

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

## Myanmar, Russia unite for peaceful advancements in space technology

**C**hairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, currently in Minsk of the Republic of Belarus on his official State visit, left Minsk International Airport yesterday morning and was seen off at the airport by Belarusian Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Maxim Ryzhenkov, Myanmar Consul-General U Moe Kyaw Thu and officials.

On his departure from the international airport, the Senior General saluted the Guard of Honour.

Arriving at Kurumoch International Airport in the Samara City of the Russian Federation, the Myanmar goodwill delegation led by the Senior General was welcomed by Samara City Government Head Mr AV Fedorishchev, the Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Myanmar and officials.

At the JSC Progress Factory of the State Space Corporation "Roscosmos", the Senior General and his entourage were welcomed by Director-General Mr Dmitry Bakanov of the State Space Corporation "Roscosmos" and officials.

At the meeting hall, the Senior General met Director-General Mr Dmitry Bakanov of the State Space Corporation "Roscosmos" and exchanged views on cooperation in the peaceful utilization of space technology, issues to send more scholarship students from Myanmar to Russia to study satellite

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his entourage visit the JSC Progress Factory of Roscosmos, meet the deputy head of the Samara Regional Government.



Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing observes the displays at the JSC Progress Factory of the State Space Corporation "Roscosmos", Samara City, yesterday,

launching and attending space technology for the interests of the State and the people, cooperation between Myanmar and Samara City, and enhancement of friendly relations and other

cooperation measures. The Director-General and officials reported on the use of satellites by the State Space Corporation to monitor the potential of natural disasters,

conduct research for the development of agricultural tasks, the progress of natural environmental conservation, take satellite photos and satellite communications, launch sat-

ellites, rocket assembling, the construct of the space station, and assistance of Russian in upgrading the planetarium in Myanmar.

**SEE PAGE 3**

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# NATIONAL

## Police and Officials Urged to Prioritize Public Welfare and Safety Without Burdening Citizens

MEMBERS of the Myanmar Police Force and administrative officials must prioritize public welfare while ensuring the safety of the people without imposing burdens.

*(Excerpt from the speech delivered by Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting hall of the Eastern Command Headquarters on 3 September 2024)*

## Objectives of 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Armed Forces Day 2025

- (a) To actively participate in serving three main functions of Tatmadaw national defence duty, training duty and public benefit duty upholding Our Three Main National Causes;
- (b) To steadfastly carry out measures for State development and genuine, eternal peace by ending the armed conflicts under the Constitution (2008) and NCA;
- (c) To protect the State and its citizens from dangers and provide sector-wise assistance for the safety and socioeconomic development of the people;
- (d) To provide necessary assistance to hold a free and fair multiparty democratic general election by Tatmadaw for the emergence of a Union based on democratic and federal systems after carrying out measures per the stipulations of the State of Emergency.



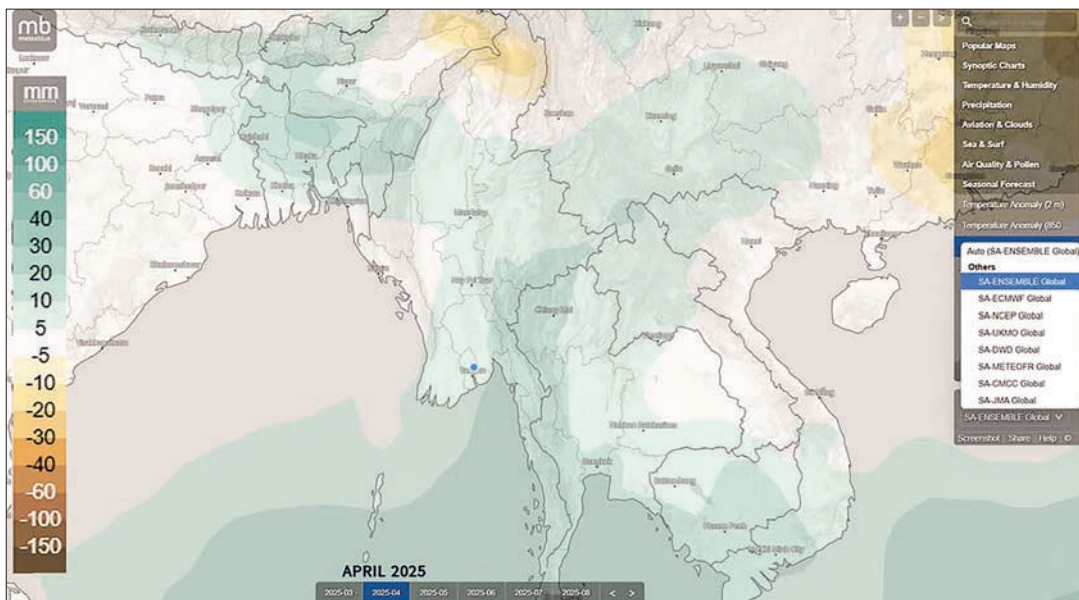
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World Consumer Rights Day 2025



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## Pre-monsoon rains to drench most regions, except five states, this year



Rainfall forecast for April, which is the pre-monsoon period in Myanmar.

ALL regions except five regions and states may receive more annual rainfall during this year's pre-monsoon season, said meteorologist U Win Naing.

In Myanmar, pre-monsoon is from 16 April to 15 May, early monsoon from 16 May to 30 June, mid-monsoon from 1 July to 31 August, late monsoon from 1 September to 10 October, and post-monsoon from 11 October to 30 November. He forecast on his social media page that Rakhine State, Upper Magway

Region, southern Chin State, Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State may receive less annual rainfall and all other areas are expected to receive above-average rainfall.

Some regions and states – Mon, Kayin, Yangon, Bago, Ayeyawady, Rakhine, southern Magway, Nay Pyi Taw, Kayah, Mandalay, Sagaing and Shan – are expected to receive 20 to 40 millimetres (nearly one inch to over 1.5 inches) of above-average rainfall.

During early and middle

monsoon periods, in June, July and August, Chin, Sagaing and Mandalay are expected to receive 20 millimetres (nearly one inch) of above-average rainfall, while southern Rakhine, southern Magway, Bago, Ayeyawady, Mon, Kayin and Taninthayi may receive less than 20 millimetres (almost one inch) of rain.

The rainfall conditions in most parts of Myanmar are likely to be above the annual average rainfall in pre-monsoon and early monsoon, he forecast. — MT/ZN



Public Health Department

### Public Notice: Advisory for Prevention against Hepatitis A Infection

HEPATITIS A, caused by the Hepatitis A virus, is an infectious and epidemic disease that can affect any age group, especially children.

#### Transmissions

- Consuming contaminated food or drinks that contain dirt from an infected person.
- Close contact with infected individuals.

#### Symptoms

- Fever, fatigue, loss of appetite, vomiting, stomach pain, yellowing of the skin and eyes, dark urine, pale-coloured faeces, and pain in the bones and joints.
- Severe hepatitis can lead to sudden liver failure, posing a life-threatening risk.
- Those with Hepatitis B or C and HIV may suffer severely.

#### Preventive measures

- Be cautious of personal hygiene, washing hands with soap systematically before touching food, cooking, eating, and using the toilet.
- Wash all food thoroughly with clean water before cooking.
- Drink boiled water or purified water with water purification tablets or FDA-certified purified water.
- Avoid raw food and food that flies land on.
- Ensure that toilets and septic tanks are kept from leaks, and use the fly-proof toilet.
- To prevent the spread of diseases, if a vendor is affected by an illness, they should stop handling and selling food for at least 10 days after their skin and eyes have turned yellow.

**Go to the nearest health departments immediately if symptoms are experienced.**

# 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.

*(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)*

# Myanmar, Russia unite for peaceful advancements in space technology

### FROM PAGE 1

The Senior General and his entourage viewed the assembling of satellites and rocket production at the JSC Progress Factory and had discussions over the clarification of officials.

