

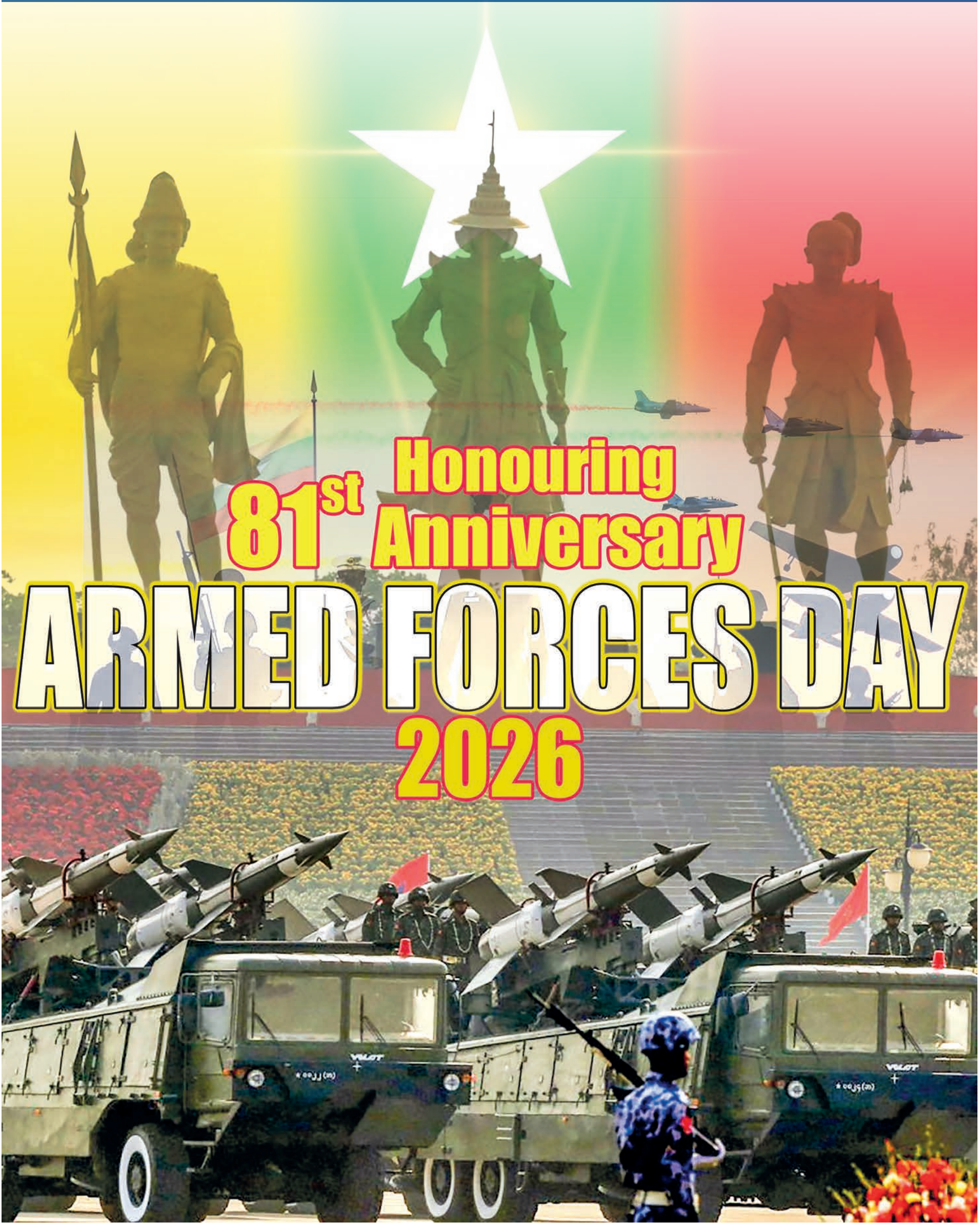
Embrace the Future: Unfolding a New Chapter with a Fresh Vision

The **Global** **NEW LIGHT** of **MYANMAR**

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NATIONAL

All Citizens Urged to Strengthen State's Political, Economic, and Defence Capabilities

- * Political, economic, and defence driving initiatives are required for a country to develop and progress.
- * Only when the political driving force is strong can the economy be strong, and only when the economic driving force is strong can defence capabilities be enhanced.
- * As a strong economy is an essential and indispensable sector for a country, all should cooperate and work together to strengthen the economy.

(An excerpt from the speech delivered by Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with departmental officials and town elders in Hpa-an to discuss regional development on 15 November 2025)

- Let us encourage production for prosperity of the Nation.
- Let us ensure education sector for the development of the Nation.
- Let us protect our environment for the prosperity of the Nation.

Objectives of 81st Armed Forces Day

- (a) To participate in national politics in a leadership role of the country, not to deviate from the path of democracy in accordance with the fundamental principles of the Constitution, safeguarding the national policy, the Our Three Main National Causes
- (b) To cooperate with the government and people in performing measures for State stability, ethnic unity and the nation's development
- (c) To act with utmost care based on the agreements of NCA without deviating from the Our Three Main National Causes while serving duties for durable peace, as the resolution of armed conflicts play key role in moving towards a genuine and disciplined multiparty democratic pathway
- (d) To continuously improve three main tasks of Tatmadaw – Study, Practise, Comply – and the ability to apply modern technologies in structuring Tatmadaw into a Standard Army

Republic of the Union of Myanmar National Defence and Security Council Notification 57/2026

10th Waxing of Tagu 1387 ME
27 March 2026

THE Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar conferred honorary titles and medals on the following individuals for their excellent performance in serving the defence and security duties of the State: -

Honorary gallantry title of Tatmadaw Thura Title			
1	Major Zaw Myo Naing		Ministry of Defence
2	Daw San Maw Aye		Ministry of Defence
3	Daw Sanay Ma		Ministry of Defence
Honorary gallantry medal of Tatmadaw Gallantry Medal			
1	Major Aung Naing Moe Hlaing		Ministry of Defence
2	Major Ye Zaw Tun		Ministry of Defence
3	Major Sha Lu		Ministry of Defence
4	Captain Min Kyi Hein		Ministry of Defence
5	Lieutenant Thet Paing Myint		Ministry of Defence
6	Lieutenant Pyae Sone Aung		Ministry of Defence
7	TaTa-126919	Lance Corporal Thurein Aung	Ministry of Defence
Gallantry Medal of Myanmar Police Force Ye Bala Medal			
1	Maung Aung Phyo Paing		Ministry of Defence
2	Maung Paing Thet Kyaw (aka) Maung Myo Zin Thet		Ministry of Defence
3	Maung Kaung Min Htet		Ministry of Defence
4	U Ye Lin	Civilian/Yeiktha	Ministry of Defence
5	U Kyaw Zin Win	Civilian/Yeiktha	Ministry of Defence
6	U Kyaw Ye Htut		Sagaing Region
7	U Zaw Min Tun		Sagaing Region
8	U Maung Swe Win		Sagaing Region
9	U Nay Htet Lin		Sagaing Region
10	U Tin Moe Win		Sagaing Region

