

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.

**SSPC Chairman Defence Services Commander-in-Chief
Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe
Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing addresses 81st
Anniversary of Armed Forces Day parade**



State Security and Peace Commission Chairman and Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing inspects the parade columns during the 81st Anniversary Armed Forces Day yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing delivered a speech at the parade to mark the 81st Anniversary of Armed Forces Day 2026 at the Nay Pyi Taw Parade Ground yesterday evening.

Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) personnel, the female parade company of Tatmadaw (Army), members of the Myanmar Police Force, and the female

parade company of MPF from relevant parade columns took positions in the Thit-tat Parade Ground.

Under the leadership of Parade Commander Maj-Gen Ye Yint Win, the Heavy Machinery Column led by Column Commander Brig-Gen Wai Lin Aung, Anawrahta Column led by Column Commander Brig-Gen Kyaw Mya Win, Kyan-siththa Column led by Column Commander Brig-Gen Aung Ko Naing, Bayintnaung Column led by Column Commander Com-modore Myo Hein, Aung Zeya Column led

by Column Commander Brig-Gen Zaw Min Htet, Hsinbyushin Column led by Column Commander Brig-Gen Zaw Zaw Tun, Bandoola Column led by Column Commander Brig-Gen Pe Thet Tun and Aung San Column led by Column Com-mander Police Brig-Gen Win Zaw Naing marched into the Parade Ground.

Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, the wife of the Sen-ior General, the wife of the Commission Secretary Commander-in-Chief (Army), the wife of the Commission member Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy

and Air), the wife of the Command-er-in-Chief (Navy), the wife of the Com-mander-in-Chief (Air) and the wives of the senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief garlanded the Tatmadaw members and MPF members along their route.

Tatmadaw members and families of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), the Nay Pyi Taw Command and military stations, members and families of the Myanmar Police Force,

NATIONAL

Residents in Kayin State urged to prevent destructive acts in all means

* Residents of Kayin State are required to prevent activities that disrupt stability and peace and undermine the development of the State through all possible means.
(An excerpt from the speech delivered by Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the discussions on regional development measures held with state-level departmental officials and town elders in Hpa-an on 15 Novmber 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.

Thihoshin hosts grand ceremony to commemorate completion of gold foil donation

THE Board of Trustees of Thihoshin Pagoda will host a grand celebration to commemorate the completion of the gold-foil donation ceremony at the ancient Thihoshin Pagoda in Pakokku Township, Magway Region, from 27 March to 7 April.

“The application of gold foil to the entire structure of the ancient pagoda began in October 2025 and was complet-

ed in February 2026. On the opening day, an inaugural ceremony marking the successful completion of the work will be held at the pagoda’s north gate. On 1 April, a consecration ceremony will take place, along with the offering of alms to 108 monks. In addition, a traditional Myanmar Chinlone (cane ball) competition will be held from 28 March to 1 April. The Thihoshin Theatre will also



The Buddha Pujaniya festival of the Thihoshin Pagoda.

feature performances by the Mandalay Ahman Thit Theatrical Troupe from 30 March to 1 April and the Mandalay Kausitsein Theatrical Troupe from 5 to 7 April. A market will also be organized as part of the festival to provide a lively and festive atmosphere,” said U Aung Maung, a member of the Thihoshin Pagoda Board of Trustees. — ASH/MKKS

MPT widens 2025 CSR drive across key social sectors



This image highlights an ongoing MPT corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiative. PHOTO - KO LWIN

THROUGHOUT 2025, MPT has successfully utilized digital technology and the collective efforts of its staff to support the

healthcare, education, and environmental conservation sectors, with these initiatives continuing into the present.

In the healthcare sector, the company launched a 24-hour free medical helpline in May 2025 in collaboration with

Pun Hlaing Hospital to support earthquake-affected regions. Additionally, health education video programmes featuring specialist consultants from Aryu and Pun Hlaing Hospitals were distributed via the MPT4U App with free data access, while MPT staff across the country participated in monthly physical exercise sessions to promote internal well-being.

In the field of education, MPT’s CSR E-Learning programme partnered with seven organizations to offer over 100 vocational training courses free of charge, an initiative that currently sees more than 4,000 students enrolled. Environmental and social welfare efforts were also a priority, highlighted by a nationwide monsoon tree-planting campaign in June

2025. During this event, over 700 staff members and volunteers planted more than 1,400 saplings across 14 states and regions.

Furthermore, MPT provided significant emergency relief in 2025, donating nearly K100 million in food, medicine, and financial aid to earthquake-stricken areas. To commemorate Sarsodaw or Literati Day, the company donated approximately 4,000 books to libraries in 13 states and regions. It also successfully conducted its 16th to 18th nationwide blood donation drives, collecting around 9,600 units of blood. MPT has reaffirmed its commitment to prioritizing these social welfare activities alongside its telecommunications services to support the nation’s ongoing development. — Oaktha/KNN

NATIONAL

Residents Urged to Prioritize Public Safety Amid Armed Terrorist Threats

ARMED terrorists have been launching attacks by using residential homes and administrative buildings in towns and villages as cover, where they have forcibly settled. They aim to shield themselves from Tatmadaw counterattacks while also persuading temporarily displaced persons to return to their native areas and recruiting new members. That enables terrorists to use civilians as human shields. Tatmadaw is committed to safeguarding the sovereignty of the State and will respond to these threats based on intelligence and prevailing conditions. Therefore, residents in areas where terrorists have taken control must prioritize their safety and protect themselves from being exploited by these groups.

(An excerpt from guidance given by Chairman of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to Shan State cabinet members and state-level departmental officials on 3 September 2024)



The Senior General returns the salute of the parade columns (above), Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of the Senior General, presents a flower garland (below left), and the participating artillery column is seen at yesterday's event in Nay Pyi Taw.

SSPC Chairman Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General ...

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public service personnel from relevant ministries, artistes from film and music arenas, and people lined the entire route, cheering loudly to welcome the military columns with garlands. Tatmadaw members and MPF members marched along their

route to the parade ground by singing military songs with national spirit.
The parade to mark the 81st Anniversary of Armed Forces Day was attended by Commission Secretary Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Zeya Kyaw Htin Sithu Ye

Win Oo, Commission Member Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Zeya Kyaw Htin Thray Sithu Kyaw Swa Lin, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Zeya Kyaw Htin Htein Win, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Zeya Kyaw Htin Sithu Tun Aung, commission members, Union-level dignitaries, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, families of the Thir-

ty-Comrades, families of retired commanders-in-chief of defence services, retired senior officers of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air), Independence Mawgun Award winners, advisers, deputy ministers, retired Tatmadaw member ambassadors, military attaches from the foreign Military Attaches' Offices and officials, representatives of ethnic armed organizations which had signed the Nationwide Cease-

fire Agreement (NCA), chairmen and officials of political parties, families and relatives of Aung San Thuriya title winners, officers, Tatmadaw families and relatives of those who secured Thiha Thura title, Thura title, Tatmadaw gallantry title and gallantry medals, members of Myanmar War Veterans Organization, transformed people's militia, original people's militia,
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SSPC Chairman Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General ...



This image highlights the attendees with the bronze statues of the three emperors in the background.

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the Border Guard Central Advisory Board members, officials from Myanmar Police Force, Myanmar Fire Brigade and Myanmar Red Cross Society, officials and staff from ministries, chairpersons and officials from organizations, artistes who participated in the drama honouring the Armed Forces Day, winners in the Armed Forces Day commemorative military songs, marching songs, poems, short story and novel contests, well-wishers, members of University Training Corps, guests, officers, other ranks, families, departmental personnel, and local and foreign media.

The Senior General arrived at the Parade Ground and took

the position on the dais. Tatmadaw members and MPF members of military columns saluted the Senior General. At that time, the Artillery Guard of Honour also performed 19 salutes during the military parade to pay tribute.

When the Senior General arrived at the parade ground, a MiG-29 multirole fighter jet flew directly overhead, releasing flares while performing a low-altitude flypast.