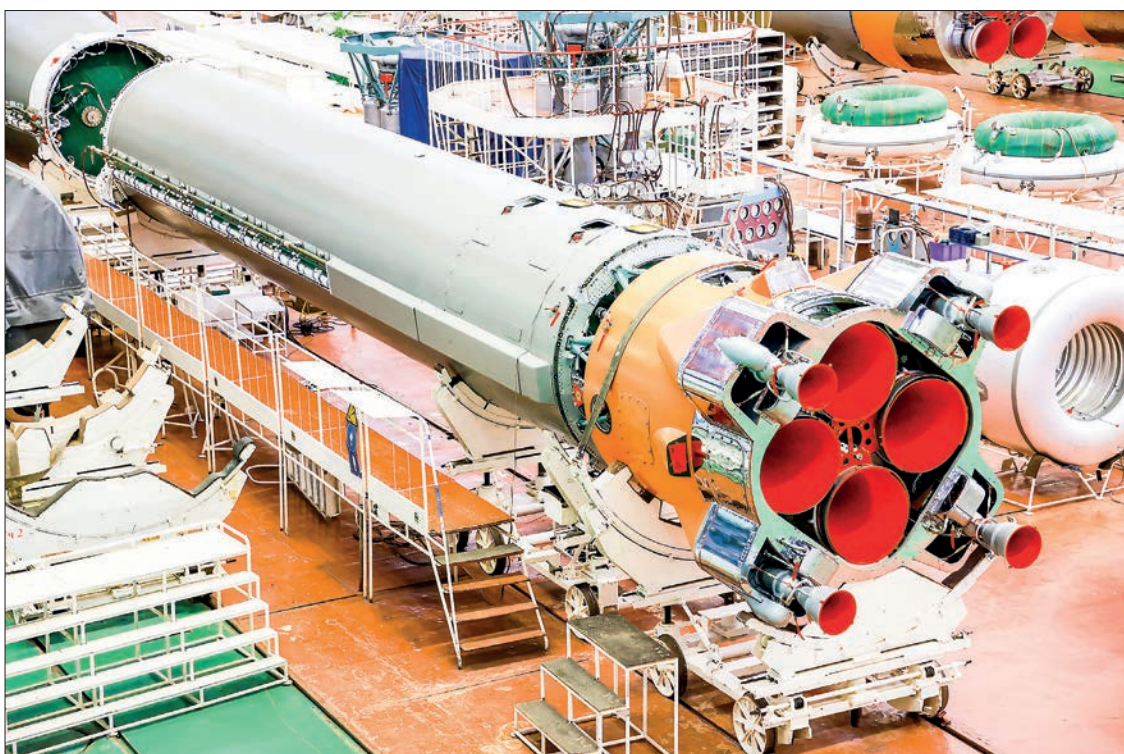
The Director-General of the State Space Corporation "Roscosmos" hosted a luncheon for the Senior General and his entourage.

After the luncheon, the Senior General and the Director-General exchanged commemorative gifts.

Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe and the party who accompanied the Senior General met the deputy head of the Samara Regional Government, regional education minister, chairs of industrial economic



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and Director-General Mr Dmitry Bakanov of the State Space Corporation "Roscosmos" discuss cooperation in the peaceful utilization of space technology.



zones and officials, and officials from Space Rocket Progress separately and talked about cooperation in the industrial sector, fertilizer production, energy sector, pharmaceutical production and education sector between Myanmar and Samara Region and Tolyatti Region of the Rus-

This photo shows the assembling of satellites and rocket production at the JSC Progress Factory.

sian Federation, and cooperation between the two countries.

After the talks, SAC Information Team Leader Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun replied to queries on the goodwill visits raised by media from Samara City.

The goodwill delegation led by the Senior General left Kurumoch International Airport of Samara City and arrived at Tolmachevo Airport of Novosibirsk City at night and was welcomed by the Head of Novosibirsk Government, the Myanmar Consul-General and officials. — MNA/TTA

# NATIONAL



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing speaks words of honour to female employees from the JSC Progress Factory to mark International Women's Day.

## SAC Chair PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing honours women delegates and more women in Samara City to mark International Women's Day

**C**hairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, currently in the Republic of Belarus on his official

State visit, yesterday morning left Minsk International Airport for Samara in the Russian Federation by special flight.

During the trip, the Senior General spoke words of honour

to his delegation member women aboard the special flight to mark International Women's Day.

During the visit to the JSC Progress Factory of the State

Space Corporation "Roscosmos" in Samara City, the Senior General spoke words of honour to female employees from the JSC Progress Factory to mark International Women's Day.

Officials from Samara City presented bouquets to mark International Women's Day to women delegation members who accompanied the Senior General. — MNA/TTA



This picture captures some females serving at international passenger ships.

## 500 Myanmar women poised to enter maritime workforce

ESTIMATED 500 Myanmar female seafarers are gearing up to serve on board international passenger ships, said Captain Soe Min Aung, President of the Myanmar Seafarers Federation.

About 800 Myanmar women have finished work procedures to serve as seafarers on international passenger ships. At present, only 300 of them are being assigned to the cruise ships.

Starting from late 1990, Myanmar women were

involved in international passenger ships as hospitality crew. According to the International Labour Organization's provisions, women working as hotel staff were designated as female seafarers in 2006.

Female workers cover many areas of maritime shipping from crew to leadership positions. Myanmar women equipped with mandatory training and skills were also allowed to join the maritime workforce with seamen passports. — ASH/KK

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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

## SAC Member Deputy PM MoTC Union Minister inspects work processes of affiliated departments

STATE Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Transport and Communications General Mya Tun Oo, accompanied by Deputy Minister U Aung Myaing, the Permanent Secretary and officials, left Nay Pyi Taw for Mandalay by No 27 Up Train, to inspect the regional development programmes being conducted by affiliated departments in Mandalay Region, on 6 March.

On 7 March morning, the Union minister inspected the Myitnge Carriage and Wagon Factory and instructed the need to make maintenance, consider the Flat Wagon and numbers of passengers and logistics, and conduct capacity building for staff. During the inspection tour, he observed the factory com-

pound and provided the staff with foodstuffs.

At noon, he proceeded to Anee Sakhan Airport and gave instructions to complete the work processes in time, meeting the set quality.

On arrival at the PyinOoLwin railway station, he observed the railway yard of the station and instructed officials to preserve the buildings systematically and other development plans.

On 8 March, the Union minister and party visited the new Samone River crossing bridge construction site destroyed by Typhoon Yagi between Samone and Thabyay Taung railway stations. During the visit, the officials reported on waterway clearance of the bridge and river-bank retaining wall construction



State Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Transport and Communications General Mya Tun Oo inspects the Myitnge Carriage and Wagon Factory on 7 March.

for the strength of the bridge.

After the visit, the Union

minister proceeded to Thazi

railway station by RBE train and

observed the railway yard of the

station. — MNA/KTZH

## 2025 International Women’s Day celebrated in Nay Pyi Taw

THE International Women’s Day ceremony took place at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The ceremony was attended by the Chairperson of the Myanmar National Committee on Women (MNCW) and the Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and his wife, members of the Myanmar National Committee on Women (MNCW) and their wives, the Deputy Ministers who are members of the National Committee on Prevention and Response to Sexual Violence in Conflict and their wives, the Chairperson and his wife of the Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory Women’s Committee, department heads, along with chairpersons and vice chairper-



The International Women’s Day ceremony in progress at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

sons of women’s organizations.

Union Minister Dr Soe Win first said that out of the world’s population of over eight billion by 2025, over four billion (49.73 per cent) will be women. According to last year’s figures, 612 million women and girls have been affected by armed conflicts

around the world. In line with the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), it is necessary to promote women’s participation in all political, economic, social, and cultural sectors. It is also crucial to provide education and

assistance to reduce and eliminate violence against women to promote women’s development.