11	U Saw Oo		Sagaing Region
12	U Hsan Lin		Magway Region
13	U Thurein Tun		Magway Region
14	U Hein Sithu		Magway Region
15	U San Tin Win		Magway Region
16	U Kyaw Zay Oo		Magway Region
17	U Yan Naing Oo		Magway Region
18	U Myo Min Thu		Magway Region
19	U Min Lwin		Magway Region
20	U Htet Wai Oo		Magway Region
21	U Kyaw Lin Oo		Magway Region
22	U Htay Lwin		Magway Region
23	U Myint Khaing		Magway Region
24	U Min Naing Oo		Magway Region
25	U Thant Zin Oo		Magway Region
26	U Hlaing Min Swe		Magway Region
27	U Hein Thant Ko		Magway Region
28	U Zaw Myo Aung		Magway Region
29	U Thein Zaw Oo		Magway Region
30	U Zaw Myo Nyein		Magway Region
31	U Aye Zaw		Magway Region
32	U Lin Htin		Magway Region

Sd/ Min Aung Hlaing
Senior General
Acting President

NATIONAL

Residents Urged to Prioritize Public Safety Amid Armed Terrorist Threats

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

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

Dinner hosted to hail 81st Anniversary of Armed Forces Day 2026

AS a gesture of honouring the 81st Anniversary of Armed Forces Day 2026, Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla hosted a dinner at the square of Zeyathiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening.

On the occasion, fireworks were launched from the Armed Forces Day Parade Ground and the Bayintnaung Villa to hail the 81st Anniversary of Armed Forces Day.

The Senior General and his wife cordially greeted Commission Vice-Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Commission Secretary Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Ye Win Oo and his wife, Commission Member Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Kyaw Swa Lin and his wife, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Htein Win and his wife, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Tun Aung and his wife, commission members, Union-level dignitaries and their wives, families of the Thirty Comrades, families of retired Commanders-in-Chief of Defence Services, retired senior Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) officers, Independence Mawgun award winners, advisors, deputy ministers, retired Tatmadaw member ambassadors, military attaches and officials of foreign military attache offices, representatives of ethnic armed organizations which signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement,



State Security and Peace Commission Chairman and Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing warmly greets attending dignitaries (above) at yesterday's dinner, hosted by him and his wife, Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, in honour of the 81st Anniversary of Armed Forces Day 2026 (below).

chairpersons and officials from political parties, families and relatives of Aung San Thuriya title winners, officers, other ranks and families who secured the Thiha Thura title, Thura title and Tatmadaw gallantry title winners and gallantry medal

winners, members of the Myanmar War Veterans Organization, Myanmar Police Force, Myanmar Fire Brigade and Myanmar Red Cross Society, chairpersons and officials of the organizations, artistes who participated in the dramas honouring the Armed

Forces Day, winners in the military and marching song contests and poem, short story and novel contests, members of University Training Corps, teachers and students from the University for the Development of the National Races, and guests.

The Senior General and his wife had dinner together with attendees.

Before and during the dinners, the Myawady Entertainment Troupe presented song entertainment.

After the dinner, the Senior General and his wife cordially greeted the attendees, watched the launching of fireworks and left the ceremony.

The Vice-Senior General and attendees enjoyed the songs, dances and choral dances performed by the Myawady Entertainment Troupe at the Thabin Hall of Zeyathiri Beikman.

The Vice-Senior General presented the flower basket to male and female Tatmadaw members and cordially greeted the attendees.

As a gesture of hailing the 81st Anniversary of Armed Forces Day, the entrance road to the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) was decorated with figures of naval vessels, aircraft, helicopters and machinery, and three kings who established first, second and third Myanmar empires with lighting. — MNA/TTA



NATIONAL

Tatmadaw's leadership to change following 81st Armed Forces Day



A ceremony to pay respect to retired senior Tatmadaw officers is underway on the eve of the 81st Anniversary of Armed Forces Day, attended by State Security and Peace Commission Vice-Chairman and Defence Services Deputy Commander-in-Chief Vice-Senior General Soe Win and his wife, Daw Than Than Nwe.

FAMILIES of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) paid respect to retired senior Tatmadaw officers who had served Tatmadaw and who will attend the parade of the 81st Anniversary of Armed Forces Day, which falls on 27 March, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

The ceremony was attended by 18 retired senior Tatmadaw officers and their nine wives, respectively.

State Security and Peace Commission Vice-Chairman and Defence Services Deputy Commander-in-Chief Vice-Senior General Soe Win and his wife Daw Than Than Nwe, attended the event on behalf of Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, together with Commission Secretary and Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Ye Win Oo and his wife, Commission Member and Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Kyaw Swa Lin and wife, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army, Navy and Air) and their wives paid respect to the retired senior Tatmadaw officers.

In extending greetings on

behalf of the Senior General, the Vice-Senior General expressed gratitude and pride, on behalf of the entire Tatmadaw, for the opportunity to meet all the veterans and mentors who had proudly attended the event, noting that this year's 81st Anniversary ceremony was a special occasion.

He stated that before the Armed Forces Day ceremony, a free and fair multiparty democratic general election, facilitated by the State Security and Peace Commission, had been successfully held in three phases across 263 townships, with 54.22 per cent of eligible voters

casting their ballots systematically and voluntarily. He added that the people had elected parties and candidates who could effectively serve the interests of their regions and country.

Currently, the elected representatives are carrying out their duties in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw, and a new democratic government will soon emerge with the President and Vice-Presidents, and the State responsibilities will be transferred to the new democratic government.

Similarly, he said that leadership changes would also occur

within Tatmadaw after the 81st Armed Forces Day ceremony. Irrespective of who leads, Tatmadaw will continue to follow the guidance of successive leaders, advisors and mentors, as well as established military doctrines and policies. He emphasized that Tatmadaw will continue to dutifully carry out its primary responsibility of safeguarding the nation and will work in coordination with the government in line with its policies.

He added that Tatmadaw's ability to lead and defend the country up to the present time is due to the guidance and teachings passed down through successive generations of leaders, veterans and mentors, before and after independence. He appealed to all senior veterans and mentors to continue providing good guidance for the development of Tatmadaw on behalf of its members and their families.

He pledged that Tatmadaw will continue to fulfil its core duty of national defence, uphold the Our Three Main National Causes, and carry out its responsibilities in line with the policies set by the government.