The Senior General inspected the parade columns. The Senior General, Tatmadaw members and MPF members from parade columns saluted the State flag and fallen Tatmadaw members and took four oaths. On the occasion, the Senior General delivered a speech. (The full text of

the speech is reported on page 5)

Tatmadaw members and MPF members from the parade columns led by Parade Commander Maj-Gen Ye Yint Win saluted the Senior General and left the parade ground.

Meanwhile, helicopters and aircraft from the Tatmadaw (Air) flew over the parade to salute the Senior General by releasing flares in their skilled demonstrations.

The Senior General cordially greeted the guests who attended the parade and left the parade ground. The parade of the 81st Anniversary of Armed Forces Day 2026 concluded successfully.

Bronze statues of three emperors who established the first, second and third Myanmar empires, and the torch and emblems of the 81st Anniversary of



An aircraft from Tatmadaw (Air) salutes the Senior General.

Armed Forces Day can be seen in the Nay Pyi Taw parade ground where the 81st Anniversary of Armed Forces Day parade was held. Moreover, flags of the Burma Independence Army, Burma Defence Army, Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air), directorates of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), and colourful flags of military commands and divisions

are being hoisted. The route of the military parade columns was decorated with truss beams, light boxes and lighting poles. The archway of the parade ground was decorated with LED strip lights in colours representing the parade columns. The banner bearing Welcome to the Parade columns, the State flag and the flags of Tatmadaw (Army,



Participating dignitaries, among them foreign military attaches, are pictured at yesterday's event.



The 81st Anniversary of Armed Forces Day is underway in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Navy and Air) were decorated with lighting effects. Trees on the opposition of the dais were decorated with handmade lighting. Moreover, two stars from the Tatmadaw flag below the three king statues are illuminated with LED strip lights. The way the Senior General left was decorated with flag light boxes and LED strip lights.

Moreover, as a gesture of honouring the 81st Anniversary of Armed Forces Day, posters depicting the movements of soldiers from the Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) to ensure sharpening of patriotism are erected along the Yangon-Mandalay Highway and the Pinlaung junction. Moreover, the mottos of Tatmadaw were described in Myanmar and English along the route to the parade ground. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

Tatmadaw Reaffirms Vigilance in National Duties

The Union Accords, which consolidate the outcomes of earlier peace conferences held under previous governments, are now set to be submitted to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for constitutional amendment.

State Security and Peace Commission Chairman and Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhama Min Aung Hlaing delivered a speech at the Parade of the 81st Anniversary of Armed Forces Day on 27 March 2026. The full text of the speech is as follows: —

Comrades,

Today marks the 81st Anniversary of Armed Forces Day of the Tatmadaw, a solemn and proud occasion that resonates with the enduring legacy of our Armed Forces, forged in the crucible of the nation’s struggle for independence. This day bears profound historical significance, as it marks the momentous 27 March 1945, when Tatmadaw, in resolute unity with the people, rose against fascist domination after having initially taken up arms to expel the vestiges of colonial rule. On this solemn and significant occasion for both our nation and Tatmadaw, I wish to underscore several key points for reflection and renewed commitment.

Comrades,

Our nation stands among the distinguished nations of the world, bearing a proud legacy and a prosperous identity forged through centuries. But, in the nineteenth century, the British showed different reasons to relinquish our independence and sovereignty, and fulfilled their imperial expansion. To retain our independence and sovereignty, the Burma Independence Army (BIA), under the leadership of General Aung San, sought military training and tactics from Japan. In unity with the people, they rose in resistance against British rule.

After the British withdrew, Japan failed to honour its commitment to grant genuine independence. Instead, the strength of Tatmadaw was curtailed. Further, the independence proved to be illusory. In response to the suffering of the people under fascist domination, the Tatmadaw, in concert with the people, launched the historic Anti-Fascist movement on 27 March 1945. From that time onwards, our Tatmadaw remained steadfast in its commitment to securing complete independence and safeguarding the nation from foreign suppression.

Independence is the truest expression of national sovereignty. It signifies that all nationalities may freely exercise



the three main sovereign powers – namely, the legislative, executive, and judicial – in accordance with the collective will and circumstances of the nation. Accordingly, the preservation and safeguarding of the independence and sovereignty won through the sacrifices of countless lives remain both a sacred historical trust and an inherent duty entrusted to every Tatmadaw member and to all nationalities of the Union.

Comrades,

The internal insurgencies rooted in the ideological diversity, political diversity, and ethnic affairs among nationalities who have long coexisted throughout history due to the instigation of British imperial rule, came into existence since independence, and our Tatmadaw, led by Lt-Gen Smith Dun and General Ne Win, has remained steadfast in safeguarding the nation, never relinquishing the hard-won independence and national sovereignty secured through immense sacrifice. In the discharge of this solemn duty, the Tatmadaw has resolutely resisted foreign encroachments, including those of the Kuomintang forces, and suppressed the Mujahedin insurgency, while steadfastly undertaking operations to restore stability in the face of diverse internal insurgent groups with courage and determination.

Furthermore, Tatmadaw, upholding a righteous cause and a profound sense of national duty, has resolutely safeguarded the nation in times of grave danger. In light of these trials, it may be declared with conviction that Tatmadaw has not only stood tall as the vanguard and bastion of the nation and its people – undaunted in adversity whenever the Our three main

national causes are imperilled – but also remains steadfast in its revered duty to safeguard the future of the nation.

Comrades,

Our nation, once united under the tradition of a sovereign kingdom before the loss of its independence, has since traversed diverse systems of governance, including the parliamentary democratic order established in the post-independence era. In the wake of certain inadequacies, along with internal and external instigations that impeded the consolidation of a strong and stable Union under the socialist system, unrest ensued, whereupon Tatmadaw assumed responsibility for the nation in 1988. From that turbulent juncture, Tatmadaw led by Senior General Saw Maung and Senior General Than Shwe, has steadfastly advanced the foundations of national development across the political, economic, and social spheres, and has instituted a quintessential State Constitution to foster a disciplined democratic system and a market-oriented economy.

Comrades,

In this regard, our Tatmadaw has played a leading role in facilitating the transition towards the democratic system desired by the people, as reflected in the multiparty democratic general election of 2010 under the Constitution (2008). However, on 1 February 2021, in response to allegations of widespread electoral irregularities under the NLD-led government and concerns regarding the legal legitimacy of the elected Hluttaw representatives in the 2020 General Election, Tatmadaw temporarily assumed responsibility for the nation in accordance

with the provisions of the State constitution. In this pursuit, Tatmadaw sought to uphold the multiparty democratic system aspired by the people. At present, Tatmadaw remains steadfastly committed to this course, having undertaken all necessary measures to ensure the successful conduct of elections, and has reaffirmed its pledge to support the government legitimately elected by the people, intending to strengthen and sustain the multiparty democratic system.

Comrades,

A Constitution is the fundamental law, enacted to safeguard the long-term interests of the nation. A constitution must, above all, be drafted in accordance with the nation’s identity, historical experience, ethnic composition, religious traditions, political realities, economic conditions, and other fundamental considerations. In the Constitution (2008), the inclusion of Tatmadaw’s role, along with its solemn mandate “to safeguard the state constitution”, reflects lessons distilled from historical shortcomings. These provisions were formally enshrined out of absolute necessity, guided by the objective realities and imperatives of our nation.