A 24-hour helpline, “1566”, has been established for women to report violence and access social services. Women are encouraged to embrace science and technology to advance

women’s rights and empower themselves, in keeping with the theme “For all Women and Girls: Rights. Equality. Empowerment”. We must also strive to improve women’s education, employment, leadership, and decision-making, as well as to increase their involvement in engineering and mathematics.

Next, a message from the UN Secretary-General and a video recording were shown about the activities of women’s organizations that are members of the Myanmar National Women’s Committee. Following this, the participants of the International Women’s Day ceremony toured the women’s schools and viewed the products of women’s organizations on display. — MNA/MKKS

### Corrigendum

PLEASE read “If sanctions are imposed, it is important to be aware that the sanctioned groups and their opposing groups may be more united, leading to increased strength and intensified competition” instead of “By imposing a sanction if there is such a group, the opposing groups that are called sanctions will face attacks from software that increases the strength of the majority, which will lead to more intense competition” in the reciprocal joint declaration between the Belarusian President and the Senior General in the meeting with media in the second paragraph of the third column on page 6 of the GNLM issued on 8 March 2025. An error is regretted. — Ed.

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# NATIONAL

## Organizations issue statements praising SAC Chair PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing for his efforts in contributing to State sector-wise development

A high-level goodwill delegation led by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing paid official State visits to the Russian Federation at the invitation of President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin and to the Republic of Belarus at the invitation of

President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko on 3 March 2025 and could hold meetings to achieve positive results for Myanmar.

Young Men's Buddhist Association (Central), Myanmar Interfaith Dialogue Group (Central), Myanmar Evangelical Christian Alliance, All Myanmar Tamil

Hindu Foundation (HQ), Thananta Dhamma Palaka (Hindu) Association, Islamic Religious Affairs Council Myanmar, Myanmar War Veterans Organization, Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), Myanmar Press Council, Myanmar Artists Association (Central), Myanmar Motion

Pictures Organization, and Myanmar Music Association (Central) issued statements praising Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, for his efforts in contributing to the development and progress of various sectors in Myanmar. — MNA/TTA

### Statement of Young Men's Buddhist Association (Central)

8 March 2025

State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing made the Official State Visits to Russia and Belarus at the invitation of Russian Federation President Mr Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin and President of Republic of Belarus Mr Aleksandr Gregoryvich Lukashenko.

YMBA (Central) has announced that it is so delighted and honoured to have achieved significant benefits and positive outcomes for Myanmar and its people during the visits.

Young Men's Buddhist Association (Central)

### Statement of Myanmar Evangelical Christian Alliance

8 March 2025

STATE Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing-led high-level delegation made the Official State Visits to Russia and Belarus at the invitation of Russian Federation President Mr Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin and President of the Republic of Belarus Mr Aleksandr Gregoryvich Lukashenko and received historic achievements for the country and people. The Myanmar Evangelical Christian Alliance proudly issued this statement and extended its wish to further serve the State's duties.

Myanmar Evangelical Christian Alliance

### Statement of All Myanmar Tamil Hindu Foundation (HQ)

8 March 2025

STATE Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing-led high-level delegation made the Official State Visits to Russia and Belarus at the invitation of Russian Federation President Mr Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin and President of the Republic of Belarus Mr Aleksandr Gregoryvich Lukashenko and received historic achievements for the country and people. The All-Myanmar Tamil Hindu Foundation (HQ) proudly issues this statement for such significant achievements.

All Myanmar Tamil Hindu Foundation (HQ)

### Statement of Myanmar Interfaith Dialogue Group

8 March 2025

STATE Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing made the Official State Visits to Russia and Belarus at the invitation of Russian Federation President Mr Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin and President of the Republic of Belarus Mr Aleksandr Gregoryvich Lukashenko. The Senior General signed MoUs on bilateral cooperation during the visits, and it is hoped that the bilateral trade will develop than before and the country will achieve stability and prosperity. The Myanmar Interfaith Dialogue Group(Central) has issued this statement to show honour for such achievements.

Myanmar Interfaith Dialogue Group (Central)  
Executive Committee

### Statement of Thananta Dhamma Palaka (Hindu) Association

8 March 2025

STATE Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing-led high-level delegation made the Official State Visits to Russia and Belarus at the invitation of the Russian Federation President and the Republic of Belarus President, and received significant achievements for the country and people. The Thananta Dhamma Palaka (Hindu) Association proudly issues this statement for such significant achievements.

Thananta Dhamma Palaka (Hindu) Association

### Congratulatory Note

8 March 2025

THE high-level delegation led by State Administration Council Chairman and Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing undertook a goodwill visit at the invitation of Heads of State from the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus. During this state-level visit, significant and historic achievements were made for the socioeconomic progress of Myanmar and its people. We embrace immense pride in these accomplishments.

The Islamic Religious Affairs Council Myanmar also extends its best wishes and prayers for continued success in serving the interests of the country and its people.

Islamic Religious Affairs Council Myanmar

### Congratulations

8 March 2025

WE heartily congratulate the Myanmar high-level delegation, led by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, on its historic successes during its goodwill visits to the Russian Federation at the invitation of President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin and to the Republic of Belarus at the invitation of President Aleksandr Grigoryevich Lukashenko.

We sincerely wish for their continued dedication and efforts for the benefit of the nation and its citizens.

Patron, President and CEC  
Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers  
of Commerce and Industry-UMFCCI

### Congratulatory Message

8 March 2025

STATE Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Min Aung Hlaing-led high-level delegation firmly discussed the bilateral relationship and cooperation sector-wise during the Official State Visits to the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus at the invitations of Russian Federation President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin and President of the Republic of Belarus Mr Aleksandr Gregoryvich Lukashenko.

The Myanmar Press Council warmly congratulates the historic achievements through the meetings of leaders during the visits and extends wishes to carry out duties for the State development and promotion of the socioeconomic status of people.

Chairman  
Central Executive Committee and council members  
Myanmar Press Council (MPC)

### Congratulations

8 March 2025

WE are deeply pleased and honoured because Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, State Administration Council Chairman and Prime Minister, visited Russia and Belarus at the invitation of Russian President Mr Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin and Belarusian President Mr Aleksandr Gregoryevich Lukashenko. During these visits, Myanmar successfully exchanged memoranda of understanding with the governments of Russia and Belarus in areas such as sports, tourism, legal cooperation, agriculture, and food security. We are extremely satisfied with the outcome of these exchanges and proudly express our gratitude.

Myanmar War Veterans Organization

# NATIONAL

## Weekly Roundup

### 2 March

#### Message sent to Peasants' Day

The government is providing non-depreciable, sustainable funds from the National Economic Development Fund to promote the development of the livestock industry and meet the capital needs of breeders, as mentioned in the message sent by SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to Peasants' Day, which falls on 2 March 2025.

### 4 March

#### Senior General Min Aung Hlaing arrives in Russian Federation

At the invitation of President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin, a high-level Myanmar delegation led by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing left Nay Pyi Taw Tatmadaw Airport by special aeroplane to pay an official visit to the Russian Federation and arrived at Vnukovo International Airport in Moscow.

### 5 March

#### Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets Russian President Vladimir Putin

State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing held an exclusive meeting with President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin at Kremlin Palace in Moscow.

#### Myanmar key partner and ally of Russia in Asia-Pacific region

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing met Prime Minister of the Russian Federation Mr Mikhail Vladimirovich Mishustin at the meeting hall of the Russian Federation Government House.

#### Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with Russian leaders

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing held meetings with Secretary of the Security Council of the Russian Federation Mr Sergey Kuzhugetovich Shoigu, Russian Federation Council Speaker Ms Valentina Matviyenko, Mr Vyacheslav Volodin, and Chairman of the State Duma of the Russian Federation at relevant venues in Moscow of the Russian Federation.

evant venues in Moscow of the Russian Federation.

#### Myanmar and Russian leaders meet media

Russian Federation President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin and SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivered a reciprocal joint declaration of the two countries and speeches in the meeting with the media.

### 6 March

#### Myanmar, Russia to promote cooperation in military technology

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said so in a meeting with Minister of Defence of the Russian Federation Mr Andrei Removich at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation.