The Vice-Senior General and his wife, and senior Tat-

madaw officers and their wives, on behalf of the families of the Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air), paid respect to retired senior Tatmadaw officers in pursuance of Myanmar traditions.

On behalf of the retired senior Tatmadaw officers, General (Retd) Thein Sein said that inviting and paying homage to those who had served in duties in Tatmadaw on every Armed Forces Day is a good tradition. Tatmadaw should be a powerful and innovative Tatmadaw, and the government that will emerge soon also should focus on the interests of the country, the rule of law, the welfare of the people and the socioeconomy of the country. As such, Tatmadaw plays a key role in the State's peace and tranquillity.

The Vice-Senior General and his wife, and senior Tatmadaw officers and their wives, respectfully presented gifts to the retired senior Tatmadaw officers and their wives.

The Vice-Senior General and senior Tatmadaw officers posed for documentary photos together with the retired senior Tatmadaw officers and their wives and cordially greeted them. — MNA/KTZH



The Vice-Senior General presents gifts to General (Retd) Thein Sein at yesterday's event.

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NATIONAL

SSPC Vice-Chairman Defence Services Deputy C-in-C and his wife pay respects to retired senior Tatmadaw officers



Images show State Security and Peace Commission Vice-Chair and Defence Services Deputy Commander-in-Chief Vice-Senior General Soe Win and his wife, Daw Than Than Nwe, visiting and paying respects to retired senior Tatmadaw officers and their spouses.

YESTERDAY morning, on behalf of Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, State Security and Peace Commission Vice-Chairman and Defence Services Deputy

Commander-in-Chief Vice-Senior General Soe Win and his wife Daw Than Than Nwe visited and paid their respects to retired senior Tatmadaw officers and their wives, who were temporarily staying at Bayintnaung Villa in Nay Pyi Taw to attend the 81st Anniversary of Armed Forces Day

parade on 27 March 2026.

During the meeting, Vice-Senior General Soe Win and his wife personally greeted the retired senior Tatmadaw officers and their wives, enquired warmly about their health and social needs, and coordinated efforts to address those needs.

Vice-Senior General Soe Win also expressed his gratitude to those attending the Armed Forces Day parade, and discussed Tatmadaw's efforts to preserve its good traditions, strengthen its capabilities, and carry out important work to ensure national peace and stability. The retired senior

Tatmadaw officers expressed their pride and joy at being able to attend the Armed Forces Day parade, and conveyed their gratitude for the Tatmadaw's excellent traditions of caring for and supporting them like parents and mentors, as well as offering other words of advice. — MNA/TH

Artistes and literary prize winners feted at 81st Armed Forces Day ceremony

A ceremony to present awards and certificates of honour to artistes who performed in the commemorative drama The Arduous Journey Across the Sea of Clouds, produced in honour of the 81st Anniversary of Armed Forces Day, as well as to literary scholars who won awards for commemorative military march songs, soldiers' songs, poems, and short stories, was held yesterday evening at the Bayintnaung Villa in Nay Pyi Taw.

The event was attended by General Kyaw Swa Lin, Member of the State Security and Peace Commission and Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air), senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Command-



SSPC Member and Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Kyaw Swa Lin addresses the awards ceremony for Armed Forces Day commemorative drama performers and artistes, including literary scholars.

er-in-Chief, the Commander of the Nay Pyi Taw Command, responsible officials, and guests.

General Kyaw Swa Lin delivered an opening address. Afterwards, Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Zaw Hein, Chief of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Pyae Sone Lin, Commander of the Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Kyi Thaik, and Director of the Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare Brig-Gen Ye Yint Aung presented awards and certificates of honour.

Following the ceremony, General Kyaw Swa Lin hosted a tea reception for the attendees and warmly greeted them. — MNA/KN

NATIONAL

Formation of Hluttaw Rights Committee, Government Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee approved

THE first regular session of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw continued for the fourth day at the convention hall of the Pyithu Hluttaw at the Hluttaw Complex in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The messages of felicitations sent by international communities to Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi were documented, and the Hluttaw approved the formation of the Hluttaw Rights Committee and the Government Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee.

The Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw announced that, out of a total of 373 Pyithu Hluttaw representatives eligible to attend the fourth day of the First Regular Session of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw, 370 representatives were present at today's meeting. As the attendance rate was 99.20 per cent, it met the quorum requirement, and the session was declared open.

The attendance at the meet-



The fourth-day meeting of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw's first regular session convened yesterday, chaired by Speaker U Khin Yi.

ing was approved and documented by the Hluttaw.

The Speaker submitted the messages of felicitations to him for his election as the Pyithu Hluttaw sent by the Chair of National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China, the Chair of Belaya Rus Party of the

Republic of Belarus, the chair of the State Duma of the Russian Federation, the Minister for International Department of the CPC Central Committee, and the Vice-Chair of the Russia-Myanmar Friendship and Cooperation Association to the Hluttaw and these were documented.

The Speaker sought approval for the formation of the Hluttaw Rights Committee and its responsibilities, authority, rights, term and committee meetings. Hence, the committee formed with 15 members, including Chair U Maung Maung Ohn from the Tatkun Constituency

and Secretary Dr Kyaw Kyaw Htay from the Dawei Constituency, its responsibilities, authority, rights, term and meetings of the committee were approved by the Hluttaw.

Furthermore, the Hluttaw approved the Government Guarantees, Pledges, Undertakings Vetting Committee organized with 15 members, including Chair U Than Tun Oo from the Kengtung Constituency and Secretary U Than Tun from the Patheingyi Constituency, its responsibilities, authority, rights, term and committee meetings.

The Speaker reported that as the Pyithu Hluttaw's Hluttaw Rights Committee has been formed, the committee will continuously serve duties and functions for verifying Pyithu Hluttaw representatives.

The fourth-day session of the Pyithu Hluttaw was adjourned, and the date and time for the fifth-day session will be announced. — MNA/TTA

2nd day of 3rd Shan State Hluttaw commences

THE second day of the first regular session of the Third Shan State Hluttaw was organized at the Shan State Hluttaw yesterday.

Speaker U Sai Lone Kyaw of the Shan State Hluttaw announced that, out of a total of 132 State Hluttaw representatives eligible to attend the second day of the First Regular Session of the Third Shan State Hluttaw, 128 representatives were present at today's meeting. With an attendance rate of 96.97 per cent, the session met the quorum requirement and was declared open.

He then read out the message sent by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe to the occasion.

Deputy Speaker U Sai Tun Sein clarified the terms, responsibilities, authority and rights of the legislative committee, and the Speaker submitted a proposal to Hluttaw stating that



The second-day meeting of the Third Shan State Hluttaw is underway yesterday, presided over by Speaker U Sai Lone Kyaw.

the legislative committee will be formed with 12 members, chaired by State Hluttaw representative U De Gaulle from the Hopong Constituency 2.