Furthermore, the provision stating that Tatmadaw shall “consistently aim to participate in the national political leadership role of the State” was enunciated to enable Tatmadaw to collaborate in the national interest, in pursuit of the imperatives of our nation. It must be clearly understood that this does not signify ‘leading in politics’, as certain pessimists may allege, but rather embodies Tatmadaw’s constructive engagement in national politics, devoted to safeguarding and advancing the nation’s affairs. National politics embodies an enduring vision, oriented towards the sustainable advancement of the interests of the nation and its people. It is anchored in our Three Main National Causes – the non-disintegration of the Union, the non-disintegration of national solidarity, and the perpetuation of sovereignty – which constitute the pivotal pillars safeguarding the independence and sovereignty of our nation. Throughout successive periods since independence, Tatmadaw has discharged its national political responsibilities with the steadfast purpose of defending these Three Main

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Tatmadaw Reaffirms Vigilance in National Duties

FROM PAGE 5
National Causes as a historic duty. Therefore, I wish to affirm that Tatmadaw will continue to serve the interests of the nation and its people in full accordance with the provisions of the state constitution.

Comrades,
Tatmadaw has embarked upon the path of building a Standard Army, with the avowed aim of evolving into a formidable force endowed with large-scale combat readiness and comprehensive operational effectiveness. In this endeavour, training stands as the foremost pillar in attaining such readiness. Accordingly, every soldier must maintain health, fitness and efficacy, while every unit must engage in continuous training to strengthen their mettle, in steadfast adherence to the guiding principle: “Study, Practise, Comply”. To ensure full operational effectiveness, the forces must be equipped with modern weaponry and materials; to this end, domestic research and development is being vigorously advanced, while essential procurement needs are systematically fulfilled.

Comrades,
Tatmadaw stands as a trusted institution of the nation, founded upon the enduring pillars of strong morale, strict discipline, and steadfast obedience to command. The triumphant culmination of the anti-fascist movement was achieved through the harmonious fusion of the patriotic fervour of the Burma Independence Army era with the discipline and order of the Burma Defence Army, in resolute collaboration with the people. This stands as an enduring testimony to the defining hallmarks of our Tatmadaw. Accordingly, I urge all personnel to cultivate a deep and diligent understanding of our history, and, rooted in an abiding sense of patriotism, to strive both individually and collectively to uphold a Tatmadaw distinguished by excellence in morale, discipline, and steadfast obedience.

Comrades,
Foreign aggressors and self-serving political opportunists, past and

present alike, have relentlessly sought to undermine and erode the strength and unity of our Tatmadaw. Yet, in the face of such persistent designs, our resolve shall never falter, nor shall our unity be shaken. On the contrary, we shall stand ever more resolute, fortifying unity and cohesion across all ranks, in adherence to our guiding principle: “No matter who seeks to divide us, we shall ever remain united”.

While fortifying cohesion within our ranks, we must equally give due emphasis to our engagement with the public. In this regard, all Tatmadaw members must embrace the guiding ethos of “Mother-Figure People, Father-Figure People” and diligently carry out their responsibilities in the service of public welfare.

Comrades,
Armed terrorist factions that persist along the path of violence, invoking federal, democratic and ethnic affairs as pretexts, are largely sustained by illicit activities, including telecom fraud, unlawful online gambling, narcotics trafficking, and transnational crime. As these activities serve to finance such elements and threaten national stability, I wish to inform you that comprehensive nationwide operations are being vigorously conducted. Simultaneously, the cooperation with regional partners and international organizations is being strengthened to combat this menace with determination and resolve.

Comrades,
Scrutinizing a nation’s security sector reveals that its foremost responsibility is to ensure socioeconomic security and safeguard the life and property of every citizen. It is incumbent upon each citizen to uphold steadfast security awareness and vigilance, thereby fortifying the resilience, integrity, and enduring strength of the nation’s public security framework.

Across every township, ward, and village, Public Protection Forces have been meticulously trained and organized to pre-empt, prevent, and suppress terrorist activities, while public security operations are carried out with resolute

determination. In this endeavour, the People’s Militia for local security and the People’s Military Service System for national defence are administered in strict accordance with the nation’s legal framework. It can be seen that countries across the world exercise the national conscription act. I urge all members of the public to continue their active cooperation in the People’s Security processes, thereby ensuring the comprehensive safeguarding of the nation’s socioeconomic life.

Comrades,
Among the Three Main National Causes, the Non-disintegration of National Solidarity embodies enduring peace, which serves as an indispensable pillar of our nation’s stability and prosperity. It must be clearly recognized that the fruits of lasting peace are not for Tatmadaw or any single organization, but for the State and all ethnic peoples collectively. Accordingly, persistent and deliberate efforts to engage in peace dialogues with ethnic armed organizations have been undertaken across successive epochs.

Tatmadaw’s issuance of a declaration on ceasefire and enduring peace on 21 December 2018 laid the foundation for the subsequent implementation of unilateral ceasefires. On 22 April 2022, in the wake of a peace address stating, “I will personally meet and hold discussions with all ethnic armed organizations to implement peace practically and effectively”, formal in-person dialogues were held with the leaders of ethnic armed organizations. As the culmination of these historic dialogues, 43 agreements to amend and supplement the Constitution (2008) were formally concluded and ratified. Moreover, the Union Accords, synthesizing the outcomes of preceding peace conferences under the erstwhile governments, are now poised for submission to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, where they will undergo thorough and meticulous deliberation and subsequent amendment.

Comrades,
Our nation is firmly committed to the practice of a democratic political

system, while resolutely advancing towards the consolidation of a Union founded upon democratic and federal principles in its State structure. A federal system does not rest upon the interests of any individual or single ethnicity, but upon the equitable organization of regions and territories. In its implementation within our nation, a region-based Union, aligned with our national realities, will be adopted, drawing upon the wisdom and experience accumulated across successive historical epochs.

At present, however, capable representatives entrusted with carrying forward the will of the people have emerged through the Multiparty Democratic General Election and the respective Hluttaws now stand duly convened and in session. As every vote cast embodies the intellect and sovereign will of the people, those who have emerged as representatives to the Hluttaws bear the solemn responsibility of discharging national duties with foresight, resolute loyalty, and the utmost gravity.

I wish to underscore that, while the National Defence and Security Council will continue to provide steadfast guidance until a strong and stable government emerges, capable of steering the nation resolutely along its political course, Tatmadaw shall remain ever vigilant and prepared to discharge its responsibilities in safeguarding the national interest.

Comrades,
In conclusion, I solemnly affirm that Tatmadaw has faithfully discharged its sacred duties, unfailingly upholding the welfare of the nation and its people above all considerations throughout successive epochs. Up till now, Tatmadaw continues to safeguard the Union and its citizens, guided by the timeless principle: “Mother-Figure People, Father-Figure People”. Let it be unequivocally reaffirmed that Tatmadaw shall remain steadfast, a modern and patriotic institution that endures well-being of the nation and its people.



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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

SSPC Vice-Chairman & Defence Services Deputy
Commander-in-Chief Vice-Senior General Soe Win
respectfully meets Independence Mawgun Award winners



All these photos highlight the Vice-Senior General handing over cash awards, on behalf of the Senior General, to the Independence Mawgun Awardees.