#### Myanmar Head of State meets State dignitaries of Russia

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Vice-Chairman Mr Sholban Kara-Ool of the State Duma of the Russian Federation and Russia-ASEAN Economic Commission Chairman Mr Ivan Polyakov in Moscow of the Russian Federation.

#### Myanmar-Russia Business Forum takes place

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivered a speech at the Myanmar-Russia Business Forum in Moscow of the Russian Federation.

#### Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets staff and trainees

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing gave guidance to officer trainees learning in the Russian Federation and families of the Myanmar Embassy and Military Attaché office to the Russian Federation at the Myanmar Embassy.

### 7 March

#### Senior General Min Aung Hlaing arrives in Minsk Belarus

The high-level Myanmar goodwill delegation led by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing arrived at Minsk International Airport in Belarus, where the Senior General and party were welcomed by Belarusian Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Maxim Ryzhenkov.

#### Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets Saint Petersburg Governor, Myanmar staff

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Saint Petersburg Governor Mr Alexander Beglov at the K2 Government Guesthouse in Saint Petersburg and the Myanmar Consul-General and staff at the Myanmar Consulate-General in Saint Petersburg.

### 8 March

#### Belarusian President welcomes Senior General Min Aung Hlaing

President Mr Aleksandr Gregoryevich Lukashenko of the Republic of Belarus, alongside the Guard of Honour, warmly welcomed the high-level Myanmar delegation led by SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the Presidential Palace in Minsk of Belarus.

#### Myanmar, Belarus hold State-level talks

The Myanmar-Belarus State-level meeting took place at the Presidential Palace in Minsk of the Republic of Belarus yesterday afternoon, attended by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and President of the Republic of Belarus Mr Aleksandr Gregoryevich Lukashenko.

#### Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Belarusian leaders

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing held talks with Belarusian Prime Minister Mr Roman Alexandrovich Golovchenko, Mr Igor Petrovich Sergeenko, Chairman of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus Mr Yuri Shuleiko, and Myanmar officer trainees in Belarus.

#### Myanmar-Belarus Business Forum held

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivered a speech at the opening of the Myanmar-Belarus Business Forum at the Hotel President in Minsk.

#### Myanmar, Belarusian leaders meet media

President Mr Aleksandr Gregoryevich Lukashenko of the Republic of Belarus and SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivered a Reciprocal joint declaration of the two countries and speeches in the meeting with the media. — GNLM/TTA

### Congratulatory Note

8 March 2025

WE sincerely express our joy and pride as State Administration Council Chairman and Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing led a high-level delegation on goodwill visits at the invitation of Russian Federation President Mr Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin and Belarusian President Mr Aleksandr Gregoryevich Lukashenko. During the visits, Myanmar and Russia successfully discussed and signed agreements on promoting investment and defence cooperation. We warmly congratulate this achievement and proudly issue this statement.

Myanmar Artists Organization (Central)

### MMPO's Congratulatory Note

8 March 2025

WE hereby express with great joy and pride that Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and the high-level delegation completed friendship visits to the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus.

The Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization sincerely wishes for continued success in making efforts for the peace and economic development of Myanmar and expresses deep appreciation and joy for the achievements made.

Chairman and CEC members  
Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization

### Statement of Appreciation

8 March 2025

AT the invitation of President Mr Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin of the Russian Federation and President Mr Aleksandr Lukashenko of the Republic of Belarus, the high-level delegation led by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing successfully undertook goodwill visits at the state level.

During these visits, significant agreements were reached across various sectors, further strengthening bilateral friendship and cooperation. The historic achievements resulting from discussions between the leaders of both nations are commendable.

The Myanmar Music Association (Central) proudly acknowledges these accomplishments and extends its best wishes for the continued development of the nation and the socioeconomic progress of the people.

Myanmar Music Association (Central)

# OPINION

## Sustain friendly relations with the Russian Federation

**P**RESIDENT of the Russian Federation Mr Vladimir Putin and Chairman of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister General Min Aung Hlaing on his official State visit to the Russian Federation held a talk about the development of both countries at a meeting with media on 4 March.

At the meeting, President of the Russian Federation Mr Vladimir Putin said that he was very grateful for the opportunity to collaborate on positive actions together. After participating in numerous collaborative efforts between the two countries during the trip of Prime Minister General Min Aung Hlaing, both sides were able to successfully engage in discussions and dialogues during the visit of the Chairman of the State Administrative Council of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. Due to the results achieved, he

firmly believed that cooperation between the two countries would continue to develop and progress in various sectors.

In his turn, the Senior General responded that Myanmar would like to express full support for the efforts of the Russian Federation and its people in ensuring the stability of the Russian government's sovereignty and in promoting global peace and stability. While Myanmar strives to fulfil its political stance, Myanmar sincerely thanks Russia for its continuous support of Myanmar in the international landscape. In the future, both countries will continue to closely collaborate on the international stage.

These speeches can be recognized as a milestone for both countries, focusing on the enhancement of bilateral relations, global peace and stability and bilateral support for each other in relevant endeavours. It shows friendly

relations between the Russian Federation and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

As part of its efforts to support Myanmar's economic development, Russia has agreed to enhance the development of renewable energy resources to produce abundant electricity. This includes the establishment of a small-scale nuclear power plant in Myanmar. The expected outcomes will involve socioeconomic development, job opportunities, and educational advancements. Collaborative projects are already being implemented in the fields of industry and advanced technology, and with Russia's assistance, a research centre for data obtained from satellites has been established in Myanmar.

An official State visit of the Head of State of Myanmar will bring numerous assistance and agreements from the Russian Federation to the motherland of Myanmar to see a brighter future. As such, only when Myanmar and its people have sustained the friendly relationship between Myanmar and Russia will Myanmar see a paved way to development in all arenas.



Book Title	-	Financial Literacy
Author	-	Kyi Tha Maw
Publishing House	-	Zarti Myay
Publication Date	-	November 2024 (1 <sup>st</sup> Edition)
Price	-	K17,000

## Financial Literacy

**THIS** week, we would like to introduce a book that encourages readers saying "Never depend on a single income. Invest to create a second source." That book titled Financial Literacy was written by Sayama Kyi Tha Maw. Before reading the book review, here is a brief introduction to the author:

The author studied in Japan in 2008 under the JICA's JDS Scholarship programme and received an MA in Economics from Ritsumeikan University. She worked in Banking and Finance, Administration and Operation for over ten years. She served as Head of International Relations

and Planning, Head of Foreign Banking, and Counterpart of the SME Financing Project (GIZ) at the Small & Medium Enterprises Development Bank (SMED Bank), formerly called Small & Medium Industrial Development Bank (SMIDB). She also worked as a Technical Advisor for SME Finance for over five years in the Financial System Development Project (BFSD) SMEs of the German Development Agency (GIZ). In addition, she is a lecturer at the UMFCCI Learning and Development Centre Financial Management and Business Consulting Service Provider (BCSP) and also teaches the


SMEs Financing course at the Myanmar Institute of Banking. She is also a trainer of Financial Literacy courses. She writes articles about loan grants to SMEs for the Global New Light of Myanmar newspaper and Shwe Pyi Tan journal, and also for the Banking Report of GIZ. Therefore, she has solid financial knowledge and expertise background, ensuring that the book is written with accuracy and proficiency.

The book prioritizes Personal Finance, and the readers can read parts of Capital Markets like stock trading and order processes at the Stock Exchange,

initial public offering of companies and shareholder rights in detail.

If you cannot manage your income well, you will have a hard time making ends meet spending your time earning and spending. Therefore, you need to the financial literacy to save, manage and invest the income systematically. Only then, can one effectively and correctly manage their income, while achieving their financial goals. This book serves as a guide to help readers apply these methods properly.