The Deputy Speaker briefed the terms, responsibilities,

authority and rights of the ethnic affairs committee, and the Speaker submitted a proposal to Hluttaw stating that the ethnic affairs committee will be formed with 15 members, chaired by State Hluttaw

representative U Khun Han Thein Oo from the Maukmai Constituency 1.

The Deputy Speaker clarified terms, responsibilities, authority and rights of the State Hluttaw Representative Scr-

tiny Committee. The Speaker submitted a proposal to the Hluttaw stating that the State Hluttaw Representative Scrutiny Committee will be formed with six members, chaired by State Hluttaw representative U Khin Aung Swe from the Lashio Constituency 2.

The Deputy Speaker clarified terms, responsibilities, authority and rights of the Regional Planning and Budget Utilizing Committee. The Speaker submitted a proposal to the Hluttaw stating that the Regional Planning and Budget Utilizing Committee will be formed with 11 members, chaired by State Hluttaw representative U Aung Kyaw Nyunt from the Yaksaw Constituency 1.

The second-day meeting of the first regular session of the Third Shan State Hluttaw was adjourned, and the third-day meeting will be held at 10 am on 30 March. — Sai El Bel/KTZH

NATIONAL

Formation of four Hluttaw committees approved at Amyotha Hluttaw

THE first regular session of the Third Amyotha Hluttaw continued for the third day at the Amyotha Hluttaw building at the Hluttaw Complex in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

At the meeting, the Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw, U Aung Lin Dwe, announced that all 213 Amyotha Hluttaw representatives who were eligible to attend the third day of the First Regular Session of the Third Amyotha Hluttaw were present. As attendance reached 100 per cent, the quorum requirement was met, and the session was declared open. The attendance record was then submitted to the Hluttaw for approval and officially documented.

The Speaker sought the approval from the Hluttaw to approve the nomination of the Bill Committee formed with 15 members, including Chair Daw Nwe Nwe Oo from the Ayeyawady Region First-past-the-post (FTPT System)



The third-day meeting of the Third Amyotha Hluttaw's first regular session is held yesterday, presided over by Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe.

Constituency 2 and Secretary U Zin Min Htet from the Bago Region (PR System) Constituency 1, with responsibilities, authority, rights and terms of the committee. The Amyotha Hluttaw approved it.

The Speaker also sought approval for the nomination of

the Public Accounts Committee formed with 15 members, including Chair U Chit Swe from the Ayeyawady Region (PR system) Constituency 2 and Secretary U Than Aung from the Taninthayi Region (FTPT System) Constituency 2, with responsibilities, authority,

rights and terms of the committee. The Amyotha Hluttaw approved it.

Furthermore, the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker sought the approval of the Amyotha Hluttaw and approved the formation of Hluttaw Rights Committee with 15 members led by

Chair Jeng Phang Naw Taung from the Kachin State (FTPT System) Constituency 2 and Secretary U Aung Tin Myint from the Ayeyawady Region (PR System) Constituency 1, along with responsibilities, authority, rights and terms, and the Hluttaw approved it.

The Speaker sought approval for the formation of the Government Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee, chaired by U Hla Thein from the Bago Region (PR System) Constituency 2, together with Secretary U Yan Naing Oo from the Yangon Region (PR System) Constituency 2, with responsibilities of the committee, authority, rights and terms. The Hluttaw approved it.

The third-day session of the Amyotha Hluttaw was adjourned, and the fourth-day timetable will be announced in advance. — MNA/TTA

President's Office Ministry 2 UM attends reception for 55th Independence and National Day of Bangladesh

UNION Minister for the Ministry 2 of the President's Office, U Ko Ko Hlaing, and his wife attended a reception to commemorate the 55th Independence Day and National Day of Bangladesh held at the Lotte Hotel in Yangon yesterday evening.

Upon their arrival, the Union minister and his wife, along with other distinguished guests, were warmly greeted by Ambassador of Bangladesh to Myanmar Dr Md Monwar Hossain, his wife, and embassy officials.

The proceedings commenced with the playing of the national anthems of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the People's Republic of Bangladesh, followed by a welcoming



Union Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing joins the group photo session of the reception for the 55th Independence Day and National Day of Bangladesh yesterday.

address delivered by Ambassador Dr Md Monwar Hossain. To

mark the milestone anniversary, the Union minister and his wife

joined the ambassador and his wife in the ceremonial cutting

of a commemorative cake. After posing for documentary photographs with the attendees, the ambassador and his wife hosted a dinner for the invitees.

The event was well-attended by high-ranking officials and the diplomatic community, including Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein and his wife, the deputy minister for Foreign Affairs and his wife, and the mayor of Yangon City and his wife, officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as ambassadors, chargés d'affaires, military attachés from various Yangon-based foreign embassies, and resident representatives of the United Nations agencies. — MNA/KNN

Tatmadaw's joint efforts with the people should not be forgotten

The Myanmar Tatmadaw, which has always borne responsibility for the nation and the people, will celebrate the 81st Anniversary of Armed Forces Day on 27 March 2026. The Tatmadaw has a long historical tradition of defending and safeguarding the country and sovereignty across successive eras, and it has consistently played a leading role in protecting the nation during times of crisis.

During the colonial period, although nationwide resistance movements against colonialism were carried out, they did not

achieve success due to a lack of systematic organization and insufficient armaments. The entire national population was subjected to unjust oppression, and valuable natural resources within the country were exploited and extracted for colonial profit.

Members of the Young Men's Buddhist Association and the General Council of Burmese Associations concluded that independence could not be achieved through political means alone and that it could only be attained through armed struggle. As a result, 30 young volunteers, known as the "Thirty Comrades," secretly went abroad to receive military training from Japan in preparation for armed resistance against colonial rule.

Tatmadaw has faced various experiences in its successive eras, such as the Burma Independence Army, the Burma Defence Army, and the Burma National Army, and drove out British colonialists and Japanese Fascists from Myanmar, sacrificing the lives

and limbs of Tatmadaw members and people across the nation.

On 27 March 1945, when Tatmadaw, together with the ethnic national peoples, launched a united uprising and drove out the fascist Japanese forces in the struggle for national independence, it was designated as Armed Forces Day in honour of that historic occasion. The Armed Forces Day has been commemorated annually with set objectives, and by 2026, it will mark its 81st anniversary.

According to the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Tatmadaw takes a leadership role in the national politics. National politics here does not refer to party politics, but rather to state affairs aimed at maintaining peace, stability, and national development. Tatmadaw has been serving the national politics with farsightedness to benefit the nation and the people in the long run by emphasizing the various perspectives on geopolitics, which is very important for the nation.