STATE Security and Peace Commission Vice-Chairman and Defence Services Deputy Commander-in-Chief Vice-Senior General Soe Win hosted a tea party for one Independence Mawgun Second Class Award winner and two Third Class Award winners, totalling three, who would attend the military parade to mark the 81st Anni-

versary of Armed Forces Day, at the Bayintnaung Villa in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning. The SSPC Vice-Chairman Vice-Senior General, Commission Secretary Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Ye Win Oo, Commission Member Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Kyaw Swa Lin, and senior Tat-

madaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief asked about the health conditions of Independence Mawgun award winners and fulfilled their requirements. The Vice-Senior General handed over K5 million each and fortified bird's nests presented by the Chairman of the State Security and Peace

Commission and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services to them. The Vice-Senior General and party had tea and foodstuffs together with the Independence Mawgun award winners. Independence Mawgun Second Class Award winner U Kyaw Sein, aged 101, Third Class Award winner U Nyan

Aye, aged 102, and Third Class Award winner U Aye Thein, aged 98, are in good health conditions, and they arrived here to attend the military parade to mark the 81st Anniversary of Armed Forces Day 2026. They recounted their experiences in fighting fascist Japanese, fostering the patriotic spirit. — MNA/TTA

Vice-Senior General Soe Win and senior Tatmadaw officers lay
wreath to pay tribute at Memorial to Fallen Heroes (Nay Pyi Taw)

IN honouring the 81st Anniversary of Armed Forces Day, a ceremony to lay wreaths and pay tribute took place at the Memorial to Fallen Heroes (Nay Pyi Taw) yesterday. On behalf of Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing, SSPC Vice-Chairman and Defence Services Deputy Commander-in-Chief Vice-Senior General Thiri Pyanchi Maha Thray Sithu Soe Win attended the ceremony to lay a wreath. Also, present at the ceremony were Commission Secretary and Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Zeya Kyaw Htin Sithu Ye Win Oo, Commission Member and Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Zeya Kyaw Htin Thray Sithu Kyaw Swa Lin, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Zeya

Kyaw Htin Htein Win, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Zeya Kyaw Htin Sithu Tun Aung, retired senior Tatmadaw officers and senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief. The Vice-Senior General and senior Tatmadaw officers took positions at the square of the Memorial to Fallen Heroes. After laying a wreath, the Vice-Senior General, together with senior Tatmadaw officers, paid tributes to the hero Tatmadaw members who had sacrificed their lives in serving the defence and security duties of the State. They signed the Guest Book of the Memorial to Fallen Heroes (Nay Pyi Taw) and visited there. The Memorial to Fallen Heroes (Nay Pyi Taw) was open on 27 March 2017, with the purpose of honouring Myanmar heroes who sacrificed their lives for the perpetuation of independence and sovereignty of the State, as well as those who, after achieving



The Vice-Senior General and senior Tatmadaw officers pay tribute at the Memorial to Fallen Heroes in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

sovereignty and self-governance, courageously risked their lives in remarkable efforts. The Memorial also aims to ensure that the heroism of these individuals is always remembered by future generations and to inspire young people to cultivate a sense of pat-

riotism and a willingness to serve and sacrifice for the nation. The names of soldiers who were awarded the Aung San Thuriya title, the Thiha Thura title, the Thura title and gallantry medals who sacrificed their lives while serving the State defence

duties are carved on the granite plaques on the interior of the Memorial building. Outside the Memorial, statues have also been erected to honour five soldiers and one civilian who received the Aung San Thuriya title. — MNA/TTA

Seek the best solution to end armed conflicts and restore peace

State leaders and stakeholders in various arenas have been striving for the restoration of internal peace in successive eras, resulting in achieving peace in some areas of the nation. Due to various root causes, the ceasefire process between the government and relevant ethnic armed groups, leading to the restoration of peace, faded out in some parts of the nation.

It can be observed that internal armed conflicts, which began just two months after independence, have still not been

fully resolved till today. The persistence of these conflicts can be attributed in part to some armed groups following self-interest-driven agendas, as well as to weaknesses in the implementation of national political principles, which led to misunderstandings and misaligned beliefs and positions.

Since gaining independence, some have described Myanmar's political journey as turbulent waves, while others have considered it a long and difficult path. Indeed, the political history of Myanmar after 1948 has been a mixture of both positive and negative developments. At one point, it was even noted as having one of the longest-lasting internal armed conflicts in Southeast Asia.

In fact, every war or armed conflict is never separate from politics, so solutions must be sought and negotiated through political means. Today, political freedoms already exist in Myanmar. Matters that could not be spoken of before can now be openly discussed. Hopes that were once unimaginable can now be pursued, and even dreams that could not be dreamed before are now attainable. In other words, reforms are being initiated in nearly all aspects of the democratic system that countries around the world aspire to, bringing in new politics and a new culture. In any case, Tatmadaw has been able to initiate this democratic system desired by all citizens and has successfully carried out an important political transition.

Everyone must strive to integrate the political and economic progress they have achieved so far with the ongoing efforts to build peace. In reality, achieving internal peace requires not only a ceasefire but also efforts to resolve the root causes of armed conflicts. Therefore, solutions must be pursued through political means.

It is important to continue fostering mutual respect, understanding, and compassion among ethnic groups, and to walk together on the path of "national solidarity" for the future of the nation and the next generation. So, the government has invited all ethnic armed groups to join peace talks so as to seek the best solution for ending armed conflicts and restoring internal peace with the purpose of building a peaceful and stable society.

A New Chapter for Democracy: Myanmar's Hluttaw after the 2025 Election

By Dr Than Zaw Oo

Following the historic 2025 multiparty democratic general election, widely regarded as free and fair and conducted using electronic voting machines, Myanmar has embarked upon a new chapter in its democratic journey. The general election was held in three phases: the first phase on 28 December 2025, the second phase on 11 January 2026, and the third phase on 25 January 2026. A total of 57 political parties and 86 independent candidates contested the election, including six political parties that competed nationwide and fifty-one political parties that participated in state- and regional-level elections.

As a result, 263 representatives were elected to the House of Representatives (Pyithu Hluttaw) and 157 to the House of Nationalities (Amyotha Hluttaw). Of those elected to the Pyithu Hluttaw, 230 were men, and 33 were women. While in the Amyotha Hluttaw, 133 men and 24 women

secured seats. This election, widely regarded as free and fair, represents a significant step in strengthening democratic Hluttaw stands as a cornerstone of democracy, and this significance was reaffirmed governance in Myanmar.

After the historic 2025 election, Myanmar saw a pivotal moment as the Pyithu Hluttaw convened for the first time on 16 March 2026, and then on 18 March 2026, the Amyotha Hluttaw also held its first Hluttaw session, making another significant step for the country. During these inaugural sessions, U Khin Yi was elected the Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw, with U Maung Maung Ohn becoming the Deputy Speaker. In the Amyotha Hluttaw, U Aung Lin Dwe was elected the Speaker, and Jeng Phang Naw Taung was the Deputy Speaker.

The election itself was a vital milestone for democracy in Myanmar, as it gave the people

a genuine voice.

As the Hluttaw now organizes its first standing committees, these bodies will play a key role in shaping policy, ensuring accountability, and fostering debate. The Hluttaw now moves forward with the formation of standing committees, which will play a crucial role in the legislative process, policy discussions, and ensuring accountability. As a primary pillar of democracy, the Hluttaw reflects the will of the people and strengthens democratic governance in Myanmar. In this way, the Hluttaw is not just a symbol, but a vital engine of democracy, propelling Myanmar forward as it embraces a new era of governance.

With the election of the Speakers and Deputy Speakers and the formation of standing committees, the Hluttaw has become vibrant and active. At the same time, questions have begun to arise about what takes place inside the Hluttaw and how its

operations are processed. These questions reflect a growing interest in Hluttaw procedures, legislative functions, and the roles performed within the chambers.

Hluttaw serves as the legislative pillar of the state, with its primary responsibility being the enactment of laws. It plays a crucial role in maintaining the exercise of checks and balances across the executive, legislative, and judicial branches. Through mechanisms such as raising questions and submitting motions, Hluttaw reflects the voice of the people. In the process of Hluttaw questioning, Hluttaw representatives may raise both starred and unstarred questions. Starred questions require oral answers from the relevant Union ministers within the Hluttaw chamber, allowing for further clarification and supplementary questions. In contrast, unstarred questions are answered in writing by the respective ministries.

The principle of the separation of powers remains fundamental to democracy. Under this system, the legislative, executive, and judicial branches function independently while maintaining checks and balances. Among them, the legislative pillar, represented by the Hluttaw, plays a central role in law-making, representing the will of



A strong and effective Hluttaw will be essential in consolidating democracy, upholding the rule of law, and ensuring that the voices of the people are reflected in national decision-making and ensuring accountable governance. PHOTO: MOI

the people.

A strong and effective Hluttaw will be essential in consolidating democracy, upholding the rule of law, and ensuring that the voices of the people are reflected in national decision-making and ensuring accountable governance. This marks not only a political transition but also

the beginning of a new era of democratic development for the nation.