In the preface of Saya Thet Tun Oo, he said he welcomed the emergence of educators like Sayama Kyi Tha Maw. People of different ages are inseparable from budget and finance, so this financial literacy book is a must-have guide for everyone. Countries with well-functioning financial markets have financial services called Family Office, and the rich, the medium-rich and employees can do their businesses without any stress as they can manage their wealth and assets effectively with these financial service companies.



Book Title	-	Happy Money
Translator	-	Team Nyana
Publishing House	-	Nyana
Publication Date	-	February 2025 (1 <sup>st</sup> Edition)
Price	-	K14,000

## Happy Money

**THE** global bestselling book "Happy Money", written by one of the Japanese best-selling authors named Ken Honda, is also a New York Times Bestseller. The book will deliver a life-changing key to help readers transform the way they see relationships with money and bring a significant impact on their lives. He is also called a money guru with core experience in finance. He would like to heal others' lives and relations with money. TEAM NYANA translated it into Myanmar and Nyana Publishing House published that translated book.

This book will change one's

thoughts, energy and mindset. It will reinvent the way one understands money and shift the relationship with money from a different perspective.

The book starts with Is your money smiling? In the preface, Happy Money and Unhappy Money in the introduction, Role of Money in your life in Chapter 1, IQ, and EQ in Chapter 2, Money and Life in Chapter 3, flows of Money in Chapter 4 and Future of Money in Chapter 5.

The author provided insights about some extraordinary events that happened in recent years. A lady asked permission from an author at the party if

she could look through the wallet. He nodded. The lady took out banknotes and whispered to herself that this note is quite good, this is good, this is superb. Then, she arranged them and put them back into the wallet.

After that, she made a surprising remark that all your money looks good. The author replied it is excellent! Would you mind if I ask what you are finding in the wallet? She gave an unexpected answer that I just check whether your money is happy or not. Money can laugh or cry depending on how it is given or received. If it is given out


of guilt, anger or sadness, the

money will be crying. Otherwise, happy money circulated with gratitude, love and care will make people smile and feel positive energy.

Subsequently, all the pieces fit together at that moment when the lady returned my wallet. Many types of money create happiness, positive energy, guilt and unhappiness. A thought came into my mind about how to develop compassion, peace of mind and wealth for others. I considered spreading the concept of Happy Money through my literary works to encourage a positive attitude towards money.

This book will shed light on how to handle money, how to earn more without risk, how to find a peaceful life and how to lead a meaningful and happy life.

This book will illuminate know-how to escape from money-burdened stress or concerns, foster the concept of money away from negative energy, manage money with peace of mind and happiness, make lucid views on money and embrace new perspectives on money.



### Taboung Festival

**Min Zan**

*Beneath the golden spires that gleam,  
Taboung whispers Spring's soft dream,  
Crowds of silk weave through the air,  
Chanting peace in twilight's glare.*

*Lanterns sway o'er sacred ground,  
Drums and bells, a joyous sound,  
Offerings bloom by the stupa's side,  
Myanmar's soul in the festal tide.*



### ရှေ့သို့ Forward

**By Chit Ko Pe**

Fly, or run, or walk, or crawl without fail, to ensure steadfast forward always. Keeping the resolute foresight and act intact, A great day of victory will come to set. (Martin Luther King Jr's inspirational quote is poetically composed.)



### Mountain range, the living proof

**By Thura Zaw, Translated by Maung Swe Ngae**

**Mountaintops...  
Are very high indeed.  
Gorges and ravines...  
Are very steep and deep.  
Waterfalls...  
Pour down with might.  
Forests...  
Are vastly thick and wide.  
Farmlands...  
Are seen green and alive.  
Even in the rainy season,  
They brave the rains.  
Even in the hot season,  
They brave the sun's heat.  
Even in the cold season,  
They brave the chill.  
O! They're our national brethren.  
Who grow crops on self-reliance?  
Shan mountain range will prove them.**

**ရှမ်းမသက်သေ**

❖ တောင်ထွတ်များလည်း...  
မြင့်မားပါတီ စွင့်ပါတီ။  
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ရေတံခွန်လည်း...  
သွန်ကျပါတီ ပြာပါတီ။  
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ယာခင်းပြင်လည်း...  
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တည်  
ကိုယ့်အားကိုယ်ကိုး၊ စိုက်ကာပျိုးသည်  
ရှမ်းရိုးမလျှင် သက်သေတည်း။

သူရစေတီ



# NATIONAL Entertainment

## Poe Mamhe Thar plays unusual role in new film

THE launch ceremony of “Kat Puu Lay” film, in which actress Poe Mamhe Thar will play a unique role that her fans have never seen before, took place on 5 March at Kaikkasan Pagoda in Yangon. The story and script of that film are created by Min Ko Soe (Natthankwin) and the film will be directed by director Soe Moe Min.

“I will create a comedy film with a style that I haven’t made before. We have a contract with Ko Nay Win. This

is my first time with Poe Mamhe Thar. Although it is a comedy film, we will create with plot. The story is about a bodyguard but we name it Kat Puu Lay,” said director Soe Moe Min.

The cast includes Academy Nay Win, Hein Thiha, Poe Mamhe Thar, Chuu Sitt Han, Oakaw Than Thar, Khin Hlaing, Zaw Win Naing (Mdy) and other artistes. — ASH/KTZH



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### Mi Sandi

THE concert in which rapper Mi Sandi will take place at The Secretariat Yangon from 3 pm to 10 pm on 28, 29 and 30 March. The concert, Chit Thu Bazaar: Padauk Edition, will be performed by Mi Sandi, Ye Lay and Bunny Phyo. The event will include signs of Thingyan like the concert title. The entrance fee is K12,000 per adult and K5,000 per child per day.



### J Nyi Nyi

THREE SENIOR VOCALISTS, J Nyi Nyi, May Sweet and May Khalar, will participate in the Retro Blast Music Night Event at D-Wind Rooftop Bar in Wyndham Grand Hotel on 28 March. The fans will have to listen to famous songs of the 1980s and 1990s. Singer J Nyi Nyi is now living with his wife Sandi and his son, selling ‘Swel Nay Pi’ Mohinga.

### Kai Zar

THE first anniversary of 225 Entertainment Lounge will be held on 21 March. The people can listen to the songs of two special guests Kai Zar and May Khalar. The Fly Machine Band will play the great songs of Kai Zar and May Khalar, which are still popular to date.



### Phway Phway

THE film ‘Gangawni’ will be screened on 13 March (full moon day of Taboung), one day in advance of the fixed date due to the requests of fans. Actress Phway Phway took the character of Khin May Tint in the movie. “Since it has been a long time since I last watched Ma Phway Phway’s movies, I feel excited. She is my idol. I watched her films in my university days. I like her fashion and her hairstyle and fashion are different from others,” said actress Hsaung Wuttyi May.



### Maung Thi

DIRECTOR Maung Thi uses his nickname ‘Maung Nge Yin Thway’ when he makes film stories and scripts. ‘Nyaungpin Tasay’, to be directed by director Khin Hlaing (Nyan Gyi Shin), is the story of Maung Thi. Concerning this, Maung Thi said, “Although I created this story to make a series, Khin Hlaing told me that he wanted to direct a film. A good film depends on the director, so I allow him to do whatever he wants. He has loyalty to the story, and he also selects the artistes who will be the best characters”.

### Wyne

“We love this career, do this because we love it. This is the answer,” said director Wyne. He said so marking script reading for the ‘Maya Pyaing’ film. Those who create and participate in this film have good experiences. Director Wyne has experience of 35 years in the film industry, while Tyron has 11 years, Moe Hay Ko has 22 years, and May Mi Ko Ko has 16 years. Therefore, people from the film industry suggest that this film can be nominated for the academy. — Htun Htun/KTZH



BRIEF

# NATIONAL

## Myanmar extradites 304 Chinese nationals

THE government is cracking down strictly on telecom fraud and criminal activities by cooperating with international countries, including neighbouring countries, and systematically deporting foreigners involved in these illegal operations. Authorities transported 304 Chinese nationals via the Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge II on humanitarian grounds and for the sake of bilateral relations yesterday.

