competition, including 320 men and 43 women. Cash prizes were awarded to cyclists placing first to sixth, as well as to those ranking seventh to thirtieth. — Bala/KZL



Ko Kaung Htet Lin is seen crossing the finish line first in the men's (open category) Road Bike Cycling Race.

## Myanmar U17 women lose second friendly to India



Myanmar and Indian female footballers vie for the ball during their second friendly match in Yangon on 14 March 2026. PHOTO: SOE NYUNT THAW

MYANMAR U17 women's team lost 2-3 to India U17 women's team in their second friendly match played on 14 March

at Thuwunna Youth Training Centre in Yangon as part of preparations for the final stage of the 2026 AFC U17 Women's Asian Cup.

Myanmar showed improvement compared with the first match and twice took the lead, but conceded late goals and suffered defeat. Myanmar led 2-1 at half-time after goals from Hnin Wint Wah Kyaw and May Hton May Zita.

However, India equalized through Kumari in the 88<sup>th</sup> minute before Jora scored the winner in the 90<sup>th</sup>+1 minute.

The two teams played two friendly matches in Yangon on 12 and 14 March, with India winning both matches. — Shine Htet Zaw/KZL

## Courchevel super-G cancelled due to snow and fog



Switzerland's Marco Odermatt and his rivals for the super-G will have to wait until Sunday after heavy snow at Courchevel. PHOTO: AFP

THE men's world cup super-G event at Courchevel has been cancelled due to heavy snow and fog, the International Ski Federation said on Saturday.

Another super-G will be raced Sunday and is the penultimate event before the final super-G race in Norway in two weeks time.

"Due to heavy snowfall, fog and the weather forecast, the organizers have decided to cancel the super-G," the FIS said. Marco Odermatt leads the standings with 425 points Austria's Vincent Kriechmayer is second at 158 points with a tight pack close behind him including Franjo Von Allmen, who won three gold medals at the Milan-Cortina Olympics. — AFP

## Barcelona hosts Sevilla as title race, presidential vote converge

BARCELONA has more than three points at stake when it hosts Sevilla in La Liga on Sunday.

Hansi Flick's side will try to protect its place at the top of the table against a Sevilla team that handed Barcelona its heaviest league defeat of the season, a 4-1 loss in October.

Sunday will also bring a major day off the field, with club members set to vote in Barcelona's presidential election. Joan Laporta and Victor Font are the leading figures in the race, although Marc Ciria is also on the ballot.

Laporta has pointed to the club's recent progress on the field and what Barcelona describes as an improving financial picture, while Font has focused on the club's debt bur-

den, delays to the Camp Nou redevelopment and questions over Laporta's leadership.

Font's campaign was boosted this week by support from former Barcelona coach Xavi Hernandez, who accused Laporta of blocking Lionel Messi's return to the club in 2023.

The election campaign does not appear to have disrupted Barcelona on the pitch, although the team looked weary at times in Tuesday's 1-1 draw away to Newcastle United in the first leg of its Champions League round-of-16 tie.

Barcelona was rescued by a stoppage-time penalty from Lamine Yamal after Dani Olmo was fouled. With the return leg to come on Wednesday, Flick could rotate if fitness allows. — Xinhua



Barcelona in training at Saint James' Park ahead of their Champions League clash with Newcastle. PHOTO: AFP

## AI offers hope for young filmmakers dreaming of an Oscar

*Zheng sees it as a 'tool' amplifying creativity, echoing the Academy's neutral stance.*

At USC's famed film school, Chinese student SiJia Zheng, 29, eyes Oscar glory with AI as his secret weapon. Dreaming big like "Sinners" director Ryan Coogler, he whipped up his seven-minute horror short "Torment" — a masked killer stalking an Asian high school — in just one week, all AI-generated. Green-screen selfies morphed

into every character, slashing costs for pool scenes that'd bankrupt a student budget. Not everyone's on board: del Toro scoffs at AI, preferring hands-on props for "Frankenstein". Yet Zheng sees it as a "tool" amplifying creativity, echoing the Academy's neutral stance — no nomination boost or bust. Prof Debra Isaac champions ethical use, like grad Xindi Zhang's



USC student Zeping Sun shows a clip from her short animated film "Pulse" at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, on 6 March 2026. **PHOTO: FREDERIC J. BROWN / AFP**

award-winning "Song of Drifters," where her drawings fueled AI stylization, but still demanded

a month's tweaks. AI democratizes directing for newbies, but as Zhang quips, "Good, cheap,

fast? Never." It's lifestyle luxe: indie dreams minus Hollywood millions.—AFP

## Lifestyle alert: Restaurants fire up amid gas crunch



A chef makes pizzas in a wood-fired oven at the Pizza Bakery in Bengaluru. **PHOTO: AISHWARYA KUMAR**

IN Bengaluru's vibrant food scene, chic eateries like MadCo are ditching beloved bone marrow roasts and lunch specials to stretch dwindling cooking gas amid the Iran war's supply snags. Far from the frontlines, India's top chefs are rationing cylinders like precious gems, as 90 per cent of LPG sails through the now-frozen Strait of Hormuz. "We saw it coming,

but not this fast," sighs MadCo director Santosh Abraham, while Guerilla Diner's sous chef Dhruv Thapliyal frets over his 2.5 cylinders: grill for a day, fryer for four — it's "a little scary". Black market prices have doubled, prompting NRAI's Ananth Narayan to demand radical fixes. PM Modi urges calm, but restaurants adapt with savvy hacks: Gypsy in Mumbai axed

steamy dim sum, Pizza Bakery doubled wood-fired ovens to 600 kilogrammes weekly.

Goa cafe owner Daniel Rodrigues warns breakfast omelettes could vanish, echoing Sri Lanka's panic buys of electric stoves. Yet, resilience shines — pre-soak grains, skip slow simmers. In the world's fastest-growing economy, foodies savour every flame.—AFP

*India's top chefs are rationing cylinders like precious gems, as 90 per cent of LPG sails through the now-frozen Strait of Hormuz*

## 'Talking drum' looted by France in 1916 back in Ivory Coast

*Culture Minister Francoise Remarck hailed it as a 'historic day' of 'justice and remembrance'.*

THE Djidji Ayokwe, a sacred "talking drum" looted by French colonial troops in 1916 from Ivory Coast's Ebrie tribe, returned home on Friday after over a century in France. This massive wooden artefact — over three metres long and weighing 430 kilogrammes — was used to transmit messages, warn of danger, rally for war, or summon villagers to ceremonies. Arriving via a specially chartered plane in Abidjan, it remained in a fragile crate amid emotional celebrations, with Ebrie drummers and

request among 148 colonial-era items.

President Macron's 2021 pledge accelerates broader repatriations, backed by a new law for mass returns to Africa. Ebrie chief Aboussou Guy Georges



A traditional dancer performs in front of the crate containing the Djidji Ayokwe drum, also known as the talking drum, that was looted by French colonial troops from Ivory Coast in 1916, as it arrives during the latest repatriation of stolen artefacts in Abidjan on 13 March 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

songs. Culture Minister Francoise Remarck hailed it as a "historic day" of "justice and remembrance". France's parliament approved its handover on 20 February, fulfilling Ivory Coast's 2018

Mobio expressed relief: "Our sacred culture is back on native land." After acclimatizing in a safe space, it will display at Abidjan's renovated Museum of Civilizations. — AFP