As Myanmar move forwards, the strengthening of Hluttaw institutions will be essential in deepening democratic practice, upholding the rule of law, and ensuring accountable governance. A vibrant and responsive

Hluttaw not only embodies the will of the people but also serves as the foundation upon which a stable, inclusive, and enduring democracy can be built. In this new era, the continued commitment to democratic principles will determine the nation's path towards lasting peace and development.

Sociolinguistics and language variety

By Maung Maung Aye

Sociolinguistics is a branch of linguistics that studies the relationship between language and society. Language is not only a system of sounds

and symbols but also a social phenomenon. People use language to express identity, maintain relationships, and participate in social life. Sociolinguistics

examines how language functions within social contexts and how social structures influence linguistic behaviour. Unlike approaches that treat language as fixed, sociolinguistics views language as dynamic and shaped by human interaction.

Through sociolinguistic study, researchers explore why people speak differently in different situations, how language marks social boundaries, and how linguistic forms change over time. These differences are influenced by factors such as region, social class, age, gender, profession, and community membership. Language variation is systematic rather than random and reflects the organization and values of society. Because language is used in social settings, it

carries social meanings, allowing speakers to express politeness, authority, solidarity, or distance through their language choices.

One of the main concerns of sociolinguistics is the study of language varieties. A language variety refers to a specific form of language used by a particular group or in a particular context. These varieties include standard language, dialects, pidgins, creoles, and registers. Each variety reflects the social and cultural background of its speakers and serves particular communicative purposes within society.

A dialect is a variety of a language spoken by a specific geographical, social, or ethnic group. Dialects differ in pronunciation, vocabulary, and sometimes grammar, but these differences

are systematic and meaningful rather than incorrect. Regional dialects are associated with particular geographical areas and often reveal where a speaker comes from. In Myanmar, for example, pronunciation and vocabulary differences can indicate whether a speaker is from Upper Myanmar or Lower Myanmar. Such dialects help preserve local identity and cultural heritage.

Social dialects, on the other hand, are linked to social class, profession, or group membership. They often reflect differences in education, occupation, and social status. People belonging to the same profession tend to share similar linguistic features. Teachers commonly use academic language, while lawyers rely on specialized legal vocab-

ulary. These shared patterns strengthen group identity and allow efficient communication within professional communities.

Accent and dialect are closely related. But they are distinct concepts. An accent refers only to differences in pronunciation, whereas a dialect includes differences in pronunciation, vocabulary, and grammar. A speaker may use a standard dialect while retaining a regional accent. Sociolinguistics emphasizes that all dialects are linguistically systematic and should not be judged as inferior to the standard language.

Pidgins and creoles develop in situations where speakers of different languages come into contact. A pidgin is a simplified mixed language used for practical communication, such as trade or work. It has a limited vocabulary and simplified grammar and is not the native language of any group. A creole

develops when a pidgin becomes the first language of a new generation. Unlike pidgins, creoles are fully developed languages. It has expanded vocabulary and more complex grammatical structures. It serves as an important marker of cultural identity.

Another important concept in sociolinguistics is register, which refers to variation in language use according to situation, purpose, and audience. Speakers naturally adjust their language when communicating with friends, teachers, employers, or strangers. Formal registers are commonly used in academic writing, legal documents, and official speeches, while informal registers are used in everyday conversation. Understanding register helps speakers choose appropriate language and avoid social misunderstandings.

Sociolinguistics plays a vital role in improving communication. It can also promote respect

for linguistic diversity. Individuals can communicate more effectively by being aware of language varieties and social norms in different contexts. Without sociolinguistic knowledge, people may misinterpret speech, judge dialects unfairly, or fail to adapt their language appropriately. In multilingual and multicultural societies, sociolinguistic competence is essential for social harmony and mutual understanding.

In conclusion, sociolinguistics provides valuable insights into how language functions within society. Examining language variation, dialects, accents, pidgins, creoles, and registers reveals the close connection between language, identity, and social structure. Language is not merely a tool for communication, but a reflection of social relationships and cultural values, and greater awareness of sociolinguistics leads to more effective and respectful communication.



Sociolinguistics provides valuable insights into how language functions within society. ILLUSTRATION: GRAPHIC ART

NATIONAL

Sittway unveils new archway marking Armed Forces Day



This photo features a new Sittway city archway in Rakhine State being ceremonially opened.

A new city archway Sittway was opened on 25 March, according to a source close to the Rakhine State government.

The opening of the new city entrance was made as a celebration of the 81st Armed Forces Day, which falls on 27 March 2026.

The opening ceremony was attended by State Chief Minister U Htein Lin, the State Hluttaw Speaker Dr San Shwe, Commander of the Western Command Maj-Gen Kyaw Swa Oo, State cabinet members, State Hluttaw representatives and departmental officials.

“The new city archway of Sittway was opened on 25 March by three ministers, three state Hluttaw representatives, State Chief Minister U Htein Lin, State Hluttaw Speaker Dr San Shwe and Commander Maj-Gen Kyaw Swa Oo. The entrance says “Welcome to Sittway and Meet again” in Rakhine language, and it was created by the State Advocate General,” said the source on 27 March.

The old city entrance was damaged in the powerful Cyclone Mocha in May 2023. The construction of the new city entrance started on 26 November 2025. — MT/ZS

ATOM donates nearly US\$13,500 dialysis machine to Muslim Charitable Hospital

ATOM has donated a dialysis machine worth approximately US\$13,500 to the Muslim Charitable Hospital in Kyauktada Township, Yangon Region.

The donation is made by ATOM’s commitment to supporting communities in need.

“This donation aims to provide dialysis to patients in urgent need. We are proud to help the Muslim Charitable Hospital improve its medical services at a time when access to life-saving treatment is so critical,” said Mr Ahmad Abdallah, CEO of ATOM.

The donated dialysis machine will help almost 10,000 patients in urgent need of dialysis. ATOM has been supporting about 300,000 people since 2022 by the “Social Life and Education Development Programme” with a total investment of over K2,300 million, making healthcare and education more accessible and reliable for the community. In addition, through its investment in projects that have brought benefits to the community, ATOM has donated nearly K8,000 million to various social welfare projects, reaching approximately 1.1 million people. — ASH/MKKS



Images depict ATOM’s donation to patients at the Muslim Charitable Hospital in Kyauktada Township.

Mandalay quake seminar, expo underscore preparedness measures



This image shows the documentary photo of the Mandalay Earthquake Seminar and Preparedness Exhibition.

ONE-YEAR Commemoration of the 2025 Mandalay Earthquake Seminar and Preparedness Exhibition was held on 26 March 2026 at the Wyndham Grand Hotel Yangon, with a view to building a culture of disaster resilience, learning lessons from the earthquake towards a prepared stage.

KBZMS General Insurance, Action Aid Myanmar, CIAT Myanmar, and the British Chamber of Commerce Myanmar collaborated to organize the event. It is not merely a memorial event for the Mandalay earthquake, but rather a platform for learning about emergencies and hazards, educating the public and promoting actionable steps to mitigate risks from seismic events and engaging in collaborative discussions on earthquake risk and practical preparedness measures.

KBZMS, in partnership with InterRisk Asia Thailand, will be continuously working to lead in risk awareness and preparedness by enhancing organizational capacities. Furthermore, it is also contributing to the “Integrated Earthquake Resilient Building Design” training, which will be conducted by earthquake-resistant design experts in May, organized by the Myanmar Green Building Society in collaboration with the Myanmar Earthquake Committee.