Most of these foreign nationals were lured into engaging in online gambling, telecom fraud, and other illegal activities in the Myawady-Shwe Kokko, Maethawtalay, and KK Park areas after entering the country illegally. According to their confessions, almost all of them crossed into Myanmar illegally through border crossings with neighbouring countries.

The handover ceremony was attended by Kayin State Security and Border Affairs



Immigration and officials processing the transfer of 304 foreign undocumented entrants.

Minister Colonel Min Thu Kyaw, Deputy Director-General Mr Liu Ning Ning of the Criminal Investigation Department of China's Ministry of Public Security, officials from Thailand's Immigration Department in Tak Province, and other authorities, who transferred the documents to the relevant officials from the

respective countries. Similarly, yesterday, 110 more foreign nationals who had entered the Myawady-Maethawtalay areas through ille-

gal routes were detained. Their personal information and records are being collected by joint departmental teams for immediate repatriation to their respective countries.

From 30 January to 8 March, a total of 4,702 foreign nationals who entered Myanmar illegally were identified and detained. Of them, 1,975 have been systematically handed over to the relevant countries via Thailand according to legal procedures, while the remaining 2,727 foreign nationals are ready for repatriation and are being securely detained.

The government is also intensifying efforts to crack down on online scams and online gambling by cooperating with international countries, including neighbouring countries, particularly through the Myanmar-China-Thailand Trilateral Cooperation, and systematically repatriating foreigners involved in these operations. — MNA/MKKS

## Yangon deploys 4,000 YBS buses to support upcoming matric exams

THE Yangon Region Public Transport Committee (YRTC) has planned to increase the number of daily operating YBS buses from 3,500 to 4,000 by the 2025 matriculation examination, said its joint secretary U Lyan Cing Mang at a media conference on 7 March.

The Yangon Region Government has instructed the YRTC to expand the number of bus routes to facilitate the transportation of students to

and from their schools during the examination from 17 to 22 March.

“On those days, YBS vehicles will run with shorter intervals than usual. There are currently around 3,500 YBS vehicles running daily, and we aim to run around 4,000 per day during the examination period. We will run more buses before 9 am, which is the starting time for the examination. CNG has been arranged to avoid any in-

convenience,” he said.

YRTC has given necessary instructions to 10 inspection teams and responsible personnel at bus stops and routes to ensure convenient travels for students to schools, no traffic congestion, and smooth, disciplined operation of vehicles.

For emergency matters, individuals can contact the YRTC call centre at 09 448147149, 09 448147153, and 09 448147154. — MT/ZN



This photo captures YBS buses that will run during the matriculation examination.



MRF Immersion Day 2025 seminar in progress.

## 40-MW solar power initiative set to energize 30 rice mills this year

A solar power system with has capacity of 40 megawatts has been planned to be implemented this year, to provide electricity for 30 rice mills, said Myanmar Rice Federation President U Ye Min Aung during a seminar on MRF Immersion Day 2025 held at the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) on 8 March.

This plan is under-proposed and will be implemented by MRF management.

“Rice mills require high consumption of electricity, so we will help them to use solar power for their operation. The 40-MW solar system has been planned

for about 30 rice mills, and if it is mainly used in packaging and the rest 4-5 hours are slated for other machines, it will work if it is used along with a diesel generator or biomass for some operations,” he said.

This solar project is similar to a 40-MW power plant construction so it can help the government to fulfil the electricity demand for other places, he said.

Currently, some rice mill owners have to incur the cost of production for millions of kyats due to inadequate electricity supply, so they can reduce the cost sharply if the solar system is available, he added. — MT/ZS

# NATIONAL



Farm workers pick cotton wool on the plantation.

## MyanTrade hosts workshop to enhance cotton production, exports

A workshop to bolster the production of cotton and yarn and export surplus cotton as per the international standard was held on 6 March, according to the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization under the Ministry of Commerce in Nay Pyi Taw.

Union Minister for Commerce U Tun Ohn emphasized at the workshop to prioritize cotton cultivation as a national agenda, choose pedigree cotton, enhance cotton and yarn

production, and benchmark standards for cotton to meet the criteria and standards of international markets.

Moreover, the ministry aimed to achieve a cotton output target of 539,656 tonnes from 645,712 acres in the 2024-2025 financial year. Public-Private-Partnership will be exerted for cotton export, the Union minister added.

Officials concerned, economic attaches assigned in

India, China, Vietnam and Thailand and representatives from related institutions also discussed matters regarding the development of the cotton crop sector and export promotion. He urged the departments and organizations concerned to coordinate matters and ensure fair trade.

The workshop went into detail on exporting surplus cotton products of international standards. — NN/KK

## CBM sells US\$335,000, THB2M on 7 Mar

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold \$335,000 and two million baht on 7 March after sales of over \$130,000 on 6 March.

CBM announced on 5 March that it would soon sell 50 million baht to importers. Later, it sold over eight million baht on that day.

CBM announced the sale of \$23 million and 150 million baht on 3 March for fuel oil importers. It injected them into the fuel oil sector on 4 March.

It sold \$550,000, 400,000 yuan and 638,550 baht on 3 March. CBM pumped over \$88 million, 7.5 million yuan and 161 million baht in February and over \$124

million, over 13.8 million baht and over 4.8 million yuan in January. CBM aims to curb the instability in the foreign exchange market and the currency devaluation. According to CBM's notification on 15 March, 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



The general view of the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) office in Yangon.

## MoNREC sets service fees for IEE, EIA, EMP

THE Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation announced service fees in submitting the Initial Environmental Examination (IEE), Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Environmental Management Plan (EMP), according to its notification (16/2025).

Those who submitted project proposals need to pay service charges related to envi-

ronmental impact assessment regulations, in exercise of the power conferred by Section 42 (B) of the Environmental Conservation Law. The service fees are set at K200,000 for IEE, K300,000 for EIA and K100,000 for EMP. The service fees must be deposited in Myanma Economic Bank, Nay Pyi Taw, with account number MD-012207 of the Environmental Conservation Department. — NN/KK

## Seeking meat production licences open for 2025-2026FY

THE Veterinary and Production Department under the Yangon City Develop-

ment Committee (YCDC) announced that seeking meat production licences for the

2025-2026 financial year is presently available.

The Department will grant meat production licences for cattle, goats, and pigs at the designated slaughterhouses and townships. Applications for meat Production Licence for cattle, goat, sheep and pig in Ywathagyi area, licence for pig in Ywama, licence for cattle, sheep and goat in Hlinethaya Livestock Zone, Shwepyitha, Dala and Seikkyi Kanaungto townships can be submitted by 14 March by filling personal and business information of the licensee through [www.ycdc.gov.mm](http://www.ycdc.gov.mm). Individuals can enquire about details through the deputy head of the Department (director) at 09 5125303 and the assistant director at 09 250179941. — NN/KK



Butchers prepare meat for sale at a market.

## 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 K5,490,000 as established by the Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee.

# Pune's Real Estate Future: Innovation, Ethics, and the Path Ahead

PUNE, a city known for its dynamic growth and thriving real estate market, is on the brink of an exciting transformation. As the city evolves, the demand for forward-thinking developers who prioritize innovation, ethical practices, and community well-being has never been greater. SAA is at the forefront of this change, emerging as a key player in shaping Pune's real estate landscape.

SAA's mission centres on the belief that real estate should prioritize people over properties. This commitment drives the focus on long-term

value, trust, and creating spaces that foster community. Pune's diverse demographic and robust economy present unique opportunities for developers to create real estate solutions that resonate with all buyers, achievable only through a dedication to innovation and ethical governance.