Tatmadaw has paved the way for a multiparty democracy that all the people aspire to. Tatmadaw remains a strong institution that consistently protects national and public interests under all circumstances. As it marks its 81st anniversary on 27 March 2026, it continues to stand as a steadfast organization dedicated to the nation and its people.

According to the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Tatmadaw takes a leadership role in the national politics. National politics here does not refer to party politics, but rather to state affairs aimed at maintaining peace, stability, and national development. Tatmadaw has been serving the national politics with farsightedness to benefit the nation and the people in the long run by emphasizing the various perspectives on geopolitics, which is very important for the nation.

Introduction

In approaching the three weighty terms – **State**, **Sovereignty**, and **Armed Forces** – it becomes clear that their meanings extend far beyond the confines of formal definitions. Yet, to appreciate their deeper implications for a nation and its people, it is essential to begin with how they are understood in global and local lexicons.

According to **Oxford**, a *state* is “a nation or territory considered as an organized political community under one government”, while **Merriam-Webster** describes it as “a politically organized body of people usually occupying a definite territory”. In Myanmar’s commonly used **English-Myanmar dictionaries**, the word *state* is rendered as နိုင်ငံ, an entity defined not only by borders and administration but by the collective identity of its citizens.

The term **sovereignty**, as Oxford notes, is “supreme power or authority,” and Merriam-Webster similarly defines it as “freedom from external control” or “controlling influence”. Locally, it is translated as အာဏာလွတ်မြောက်ခြင်း or အာဏာပိုင်ခွင့်မြေပိုင်ခွင့်အပြည့်အဝ or (လွတ်လပ်သော) အချုပ်အခြာအာဏာ, emphasizing independence, self-rule, and the undivided authority of a nation to determine its own path.

As for **armed forces**, Oxford frames them as “the military organizations of a country”, while Merriam-Webster identifies them as “the combined military, naval, and air forces of a nation”. In Myanmar dictionaries, the term appears as လုံခြုံရေးအဖွဲ့အစည်းများ or more specifically တပ်မတော်, signalling not only the institutional structure but the profound national expectations placed upon it.



I Say What I See: State, Sovereignty, and Armed Forces

Definitions give shape to words, but nations give meaning to them.

Yet, beyond these formal explanations, the nuances of these words – *state*, *sovereignty*, and *armed forces* – carry layers of collective sentiment, historical experience, and national consciousness. Their meanings shape how a people understand their identity, their place in the world, and their shared responsibility in upholding the integrity of their nation. In this essay, I seek to explore not only what these words define, but also what they imply, demand, and reveal when viewed through the lens of lived experience.

Historical Reflections: From Burma to Myanmar

When considering the ideas of **state**, **sovereignty**, and **armed forces** within our own national context, it becomes necessary to look across the arc of our history, from the era when the country was known internationally as **Burma** to the modern period in which it is recognized as **Myanmar**. Throughout these transitions, the essence of the state has remained anchored in the same foundational pillars: a land, a people, and the authority that binds them together:

During the period when the name *Burma* was widely used, the structure of the state was shaped by the challenges of colonial rule, the quest for self-determination, and the early attempts at nation-building. Sovereignty, in those years, was not merely a constitutional term but a longed-for condition

By @Editor

– something to be reclaimed, defended, and redefined. The concept of *armed forces* likewise evolved during this time, emerging as a symbol of resistance, protection, and the aspiration towards national unity.

As the nation later adopted the name **Myanmar**, the idea of sovereignty became more than a historical achievement; it became a responsibility to be maintained amid changing political, social, and economic landscapes. The modern state had to navigate internal diversity, development priorities, and the pressures of an increasingly interconnected world. In this context, the role of the armed forces has continually been interpreted in relation to national security, territorial integrity, and the safeguarding of the state’s sovereign standing.

Across both periods – *Burma* and *Myanmar* – one constant is clear: the meaning of the state has always extended beyond administrative structures or constitutional texts. It has embodied the collective aspirations of its people, the preservation of its cultural and geographic identity, and the enduring determination to remain self-governing. Sovereignty, therefore, has not been a static achievement but a living, evolving principle, tested by circumstances and strengthened by the nation’s resilience.

The armed forces, likewise, hold significance not only as an institution but as one of the key components of the state’s architecture. Their role, whether in earlier decades or in the present era, is inseparable from the

broader question of how a nation protects itself, maintains stability, and upholds its integrity.

This long view, from *Burma* to *Myanmar*, reveals how these three terms have grown, shifted, and deepened within our national narrative. Their definitions may be found in dictionaries, but their true meanings live in the lived experiences of the country and its citizens.

Conclusion

In examining the terms **state**, **sovereignty**, and **armed forces**, it becomes clear that their meanings extend far beyond official definitions and historical timelines. Whether in the era of *Burma* or the present day of *Myanmar*, these words represent more than political structures or institutional arrangements. They embody the collective will of a people, the dignity of a nation determining its own course, and the mechanisms through which stability and security are preserved.

A state thrives not only on its territorial boundaries or administrative systems but on the shared understanding that its citizens belong to something greater than themselves. Sovereignty, likewise, is not simply declared; it is exercised through unity, protected through vigilance, and strengthened by mutual trust between the governed and those entrusted with authority. The armed forces, as part of this national fabric, hold a responsibility that is both practical and symbolic, serving as guardians of the country’s independence and as a reminder of the weight carried by those who defend the state’s integrity.

As we reflect on these intertwined concepts, it becomes evident that they form the foundation upon which a nation stands. To understand them is to recognize not only what a country is, but what it aspires to be. And to appreciate their nuances is to see, with clarity, the relationship between land and people, authority and responsibility, identity and continuity. In this sense, the strength of the state, the depth of its sovereignty, and the role of its armed forces reveal the enduring story of a nation navigating its path through history and into the future.

A nation endures when its people understand not only their land, but also the principles that hold it together.

The Neuroscience of “No”: A Small Word with the Architecture of the Self

The Gatekeeper of the Mind

IN every language, the word “no” is small, almost fragile in sound – yet in the architecture of the human mind, it stands like a gatekeeper. To refuse is not merely a social gesture; it is a neurological act, a quiet assertion that the self has boundaries. As the proverb reminds us, “Good fences make good neighbours”. In the brain, those fences are neither rigid nor hostile; they are the very lines that make identity possible. In Buddhist thought, this boundary-making echoes Sati (mindfulness) – the capacity to observe and choose rather than react. A

wise refusal is not rejection of the world, but clarity about one’s place within it.