Additionally, KBZMS continues to uphold its responsibility to the customers who place their trust in the company, and has settled earthquake-related claims up to 99 per cent within one year. — ASH/KK

NATIONAL

OWIC granted for Myanmar migrant workers bound for Japan, Malaysia

MORE than 120 Myanmar workers going to work in Japan have been allowed to attend the overseas job training course and Overseas Worker Identification Card (OWIC). The Ministry of Labour’s Safe Migration released the list of eligible individuals for overseas job training and OWIC on 24 March. Among the workers, 120 are women, and one is a man who will be working in Japan under the management of licensed overseas employment agencies. Workers will have to attend the training course on 25 March and apply OWIC on 26 March. They will have to resubmit if they are unable to do so by the schedule. Agencies will need to resubmit an Excel soft copy of the list of sending workers, a copy of the passport and a copy of OWIC within a week from the departure date to the Department of Labour, dolmigrationjapan@gmail.com. Further, 20 Myanmar workers returning to Malaysia after taking leave on their own plan have also been granted OWIC, it said. Workers will have to apply for OWIC on 26 March or resubmit if they are unable to do so by the date, and seek the departure permit at least five days in advance during weekdays after OWIC is issued and an air ticket is bought. — MT/ZS



This image captures 2 Myanmar women workers at a workplace in Japan.

‘Hninzi Pwint Mae Nay’ comedy troupe donates K50M to MMPO

THE cast and crew of the comedy play ‘Hninzi Pwint Mae Nay’ (The Day Rose Will Bloom), which was performed to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization (MMPO), donated K50 million to the organization on 25 March. The commemorative performance took place on 8 March at the National Theatre in Dagon Township, Yangon, as part of the milestone celebrations for the MMPO. The play featured an ensemble of renowned artistes, including actresses Phu Sone, May Kabyar, Moe Yu San, and Moe Pyae Pyae Maung, alongside Academy Award winners Nay Toe, Kyaw Kyaw Bo, and Htun Htun, and actor-singer Ye Lay. The production was directed by Academy Award-winning director Maung Myo Min (Yin Twin Phyt). — ASH/KZL

March sees deployment of over 120 Myanmar EPS workers



This image shows Myanmar workers arriving at Incheon International Airport in South Korea.

THROUGH the Public Overseas Employment Agency (POEA), more than 120 Myanmar EPS workers, including 10 women workers, were sent to the Republic of Korea in March, according to the Myanmar Embassy to the Republic of Korea. Seventeen EPS workers who are being employed for the service sector – seven men and 10 women – arrived at the Incheon International Airport on 10 March by Korean Air KE492, and 72 EPS workers for the manufacturing sector and one for the agriculture sector, totalling 73, arrived by Thai Airways TG656 on 11 March. Further arrivals continued – an entry-worker arrived by Thai Airways TG656 on 12 March, and 29 manufacturing workers and a construction worker, totalling 30, arrived on 25 March by Thai Airways TG656, said the embassy. The labour attaché from the embassy in Seoul welcomed the workers and provided assistance and guidance. Ambassador U Myo Myint Maung greeted the workers via a video call during their arrival and urged them to contact the embassy if they had difficulty. — MT/ZS

YBS buses face CNG cuts for route violations

IF YBS buses do not run along their designated routes and instead operate as a shuttle service, their CNG quota will be cut, said the Yangon Region Public Transport Committee (YRTC). The YRTC said the number of YBS passengers has risen by more than 250,000 recently. In early March, about 3,400 buses from 132 bus lines served about 1.46 million passengers daily, but the passenger number has now risen to about 1.7 million, and the number of buses has increased to about 3,500 after driving restrictions were imposed according to licence plate numbers, in an attempt to limit the use of vehicle fuel, according to YRTC statistics. “More than 250,000 passengers have increased compared to early March. After the driving restriction was imposed, people use YBS more than before,” said YRTC joint secretary U Lyan Cing Mang. Under the Yangon Region chief minister’s instruction, CNG will be cut for CNG YBS buses which run shuttles without providing public transport service on their designated routes. Under the supervision of YRTC, which was established by the regional government, there are 21 bus companies which provide public transport by 145 bus lines with 5,438 units, of which 5,013 are CNG buses, and 423 are diesel buses. For 423 diesel buses, the fuel quota was previously allowed 20 litres per day, but now YRTC has allowed them to refill 40 litres per day at night to help them run according to the number of routes they have been assigned. That is why the available buses will be increased for passengers, it said. — MT/ZS



This image displays YRTC holding a press conference on 26 March 2026.

NATIONAL BUSINESS

CBM pumps US\$3.4M to edible oil, fuel import sectors

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) intervened in the market by injecting US\$400,000 into edible oil-importing companies and \$3 million into fuel oil-importing companies on 26 March, in addition to selling 4.4 million baht in the market.

CBM announced on 25 March that it would inject \$26 million to fuel oil-importing businesses. Furthermore, CBM sold \$1 million to edible oil importing companies and \$289,300 to fuel oil importing companies, along with an injection of 2.2 million baht.

Furthermore, CBM sold over \$1 million to edible oil-importing companies and \$3 million to fuel oil-importing companies on 24 March, in addition to sales of 5.678 million baht in the foreign exchange market. CBM also made a \$45 million injection



Fleet of bowzers rolls out from fuel terminal for nationwide distribution.

into the fuel oil import sector on 23 March to increase oil imports.

CBM's report showed a transaction of 50 million baht on the foreign exchange trading platform to importers to meet

the market's needs, along with selling 2.424 million baht in the market. CBM also sold \$1.339 million to fuel oil-importing companies on that day.

CBM sold \$1.5 million to edi-

ble oil-importing companies and \$1.16 million to fuel oil-importing companies on 20 March, along with an injection of 3.37 million baht into the market.

In addition to an injection of

large amounts of foreign currencies (yuan, dollar, baht) into the foreign exchange market, CBM has been injecting US dollars to stabilize the foreign exchange market and calm the edible oil prices.

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

UMTA invites applications for lifetime membership

THE Union of Myanmar Travel Association (UMTA) is inviting applications for Lifetime Membership.

Following agreement of the members attending the Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) held on 4 December 2024, UMTA approved and enacted the inclusion of a Lifetime Member category into the association's constitution, aiming for the long-term development, progress, and sustainability of the association.

Subsequently, according to the decision of the Executive Committee Meeting (9/2024-2026) held on 10 January 2025, the Lifetime Membership fee was set at K2.5 million.

In respect of this Lifetime Membership fee, it can also be paid in a single instalment of K2.5 million, or can be paid an initial instalment of K1 million, with the remaining balance to be paid in instalments within the financial year.

Information regarding the benefits and necessary details about Lifetime Membership is posted on the Union of Myanmar Travel Association social media page.

Therefore, members of UMTA are eligible to apply for Lifetime Membership by completing the membership application form. They can contact the association for enquiries during office hours at 09 2005648, 09 5170456, or email office@umtanet.org, secretary@umtanet.org, UMTA stated. — NN/KK

Yangon palm oil reference price indicates uptick

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil set for the Yangon market is relatively the same at K6,640 per viss this week ending 2 April, compared to K6,600 per viss recorded last week, according to the Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution.

The rise in palm oil price was attributed to a sharp drop in the palm oil output in major producing countries starting from January 2026, a large stockpile and a surge in demand during the Chinese New Year Festival and Ramadan. According to Reuters and industry reports, palm oil output in major producing nations is experiencing stagnant production levels in the first quarter of 2026, keeping the price supported. The Department of Consumer Affairs speculated palm oil market constraints that other factors include strengthening Malaysia Ringgits, Indonesia's tax hike in palm oil export from 10 per cent to 12.5 per cent starting from 1 March, low global stock levels in palm oil reserve situation with tight supplies dropping to 19 per cent in 2025-2026 Financial Year from 20 per cent, increase in palm oil demand ahead of Eid al-Fitr, pushing the FOB price in the producing countries.

The Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has been closely observing the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia, adding



Cooking oil bottles are arranged for sale.

transport costs, tariffs and banking services to decide the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil weekly. Despite the reference price, the market price is still high. To control overcharging, the Consumer Affairs Department under the Ministry of Commerce informed consumers of lodging complaints for overcharging through the call centre hotline in late August. The department urges consumers not to buy palm oil at high prices.