Innovation encompasses more than just the latest technology; it's about reimagining how real estate can meet the needs of its inhabitants. SAA is pioneering new market approaches, from sustainable building practices to advanced dig-



Pune's diverse demographic and robust economy present unique opportunities for developers to create real estate solutions. **PHOTO: ANI**

ital tools for enhanced customer experiences. "Whether through virtual property tours, online

consultations, or AI-driven market insights, we aim to make the buying process efficient, trans-

parent, and customer-centric," stated Vipul Agrawal, MD & CEO of SAA. — ANI

## Brunei implements visa-free entry for Chinese citizens

THE Immigration Department of Brunei Darussalam announced on Thursday that starting from 8 March, Chinese nationals holding ordinary passports will enter the country visa-free.

According to the department, citizens of the People's Republic of China holding a valid ordinary passport with a minimum validity of six months may enter through any designated entry point and stay in Brunei without requiring a visa for a period not exceeding 14 days. — Xinhua

## Canada announces support for businesses, workers in response to US tariffs



President Donald Trump said reciprocal tariffs could come soon for Canadian lumber and dairy products. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

THE Canadian government unveiled a new package of support pro-

grammes on Friday to assist businesses and workers affected by US tariffs.

According to a press release by the country's Department of Finance, the Trade Impact Programme will deploy five billion Canadian dollars (US\$3.5 billion) over the next two years to help businesses cope with decreased US sales and reach new global markets.

A total of 500 million Canadian dollars will be available for business loans at preferential interest rates, with an additional 1 billion Canadian dollars explicitly designated for loans to the agricultural sector. — Xinhua

## Italian, Turkish firms team up to make military drones

ITALIAN defence firm Leonardo and Turkish drone producer Baykar have agreed to work together to develop unmanned aerial systems, they announced on Thursday.

The new joint venture would be based in Italy and involve the design, development, production and maintenance of the drones, Leonardo said in a statement. "The European

market for the next ten years, covering unmanned fighters, armed surveillance drones, and deep strike drones, is projected to reach 100 billion dollars," it added. — AFP

## Hokkaido Shinkansen Line extension to be pushed back to 2039

THE government plans to delay its plan to extend the Hokkaido Shinkansen Line, Japan's northernmost bullet train route, to Sapporo by eight years to March 2039, partly due to tunnel construction difficulties, a source close to the matter said Saturday.

The 212-kilometre extension between Shin-Hakodate-Hokuto in southern Hokkaido and Sapporo, the

island's capital, has been complicated by a labour shortage in the construction sector and geological challenges, including massive rock formations and soft ground that are hindering tunnel work, the source said.

Tunnels account for about 80 per cent of the extended segment, which will pass through areas home to the famed Niseko

ski resort. The current plan is to complete the project in the spring of 2031.

The government approved it in 2012, with the cost estimated at 1.67 trillion yen (\$11.3 billion), but the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism in December 2022 revised the estimate to around 2.3 trillion yen due mainly to higher material costs. — Kyodo

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M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (253N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (253N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **9-3-2025** 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 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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# WEEKLY WORLD NEWS DIGEST



The second plenary meeting of the third session of the 14<sup>th</sup> National People's Congress (NPC) is held at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, 8 March 2025.

PHOTO: XINHUA

8 March

## China's national legislature holds 2<sup>nd</sup> plenary meeting of annual session

*Chinese President Xi Jinping and other leaders including Li Qiang, Wang Huning, Cai Qi, Ding Xuexiang, Li Xi and Han Zheng attended the meeting.*

THE third session of the 14<sup>th</sup> National People's Congress (NPC), China's national legislature, held its second plenary meeting Saturday to deliberate work reports of the Standing Committee of the 14<sup>th</sup> NPC, the Supreme People's Court (SPC) and the Supreme People's Procuratorate (SPP).

Chinese President Xi Jinping and other leaders including Li Qiang, Wang Huning, Cai Qi, Ding Xuexiang, Li Xi and

Han Zheng attended the meeting.

Zhao Leji, chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, delivered the work report of the national legislature to the meeting.

Reviewing the top legislature's work in 2024, Zhao highlighted its endeavour to strengthen the implementation of the Constitution and enhance compliance oversight to uphold the Constitution's authority and sanctity. – Xinhua

7 March

## US lunar lander ends mission after tipping over on Moon

THE mission of US company Intuitive Machines' lunar lander Athena has come to an early end because the lander tipped over while touching down on the Moon, and its battery quickly drained, the company said on Friday.

The uncrewed lander landed at a region near the Moon's South Pole at about 11:30 am Eastern Time Thursday, more than 400 metres from its intended landing

site, according to NASA.

The mission, codenamed IM-2, landed closer to the lunar South Pole than any previous lander, said NASA.

Intuitive Machines said images collected later confirmed the lander was on its side, preventing it from fully operating NASA's lunar drill and other instruments before its batteries were depleted. – Xinhua

6 March

## Over 550 migrants die attempting to cross Red Sea in 2024

AT least 558 East African migrants have died along the dangerous eastern migration route in 2024 as they attempted to cross the Red Sea, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

The United Nations migration agency, in its latest report released late Thursday, said the majority of the casualties were caused due to drowning, as some 462 migrants succumbed due to shipwrecks.

It said the past year saw six major

shipwrecks as a result of "unseaworthy boats, overfilling of vessels, travelling in poor maritime conditions, and smugglers forcing people to disembark at sea". Data from IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix show that in 2024, despite the life-threatening risks involved in the dangerous route, about 446,194 movements were documented from the Horn of Africa to countries in the Arabian Peninsula. – Xinhua

5 March

## Trump proposes Alaska natural gas pipeline project

PRESIDENT Donald Trump announced plans for a "gigantic" natural gas pipeline in Alaska, aiming to collaborate with Japan, South Korea, and other nations for investment.

The proposed 1,300-kilometre (800-mile) pipeline, which would transport liquefied natural gas (LNG) to Asia, has a projected cost of \$44 billion and is led by the US group Glenfarne.

Trump emphasized the project dur-

ing his first address to Congress since returning to power, highlighting a commitment to fossil fuels and energy independence.

The pipeline, which would connect natural gas reserves in Prudhoe Bay to Nikiski, is expected to be operational by 2030. Despite previous attempts to develop similar projects since the 1970s, economic viability has hindered progress. – AFP

4 March

## China opens "two sessions" with commitment to high-quality development

THE annual "two sessions", a highly anticipated event on China's political calendar, began on Tuesday with the opening of the annual session of the country's top political advisory body.

The annual session of China's top legislature, the National People's Congress (NPC), is set to begin on Wednesday.

Offering a critical window into China's development roadmap for 2025, the final year of its 14<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan (2021-2025), the sessions hold profound significance as the world's second-largest economy accelerates its shift towards high-quality development and advances Chinese modernization. – Xinhua

3 March

## EU chief offers carmakers more time on emission rules

EU chief Ursula von der Leyen said Monday she wanted to give struggling European carmakers "breathing space" by allowing them extra time to meet 2025 emission reduction targets without facing fines.

"There's a clear demand for more flexibility on CO2 targets," the European Com-

mission president told reporters. "Instead of the annual compliance, companies will get three years."

Von der Leyen added companies would still have to "fulfil" the same targets. "But it means more breathing space for industry. It means also more clarity," she said. – AFP

2 March

## Eight dead in India avalanche

RESCUERS recovered the eighth and final body from the site of an avalanche in a remote area of northern India, the army said Sunday, marking the end of a marathon operation in sub-zero temperatures.

More than 50 workers were submerged under snow and debris after the avalanche hit a construction camp on

Friday near Mana village on the border with Tibet in the Himalayan state of Uttarakhand.

Authorities had revised down the number of workers on site at the time of the avalanche from 55 to 54 after one worker, previously believed to be buried, was found to have safely made his way home before the avalanche hit. – AFP

# SPORTS



Soe Lin Oo and Dmitrii Kovtun in action at ONE Fight Night 29 event in Bangkok on 8 March. **PHOTO: ONE CHAMPIONSHIP**

## Soe Lin Oo faces setback at ONE Fight Night 29

MYANMAR'S Soe Lin Oo went head-to-head with Russia's Dmitrii Kovtun "The Silent Assassin" at ONE Fight Night 29 event in Bangkok, Thailand, on 8 March. Despite a determined effort, Soe Lin Oo lost by unanimous decision after three hard-fought rounds.