Early Childhood: Drawing the First Boundaries

The origins of “no” can be traced to early childhood, when a toddler’s defiance is often mistaken for disobedience. In truth, it is the brain rehearsing autonomy. The developing prefrontal cortex – still in its formative stage – begins to coordinate impulse, intention, and choice. Each small refusal is like a brushstroke on a blank canvas, outlining the contours of a self not yet fully formed. Far from rebellion, this is construction. In

Buddhist terms, this stage reflects the early shaping of Saṅkhāra (mental formations), where patterns of intention begin to take root, gradually forming the habits that will define character.

Adolescence: The Struggle Between Impulse and Control

Adolescence deepens this process. The brain becomes a site of tension between a highly responsive reward system and an as-yet-maturing capacity for restraint. When a young person says “no” to peer pressure or immediate gratification, it is not simply a moral decision but a neurological triumph of inhibition over

impulse. As the old saying goes, “He who conquers himself is the mightiest warrior.” This mirrors the Buddhist principle of Right Effort – the disciplined cultivation of wholesome states and the restraint of unwholesome ones. Each refusal strengthens not only neural circuits but also the ethical muscle of self-regulation.

Trauma and Healing: Rebuilding the Inner House

For those shaped by trauma, the word “no” may be buried under layers of fear and learned helplessness. Trauma disturbs the brain’s sense of agency, amplifying threat perception while dulling internal

By Khin Maung Myint

awareness. In such contexts, relearning to say “no” is not a matter of etiquette but of healing. It reactivates pathways of self-protection and restores a sense of internal safety. One might say that the ability to refuse is the first stone laid in rebuilding a shattered house. In Buddhist understanding, this aligns with the gradual cessation of Dukkha (suffering): reclaiming agency is part of the path towards inner freedom, where one is no longer driven solely by fear or conditioning.

Culture: The Many Languages of Refusal

Culture colours the expres-

sion of refusal. In some societies, “no” is spoken plainly; in others, it is softened into silence, gesture, or polite indirection. Yet beneath these variations lies a universal cognitive act. Whether direct or veiled, the brain engages the same systems of evaluation, inhibition, and boundary-setting. The form may differ, but the function re-

mains constant: to preserve the delicate balance between self and society. As another proverb suggests, “The bamboo that bends is stronger than the oak that resists.” This resonates with the Buddhist Middle Way – neither rigid denial nor passive compliance, but a skilful response shaped by wisdom and compassion.



Phonetically simple and developmentally early, “no” is among the first tools with which the human mind shapes its world.

Conclusion: The Quiet Strength of Saying “No”

Phonetically simple and developmentally early, “no” is among the first tools with which the human mind shapes its world. Neuroscience now affirms what wisdom traditions have long implied: we define ourselves not only by what we accept, but by what we decline. In Buddhist philosophy, true freedom lies not in unrestrained desire but in understanding it, and, when necessary, gently refusing it. In an age that often equates agreement with virtue and compliance with harmony, it is worth remembering that a thoughtful “no” is not an act of discord. It is, rather, the sound of a mindful, disciplined, and self-aware mind – one that knows its boundaries, and in knowing them, moves closer to peace.

NATIONAL

MRCSC conducts training on Household Assessment for Transitional Shelters

THE Myanmar Red Cross Society, in collaboration with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, conducted an “On-the-Job Training on Household Assessment for Transitional Shelter Assistance” from 18 to 20 March at the Myanmar Red Cross Society head office in Nay Pyi Taw.

Attending the opening ceremony were the Nay Pyi Taw Red Cross Supervisory Committee chairman, the director and deputy director of the Disaster Management Department, other responsible officials, and Red Cross volunteers. At the ceremony, Myanmar Red Cross Society Vice-President Dr Daw Tin Tin Lay delivered an opening address, while U Myint Tun Han, Director of the Administration Department of MRCSC, gave welcoming remarks.

A total of 25 Red Cross volunteers from Tatkon Township, Pyinmana Township, and Lewe Township attended the training. — ASH/KNN



Participants and officials are seen at the On-the-Job Training on Household Assessment for Transitional Shelter Assistance.

Mandalay jolted by 4.2 quake, reviving memories of past destruction

ACCORDING to a statement issued by the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology, an earthquake measuring magnitude 4.2 on the Richter scale struck at 7:36:52 pm Myanmar Standard Time on 26 March.

The epicentre was located approximately 30 kilometres southeast of Mandalay, about two miles east of Mahaaungmyay Township, at a depth of around 12 kilometres underground.

The tremor was clearly felt by residents in Mandalay, with people living in high-rise buildings reportedly rushing down. It was also reported that residents in PyinOoLwin experienced the earthquake.

“It was around half past seven when the earthquake struck, and it was very strong. There was even a loud rum-

bling sound. I had experienced one before, so I was really frightened. As soon as I realized what was happening, I ran out onto the road in front of my house,” said a local woman.

Previously, on the afternoon of 28 March 2025, a pow-

erful earthquake measuring magnitude 7.7 on the Richter scale, centred near Mandalay and Sagaing, resulted in the deaths of hundreds of people in Mandalay and caused extensive damage to buildings.

— Htun Htun/KNN



People are seen on the road after the earthquake that occurred on the night of 26 March.

Myanmar-China media meeting for first quarter of 2026 held



This photo features the Myanmar-China media meeting for the first quarter of 2026.

THE Myanmar-China media meeting for the first quarter of 2026 was held on the morning of 25 March at the Royal Lake View Conference Room of the Wyndham Grand Hotel in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Yangon Region.

The Myanmar-China media meeting was attended by Ambassador Ms Ma Jia of the Embassy of the People’s Re-

public of China to Myanmar, Minister Counsellor Dr Zheng Zhihong, Chinese and Myanmar media representatives, and experts from various fields. Ambassador Ms Ma Jia delivered the opening remarks at the meeting.

The Myanmar-Chinese media in attendance then discussed issues related to the Third Session of the 14th Nation-

al Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), which was held in China on 4 March.

The discussions were reviewed by Minister Counsellor Dr Zheng Zhihong before he delivered a closing speech and concluded the Myanmar-China media meeting for the first quarter of 2026 in the afternoon.

— ASH/TH

Temporary residence permits slated for Jan Yoma Yeiktha unit buyers

FOR units at the Yoma Yeiktha Housing sold on 16 January 2026, a temporary residence permit will be issued in April, the Department of Urban and Housing Development announced on 26 March.

The department said a temporary residence permit will be issued to eligible buyers of units in buildings 48 and 51 of Yoma Yeiktha, which were sold under the home loan development project.

The notification letter will be issued at the department office on Bogyoke Aung San Road in Botahtaung Township, as of 2 April, during office hours.