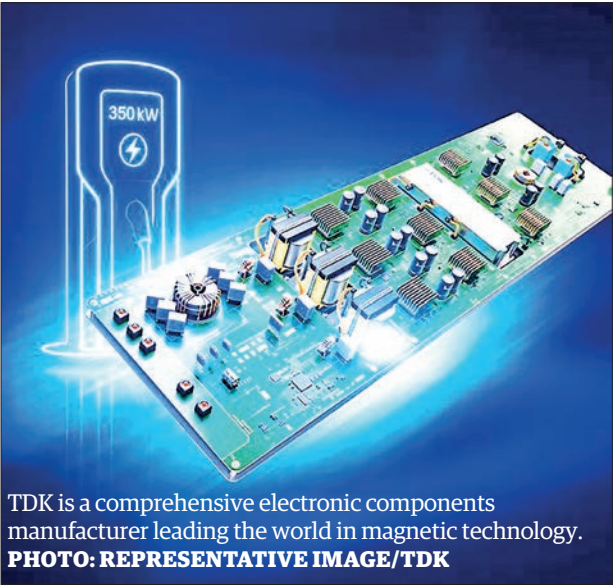
The committee notified that any person who is involved in price gouging and oil storage to attempt market manipulation will face legal action under the Essential Goods and Services Law.

The department is working togeth-

er with the Myanmar Oil Dealers' Association and the cooking oil importing companies to offer affordable rates of imported palm oil for consumers.

The complaints for overcharging can be lodged over hotline 1535 of the call centre of the Consumers Affairs Department, or sent to the Facebook page of the department and the region and state departments concerned.

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



TDK is a comprehensive electronic components manufacturer leading the world in magnetic technology.
PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/TDK

Japan’s TDK to make sensors in US for Apple supply push

JAPANESE electronic components maker TDK Corp said Friday it will start manufacturing advanced sensors in the United States for Apple Inc’s products as part of Apple’s push to expand US production and strengthen its domestic supply chain.

TDK is among four companies newly joining the American Manufacturing Programme, a four-year, \$600 billion initiative announced last year in what is seen as a move to align with US President Donald Trump’s push for reshoring. Apple plans to

spend \$400 million on the new tie-ups through 2030, it said in a press release Thursday.
TDK said it will be the first Japanese company to produce components for Apple under the programme. TDK President Noboru Saito said, “We saw

that as an opportunity to grow our relationship even more, and in new ways,” regarding the move after more than 30 years of collaboration.
“We are very proud to be working with Apple to accelerate US manufacturing,” he said. — Kyodo

NEWS IN BRIEF

Thailand’s industrial output dips 0.04% in February

THAILAND’S industrial output fell in February, dragged down by a return to contraction in the petroleum and automotive industries, a strong baht currency, and prolonged geopolitical tensions, official data showed on Friday.
The South-East Asian country’s manufacturing production index (MPI) edged down 0.04 per cent last month compared to a year earlier, and the capacity utilization stood at 58.21 per cent, according to the Ministry of Industry. Despite the downtick, key positive contributors to the reading were expanded consumer spending, boosted by seasonal events such as the Chinese New Year and Valentine’s Day, said Supakit Boonsiri, director-general of the ministry’s Office of Industrial Economics. — Xinhua

S Korean banks’ lending rate rises for 4th month in February

SOUTH Korean banks’ lending rate rose for the fourth consecutive month amid lower expectations for additional policy rate cuts, central bank data showed Friday.
The weighted average rate for new bank loans gained 0.02 percentage points from a month earlier to an annualized rate of 4.26 per cent in February, continuing to swell since November last year, according to the Bank of Korea (BOK). The BOK left its benchmark interest rate unchanged at 2.50 per cent after reducing it by 25 basis points in February and May of 2025 and in October and November of 2024. — Xinhua

Volkswagen in talks with defence firms on reuse of Germany plant: CEO

GERMAN carmaker Volkswagen is in talks with defence firms to repurpose a plant in northern Germany for the production of military transport equipment, the firm’s boss Oliver Blume said Friday. “We are in contact with various defence companies,” Blume said at a congress organised by the FAZ newspaper in Frankfurt. “This could also be a solution for Osnabrueck,” referring to the company’s plant there. — AFP

Cathay Pacific raises fuel surcharge on all flights by 34%

HONG Kong aviation giant Cathay Pacific announced Thursday it was raising fuel surcharges on all flights by 34 per cent as a result of increasing oil costs due to the Middle East war. “The price of jet fuel comprises both the crude oil component and the refinery component, both of which have increased significantly in recent weeks,” the company said in a statement.
It also shared a list outlining surcharge increases on short-haul flights of 34.1 per cent, while medium- and long-haul would increase by 34 per cent exactly. The hike in fees will apply to tickets from 1 April, the



In this 11 August 2024 file photo, three Cathay Pacific aircraft are seen parked at the Hong Kong International Airport. PHOTO: SHAMIM ASHRAF / CHINA DAILY / FILE

statement added. Average jet fuel prices increased globally to \$197 per barrel last week, up from \$95.50 a month ago, according to

data by the International Air Transport Association (IATA).
“If the steep increase of fuel costs cannot be

effectively mitigated, we would not be able to sustain the effective operations of our network,” Cathay said. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BEYPORE SULTAN VOY.NO. (26010)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BEYPORE SULTAN VOY.NO. (26010)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **28-3-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 A.M to 11:20 A.M and 12 NOON to 4 P.M to Claim’s Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**
Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority
Agent For:
M/S CONNEXT SHIPPING PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ZHE HAI 515 VOY.NO. (106404)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ZHE HAI 515 VOY.NO. (106404)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **30-3-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT-3** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 A.M to 11:20 A.M and 12 NOON to 4 P.M to Claim’s Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301928**
Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority
Agent For:
M/S CHUNA AN INTERNATIONAL LOGISTICS CO LTD

GLOBAL VIEWPOINTS:
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Lukashenko says Belarus-North Korea relations entering new phase

Despite geographical distance, Belarusian and Korean people are united in common interests.

Relations between Belarus and North Korea are entering a fundamentally new phase, Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko said on Thursday.

“Friendly relations between our states, which originated during the Soviet era, have never been interrupted. Today, as a result of comprehensive progressive development, we are entering a fundamentally new phase. With great delay, but nevertheless, we are entering a new era,” Lukshenko was quoted by Belta as saying during talks with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

Despite geographical distance, Belarusian and Korean people are united in common interests, such as



patriotism, preservation of historical memory, and deep respect for the older generation, Lukashenko also said.

“In the current realities of global transformation, when the norms of international law are openly ignored and violated by the powerful of this world, independent countries need to interact more closely, consolidate efforts aimed at protecting their sovereignty and improving the welfare of our citizens,” he said.

The North Korean leader said that the country expresses solidarity and full support for Belarus, which “seeks to pursue an independent policy corresponding to its reality, achieve peace and development, while continuing to develop relations with traditionally friendly countries”. — SPUTNIK

In this photo released by Belarus' Presidential Press Service, North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un, right, and Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko, centre, attend an official meeting ceremony in Pyongyang, North Korea, Wednesday, 25 March 2026. **PHOTO: BELARUS' PRESIDENTIAL PRESS SERVICE**

Experts call for doubling height limit for buildings near Kyoto Station

KYOTO should consider relaxing its existing 31-metre height limit on buildings near Kyoto Station to up to 60 metres to revitalize the gateway for visitors to the western Japanese city, according to an expert panel.

The envisioned relaxation would help spur rebuilding and create more space for offices and shops, even though it should be weighed against the need to protect the unique landscape dotted with temples and other distinctive features of Kyoto, the ancient Japanese capital.

Critics, however, oppose the idea,

with the local bar association saying that loosening the regulations would “transform Kyoto’s streetscape into a featureless city that could be anywhere”.