Kovtun asserted control in the opening round with his precision striking, while Soe Lin Oo struggled to find his rhythm. Although Soe Lin Oo managed to land some effective shots in the second and third rounds, Kovtun's superior technique and counter-strikes earned him the win on points.

This loss marks Soe Lin Oo's third consecutive defeat after a strong start with ONE Championship, leaving him with much to work on ahead of his next challenge. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

## Inoue set to face Cardenas in May title defence: report

UNDISPUTED super bantamweight champion Naoya Inoue will fight Ramon Cardenas of the United States, ranked second by the WBA, in his next bout on 4 May in Las Vegas, boxing magazine *The Ring* reported Thursday.

The 31-year-old Japanese, 29-0 in his career with 26 wins by knockout, will look to defend his four belts against Cardenas (26-1, 14 KOs) at T-Mobile Arena after his gym president Hideyuki Ohashi and co-promoter Bob Arum of Top Rank Inc reached a final agreement on the day, according to the report.

If Inoue wins the bout, WBA's interim super bantamweight champion Murodjon Akhmadaliev of Uzbekistan (13-1, 10 KOs) awaits him on 14 September at a venue to be announced in Tokyo, the report added.

Speaking on Monday, Inoue said he is planning to move up a division to face Britain's WBA featherweight



Naoya Inoue defeated Kim Ye-joon in their title fight on 24 January 2025 at the Ariake Arena in Tokyo, Japan. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

belt holder Nick Ball in December in Saudi Arabia before taking on his Japanese compatriot and the WBC

bantamweight champ Junto Nakatani, hopefully in the spring of 2026. — Kyodo

## Sanchez, Aranguiz return to Chile squad for World Cup qualifiers

VETERANS Alexis Sanchez and Charles Aranguiz have been recalled to Chile's squad for World Cup qualifiers against Paraguay and Ecuador, the Chilean football federation said on Friday.

Uruguayan forward Sanchez has not represented his country since June last year while Universidad de Chile midfielder Aranguiz last played for the Roja in October 2023.

Manager Ricardo Gareca also

included Argentina-born forward Fernando Zampedri in his 24-man squad after the 37-year-old was granted Chilean citizenship last month. Zampedri has scored 122 goals in 199 appearances across all competitions for Universidad Catolica following his 2020 move to the Chilean club from Argentina's Rosario Central. Chile will meet Paraguay in Asuncion on 20 March and Ecuador in Santiago five days later. — Xinhua

## Myanmar flag to be included in WBC championships



The signing event in progress on 6 March.

MYANMAR officially became a member country of the World Boxing Council (WBC) during a signing ceremony at the SC Park Hotel in Bangkok, Thailand, on 6 March.

The commission has reached an initial agreement with the Japan-Myanmar Boxing Commission to allow Myanmar boxers to compete in tournaments held in Japan in 2025.

The ceremony saw OPBF Chairman and Myanmar Boxing Council (MBC) Commissioners, who also signed the agreement. Currently, WBC championship belts feature the flags of 18 member countries. With Myanmar's new membership, the country's flag will also be included.

MBC has officially declared itself as the sole organization authorized to permit Myanmar boxers to compete in international professional boxing events. — Arkar Linn/KZL

## Von Allmen edges Odermatt in downhill to keep title battle alive

FRANJO von Allmen prevented Marco Odermatt clinching the downhill World Cup title, edging his Swiss team-mate in Kvitfjell, in Norway, on Saturday.

Odermatt just needed to finish ahead of Von Allmen to seal a second consecutive downhill small globe but was runner up for the second straight day.

On Friday, Odermatt had finished behind Italian Dominik Paris but at the head of a phalanx of four Swiss. "For sure, yesterday, the second place

smelled a little bit better than today," Odermatt said.

"I had the feeling that I could also fight for the victory today, but I'm very happy with another podium".

Von Allmen, fourth the day before, won on Saturday in a time of one minute 45.46 seconds. Odermatt was 0.28 sec behind. Stefan Rogentin was third for the second straight day at 0.38.

Swiss men have now claimed 17 of the 24 downhill podium spots this season.



Switzerland's Franjo von Allmen competes during the World Cup downhill race in Kvitfjell, Norway. **PHOTO: NTB/AFP**

"The performance of the whole team is pretty good and it makes the whole race even more fun," said Von Allmen. Odermatt collected another 80 points in the downhill standings but Von Allmen took 100 to close to 83 points behind with one race left. — AFP

# Lifestyle



*Celebrated annually on 8 March, this day focuses on advocating for women's rights and gender equality.*

Performers dance on the parade Kheun Khao Phanom Rung, or "up into the Phanom Rung mountain", in Buriram province, northeastern Thailand, on 6 April 2019. **PHOTO: YANG ZHOU/XINHUA**

**O**n International Women's Day, the World Health Organization (WHO) emphasized the urgent need for actions to ensure equal rights, power, and opportunities for all women and girls.

Saima Wazed, Regional Director for WHO South-East Asia, highlighted this year's theme, "For all women and girls: Rights. Equality. Empowerment", which aims to create a future where no one is left behind. She noted that 2025 marks the thirtieth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration, a pivotal framework for advancing women's rights globally.

## WHO emphasizes on rights, equality and empowerment on International Women's Day

Wazed stressed that the health and wellness of women are crucial for the growth and development of South-East Asia. The WHO's Regional Roadmap for Results and Resilience calls for increased investment in women and girls, addressing historical discrimination and societal challenges. Significant progress has been made, with a narrowing gender gap in labour force participation and a notable decline in maternal mortality rates.

However, challenges persist, particularly regarding physical and sexual violence, with nearly 40 per cent of women in the region experiencing such violence. — ANI

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## Brunei strengthens safety measures on water village stilt houses

A total of 337 stilt houses in the water village Kampong Ayer in the capital city of Brunei have been monitored following a series of house collapse incidents over the past years, a government minister said on Thursday at Brunei's Legislative Council.

*Kampong Ayer is recognized as a renowned tourism destination in Brunei.*

Haji Muhammad Juanda, Brunei's minister of development, said that 101 houses were in need of repair, while another 202 houses

required urgent repair. Additionally, 34 houses were categorized as satisfactory. The Public Works Department at the Ministry of Development has provided technical advice to house owners on safe and effective structural improvements, according to the minister. Kampong Ayer is a village built above water and a renowned tourism destination in Brunei. The stilt houses consist of wooden and concrete structures connected by wooden bridges. —Xinhua



A total of 337 stilt houses are located in the water village of Kampong Ayer in the capital city of Brunei. **PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS**



File photo taken in November 2022 shows salmon being landed at Shari fishing port in Hokkaido. **PHOTO: KYODO**

## Japanese salmon catches plummet in losing battle to climate change

THERE is trouble on the horizon in the northernmost prefecture of Hokkaido, where poor fishing conditions triggered by global warming are endangering Japan's prized salmon — widely considered one of the country's favourite seafood.

A researcher has raised concerns that climate change is jeopardizing Hokkaido's chum salmon, which constitute the majority of Japan's salmon catch. Masahide Kaeriyama, a salmon ecology expert at Hokkaido University, warned that if current trends continue, Japan could see the extinction of salmon within the next century.

Salmon populations peaked at 56.47 million in 2003 but have since declined to just 15.62 million in 2024, marking the second-lowest count since 1989.

This decline has led seafood retailer Maruichi Suisan to increase the price of its processed salmon jerky, "Sake Toba", by 20 per cent for the first

time in over a decade due to poor catches. Japan's salmon fishing industry, once thriving in the 1990s and 2000s, is now facing significant challenges. Juvenile salmon released in Hokkaido migrate

*Poor fishing conditions attributed to global warming are threatening Japan's salmon population, particularly chum salmon.*

to the sea and return after about four years, but changing environmental conditions threaten their survival and spawning success. — Kyodo