Original ID card with a copy and a copy of the household list are required for taking out the notification letter in person, it said. For those who are unable to come in person, an original letter of attorney, an original and



This image depicts units at the Yoma Yeiktha Housing.

a copy of the owner’s ID, the represented person’s ID and a copy of the household list are required.

For further details, enquiries may be directed to the department at 09 795824722. — MT/ZS

DICA: 400 companies fail to file AR in Jan-Feb

FOUR hundred companies were struck off the register in January-February 2026 as they failed to file annual returns (AR) on the online registry system, MyCO, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

The DICA notified those companies which failed to file their AR on the MyCO were struck off the register from the date of the directive, under Section 430 (F) of the Myanmar Companies Law, according to the DICA's notification.

The DICA report showed the failure of 200 companies in January. A total of 7,300 companies in 2025 and 19,000 in 2024 also failed to submit the AR.

The registration and re-registration of companies on the MyCO website commenced on 1 August 2018, in keeping with the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.



The general front view of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) in downtown Yangon.

All registered companies need to submit AR on the MyCO registry system within two months of incorporation, and at least once every year (not later than one month after the anniversary of the incorporation), according to Section 97

of the law.

Under Section 266 (A) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017, public companies must submit annual returns and financial statements (G-5) simultaneously. All overseas corporations must submit ARs in

the prescribed format on MyCO within 28 days of the financial year ending, under Section 53 (A-1) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

As per DICA's report, thousands of companies were suspended for failing to submit AR

forms before the due date. Newly established companies are required to submit ARs within two months of incorporation or face a fine of K100,000 for filing late returns.

The DICA has notified that any company which fails to submit its AR within 13 months will be notified of its suspension (I-9A). If it fails to submit the AR within 28 days of receiving the notice, the system will show the company's status as suspended. Companies can restore their status only after shelling out a fine of K50,000 for the AR fee, K100,000 for restoration of the company on the Register, and K100,000 for late filing of documents, totalling K250,000. If a company fails to restore its status within six months of suspension, the registrar will strike its name off the register, according to the DICA notice. — NN/KK

CBM to sell US\$26M to fuel businesses



A tanker is seen docking at the terminal of Thilawa Port.

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) announced on 25 March that it would inject US\$26 million into 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.

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 made a \$45 million injection 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 edible 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 the 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, with over \$1.38 million to

edible oil-importing companies on 19 March. \$1.84 million on 18 March, \$1.55 on 17 March, \$2.38 million on 16 March, \$1.98 million on 13 March, \$1.85 million on 12 March, over one million dollars on 11 March, \$2.1 million on 10 March, \$1.97 million on 9 March, \$1.96 million on 6 March, \$2.65 million on 5 March, over \$1.24 million on 4 March and \$1 million on 3 March to the edible oil sector, respectively. Additionally, CBM injected \$1 million into the fuel oil import industry on 3 March. CBM injected foreign currencies 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

Vacant land of No 24 Heavy Industry (Dagon) put up for tender

NO 2 Heavy Industries Enterprise under the Ministry of Industry invited domestic and foreign companies to submit a tender for the short-term lease of vacant land owned by No 24 Heavy Industry (Dagon).

The vacant land is located at Plot 513A, Mogok Road, Ward 23, Industrial Zone 1, Dagon Myothit (South) Township, Yangon Region. The land will be leased to private entrepreneurs for a short term of five years to carry out industrial product manufacturing, food product manufacturing, and warehousing operations.

The vacant land is classified Tender No 1: Plot 513A, vacant land area of 0.69 acre, and Tender No 2: Plot 513A, vacant land area of 0.70 acre.

Interested individuals can purchase the proposal form for their desired tender number and

submit the tender accordingly.

Therefore, domestic and foreign companies wishing to invest must submit their tender applications to the Administration Department, No 2 Heavy Industries Enterprise, Ministry of Industry in Nay Pyi Taw by 3 pm on 31 March 2026.

Proposal forms and other relevant documents can be purchased starting from 18 March 2026, at the Administration Department of No 2 Heavy Industries Enterprise by submitting a letter expressing interest in undertaking the business, along with a valid company registration. The tender announcement will also be posted on the ministry's website www.Industry.gov.mm.

For further details regarding the tender, individuals can directly dial 067 408675 and 067 408676. — NN/KK



An entrance signage to Dagon Myothit (South) Township.

ECONOMY
WORLD



Farmers drive agricultural machinery to plant taro in Nanqiao Town of Xingtang County, Shijiazhuang of north China's Hebei Province, 25 March 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA

China revises regulation on national agricultural census

The new rules spell out a post-census spot-check system and confidentiality obligations for census personnel.

CHINESE Premier Li Qiang has signed a State Council decree to publish a revised regulation on national agricultural census, which will take effect on 1 May 2026.

The revisions expand the scope of the census to include rural industrial development and village construction, while introducing new data-collection methods such as remote sensing.

Data quality controls will

be strengthened. The new rules spell out a post-census spot-check system and confidentiality obligations for census personnel.

The revised regulation also takes a tougher stance on data falsification. Those found guilty of fabricating or manipulating statistics face more severe penalties, ranging from higher fines to criminal prosecution.

The changes come as

China prepares to conduct its fourth national agricultural census, aimed at capturing the current picture of agricultural development, rural construction, farmers' living standards and the outcomes of rural reform. The census will cover agricultural production conditions, grain output, new quality productive forces in agriculture, rural development and rural residents' living conditions. — Xinhua

Iran war puts South Asia's Gulf remittances at risk

AS the rich Arab states of the Arabian Gulf are targeted by Iranian drones and missiles, protracted economic disruption brought on by the Iran war could threaten the hundreds of billions of dollars in remittances sent home every year by millions of South Asian foreign workers in the region.

Most of them come from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, and for decades they have helped drive the Gulf nations' economic boom, taking jobs in construction, hospitality, tourism and health care.

Their remittances have not only provided families at home with essential income, but also

become a major source of foreign currency inflows for India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, acting like a financial cushion for their economies, and helping cover trade deficits.

With energy infrastructure under attack and oil and gas transit blocked in the Strait of Hormuz, the combination of prolonged high energy prices and a drop in remittances could pose a double threat for these developing economies.

India is the world's largest recipient of remittances, with record high inflows amounting to \$135 billion (€117 billion) in 2025, according to government data. — ANI



Most of them come from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, and for decades they have helped drive the Gulf nations' economic boom, taking jobs in construction, hospitality, tourism and healthcare. PHOTO: ISTOCK

Brunei sees growth in electric, hybrid vehicle adoption



PHEVs have emerged as a popular choice among Bruneian drivers. PHOTO: WORLD ENERGY

BRUNEI has recorded a total of 2,000 plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs) and electric vehicles (EVs) as of January 2026, reflecting steady growth in the adoption of greener transportation, a government minister said on Wednesday.