The expert panel’s draft paper said it is “appropriate” for the city to raise the height limit to 60 metres in the area north of Kyoto Station, on a par with the station building, and to 45 metres in other surrounding areas.

It said the areas lacks office space and places for people to interact, due to the height restriction becoming a bottleneck for developers. — Kyodo



This photo taken on 24 March 2026 shows people walking in front of Kyoto Station in Kyoto. **PHOTO: KYODO**

India turns to non-dollar payments for Russian oil amid rising tensions



The Reliance refinery in Gujarat state is the world’s largest such facility and can process 1.2 million barrels a day. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

INDIAN refiners are increasingly using currencies other than the US dollar to pay for Russian crude, Bloomberg reported, as New Delhi moves to reduce exposure to shifting US policy and growing geopolitical uncertainty.

Bloomberg reported that the transactions are being structured through special overseas accounts, with payments ultimately converted into currencies such as the UAE dirham and the Chinese yuan. The report adds that

the Singapore dollar and Hong Kong dollar are also being considered for some deals.

The shift comes as Indian buyers step up purchases of Russian oil following supply disruptions linked to the US-Israeli aggression against Iran.

Bloomberg said refiners including Indian Oil Corp. and Reliance Industries have bought about 60 million barrels of Russian crude since the US issued a waiver earlier this month. — SPUTNIK

SPORTS

IOC restricts female category to biological females from LA28 onwards

THE International Olympic Committee (IOC) has announced a new policy limiting eligibility for the female category at the Olympic Games or any other IOC event to biological females.

The policy, approved by the IOC Executive Board on Thursday, will take effect from the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games onwards and is not retroactive. It applies to all female category events, including both individual and team sports.

The IOC encourages International Federations (IFs) and other sports governing bodies to adopt the policy when implementing eligibility rules for IOC events. Under the new framework, eligibility for the female

category will be determined in the first instance by Sex-determining region Y protein (SRY) gene screening, a one-time test using saliva, cheek swab or blood sample. The SRY test is used to identify whether a male Y chromosome is present.

Athletes who screen negative for the SRY gene permanently satisfy the eligibility criteria. Those with an SRY-positive screen are not eligible for competition in the female category at IOC events, with rare exceptions for athletes diagnosed with Complete Androgen Insensitivity Syndrome (CAIS) or other rare differences in sex development who do not benefit from the performance-enhancing effects of testosterone. — Xinhua



The IOC encourages International Federations (IFs) and other sports governing bodies to adopt the policy when implementing eligibility rules for IOC events. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Tug of War team honoured for SEA Games performance



Players from the Myanmar Tug of War Team receive certificates of honour in Yangon yesterday.

MYANMAR athletes who competed in the XXXIII South-East Asia Games were honoured at a ceremony held in Yangon yesterday evening. The event was organized by the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs and the Traditional Myanmar Sports Federation at a venue in Dagon Myothit (North) Township, where officials presented certificates of honour and cash awards to coaches, officials and athletes.

The Myanmar Tug of War team secured third place at the Games held in Bangkok and is set to compete again in the XXXIV SEA Games. — Bala/KZL

Belgium's Goffin to retire at end of season

DAVID Goffin, the first Belgian player ever to break into the world's top 10, announced on Friday that he will retire at the end of the season.

The 35-year-old, who reached a career-high ranking of world number seven in 2017, won six titles on the ATP Tour and reached nine other finals.

"All these years at the highest level have taken a toll on my body," he said in a video posted on social media.

"The knee injury I suffered last year played a decisive role in my decision to stop."

A professional since 2009 and currently ranked down at 156, Goffin never made it further than the quarterfinals of a Grand Slam.

He reached the last eight at Roland Garros in 2016 and the Australian Open the following year. Goffin also made two quarterfinal appearances at Wimbledon in 2019, where he lost to eventual champion Novak Djokovic, and 2022. He played a key role as Belgium reached the Davis Cup final in 2015, when he lost the deciding rubber to Britain's Andy Murray, and 2017 when they again finished as runners-up to France. — AFP

World Cup boost as late goal earns Australia 1-0 win over Cameroon

JORDAN Bos snatched a late winner as a lacklustre Australia edged Cameroon 1-0 for a confidence-boosting victory as they fine-tune preparations ahead of the World Cup.

There were few opportunities in the dour friendly at Sydney's Stadium Australia until the Feyenoord midfielder pounced with five minutes left.

Ajdin Hrustic missed a penalty in the much-needed win for a side that suffered two losses in the previous international window, falling 1-0 to Venezuela and 3-0 to Colombia. The clash was part of the FIFA Series 2026, a mini-tourna-

ment that also features fellow World Cup qualifier Curacao, who were beaten 2-0 by China in an earlier match at the same venue. "First half we couldn't really break through, and then second half we kept on coming," Bos said.

"We had some chances and it was coming down to the last 10 minutes, and I got the goal in and we got the win. So that's important." — AFP

Australia's Jordan Bos (C) celebrates after scoring the only goal against Cameroon in Sydney. **PHOTO: AFP**





WORLD

Control of Hormuz Strait “legal right” of Iran: FM

AS a coastal state, it is Iran’s legal right to prevent vessels belonging to or affiliated with the United States, Israel and their allies from passing through the Strait of Hormuz, Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi said on Thursday.

Araghchi made the remarks when exchanging views with United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on the security and humanitarian consequences of the US and Israeli attacks on Iran in a phone conversation, the Iranian Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Friday.

Araghchi briefed Guterres on the latest developments of the conflict and the “crimes” perpetrated by the United States and Israel, underlining Iran’s firm determination to continue the “legitimate” defence of its national security and sovereignty as well as territorial integrity.



More than 20 ships carrying nearly one million metric tonnes of fertilizer (including urea, sulfur, and phosphates) are currently stranded in the Persian Gulf. PHOTO: SIMON WOHLFAHRT/AFP

He condemned the “brutal” US and Israeli attacks on civilian targets, including schools, hospitals, cultural and historical buildings, public places and residential areas, highlighting the UN’s responsibility to pursue the “flagrant violations” of the UN Charter and international law, including human rights and international humanitarian law, committed by the “aggressors”. — Xinhua



Green products have become a focal point in China’s trade barrier investigation into US measures that allegedly disrupt global supply chains and hinder their international trade. A robotic arm produces offshore wind turbines at the Fujian Three Gorges Offshore Wind Power International Industrial Park in Fuqing City, Fujian Province. PHOTO: JIANG KEHONG/XINHUA/FILE

China launches trade barrier investigations into US actions

The US launched two Section 301 investigations in March targeting China’s alleged overcapacity in multiple economies.

China’s Ministry of Commerce on Friday announced trade barrier investigations into US actions and measures that harm global production and supply chains as well as that impede trading of green products.

On 12 March, Beijing time, the Office of the US Trade Representative launched a Section 301 investigation against China and 15 other economies on grounds of al-

leged “overcapacity,” followed by another Section 301 investigation on 13 March targeting China and 59 other economies.

China expressed strong dissatisfaction with and firm opposition to both moves, said a commerce ministry spokesperson in response to a media query on Friday.

To resolutely safeguard the interests of China’s relevant industries, the minis-

try launched the two probes in accordance with China’s Foreign Trade Law and its rules on foreign trade barrier investigations, said the spokesperson.

China’s Ministry of Commerce will advance these investigations in compliance with the law and the rules, and take corresponding measures based on the findings, according to the spokesperson. — Xinhua

S Korean president vows rapid wartime command return

SOUTH Korean President Lee Jae Myung said Friday that the country will rapidly regain its wartime operational command from the United States amid the swiftly changing security environment.

Lee presided over a meeting with

major military commanders, stressing that the transition of wartime operational control to South Korea from the United States will be pursued expeditiously, as self-reliant defense is essential to respond to the rapidly changing security

environment. Seoul’s wartime operational command was handed over to the US-led UN Command after the three-year Korean War broke out in 1950. The Asian country regained its peacetime command in 1994. — Xinhua