Speaking at a Legislative Council meeting, Pengiran Shamhary Pengiran Haji Mustapha, Brunei's minister of Transport and Infocommunications, said that PHEVs have emerged as a popular choice among Bruneian drivers.

He noted that PHEVs offer a practical transition option from conventional pet-

rol-powered vehicles to fully electric models, allowing users to adapt gradually to new technology while maintaining flexibility.

The minister attributed the growing interest in both PHEVs and EVs to a wider range of models available in the market, along with increasingly competitive pricing.

To support the shift towards electric mobility, Brunei has developed a network of charging infrastructure across the country. Currently, there are 40 charging stations equipped with 45 charging points nationwide. — Xinhua

S Korea to expand fuel tax cuts amid Mideast conflict

SOUTH Korea planned to expand fuel tax cuts amid the continued Middle East conflict, the finance ministry said Thursday.

Starting from Friday, the current tax reduction rates of seven per cent for gasoline and 10 per cent for diesel will be raised to 15 per cent and 25 per cent, respectively, according to the Ministry of Economy and Finance.

The fuel tax per litre, including value-added tax, will drop by 65 won (US\$0.04) to 698 won (\$0.46) for gasoline and by 87 won (\$0.06) to 436 won (\$0.29) for diesel. — Xinhua

Sri Lanka to launch cargo clearance at Hambantota Port in May

SRI Lanka will begin cargo clearance operations at Hambantota Port in May, as the Customs Department completes preparations to extend its services to the southern port.

Customs Director General Seevali Arukgoda said all necessary arrangements have been finalized to support the commencement of clearance activities, which are expected to strengthen the port's operational role in handling imports and transshipment.

The department is also preparing to introduce a pre-arrival clearance system, enabling importers to complete documentation and approval processes before vessels reach the port. The system is intended to reduce turnaround time and improve efficiency in cargo handling.

Customs procedures are now conducted through fully digital platforms. The digitalization drive is also expected to minimize direct interaction between customers and Customs officers, allowing transactions to be completed remotely through online systems.

Hambantota Port, located along a key shipping route in the Indian Ocean, has been expanding its role in logistics and cargo handling. — Xinhua

China to impose additional 55% tariff on Australian beef imports

CHINA'S Ministry of Commerce announced on Thursday that imports of beef from Australia had reached 50 per cent of the annual quota under its safeguard measures, triggering an upcoming tariff adjustment.

According to the ministry, Australian beef imports hit the threshold on Wednesday, and an additional 55 per cent tariff will be imposed on such imports starting on Friday. — Xinhua

M'bishi Electric, Toshiba, Rohm in merger talks for power chip business

ELECTRONICS maker Mitsubishi Electric Corp, industrial conglomerate Toshiba Corp and chipmaker Rohm Co will begin negotiations to merge their power semiconductor device businesses, sources familiar with the matter said Thursday.

The talks come as the Japanese government pushes for greater recognition of, and market share for, Japanese com-



Electronics maker Mitsubishi Electric Corp., industrial conglomerate Toshiba Corp and chipmaker Rohm Co will begin negotiations to merge their power semiconductor device businesses. **PHOTO: PIXABAY**

panies in the chip industry for electric vehicles and amid declining demand the growing dominance

Fertilizer production to dip 10-15% if Middle East issues persist: Crisil Ratings

SUPPLY chain disruptions stemming from the ongoing conflict in the Middle East can potentially impact annual domestic production of both complex fertilizers and urea by 10-15 per cent, according to a report by Crisil Ratings.

Profitability of manufacturers could decline amid lower capacity utilisation due to supply constraints of key raw materials.

The report further noted that the increase in prices of raw materials and imported fertilizers is likely to increase the working capital requirement of players and also raise the subsidy bill of government by Rs20,000-25,000 crore.

Nevertheless, two factors will support credit profiles - firstly, the strong liquidity of large fertilizer



The report further noted that the increase in prices of raw materials and imported fertilizers is likely to increase the working capital requirement of players and also raise the subsidy bill of government by Rs20,000-25,000 crore. **PHOTO: ANI**

companies and secondly, the government's track record of supporting the sector over time with adequate and timely subsidy disbursements, the report stated.

Urea accounts for 45 per cent of fertilizer consumption in India, complex fertilisers (diammonium phosphate, or DAP, and nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium, or NPK) for one-third, and single super phosphate (SSP) and muriate of potash (MOP) for the rest. — ANI

Singapore's factory output slips in February as holiday shutdowns weigh

SINGAPORE'S manufacturing output fell 0.1 per cent year-on-year in February, reversing from January's 12.9 per cent growth, the Singapore Economic Development Board said on Thursday.

On a seasonally adjusted basis, output declined 7.2 per cent month-on-month.

Excluding electronics, which was the only cluster to expand with output up 13.7 per cent from a year earlier, all major industry clusters posted declines. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC SHENGMING VOY.NO. (2605N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC SHENGMING VOY.NO. (2605N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **27-3-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Global South eyes vast opportunities in green finance cooperation

Green and sustainable development is no longer an option but an imperative for the shared future of humanity.



A farmer operates machine to plough fields in Zhongping Village of Changde, central China's Hunan Province, 19 March 2024. PHOTO: LU YE/XINHUA

DEEPENING green finance cooperation among Global South countries is a vital pathway to tackling climate change and advancing sustainable development, participants at the Global South Financiers Forum have noted.

The 2026 Global South Financiers Forum was held in Beijing on 25 and 26 March under the theme “Illuminating Global South,” bringing together heads of financial institutions, experts and industry leaders from home and abroad to exchange views on the achievements and future prospects of green finance cooperation.

Amid mounting climate challenges and a profound shift in the global energy landscape, green and sustainable development is no longer an option but an imperative for the shared future of humanity, participants said at the forum.

“Capital flowing into green sectors in the Global South is becoming evident,” said Wang Zhiheng, president of the Agricultural Bank of China. He added that abundant resources and vast development potential are making the Global South a key destination for green investment. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Australia, Germany to boost defence cooperation

AUSTRALIA and Germany will increase cooperation on defence and space capabilities under agreements announced in Canberra on Thursday.

Australia's Minister for Defence Richard Marles and his German counterpart Boris Pistorius said after meeting at Parliament House in Canberra that the two nations will pursue a status of forces agreement that will make it easier for their defence forces to operate from each other's countries.

Additionally, they announced that Australia and Germany have signed a letter of intent regarding space cooperation and that the Australian government will sign a letter of cooperation with German missile manufacturer TDW. — Xinhua

New Zealand declares state of emergency in Northland amid severe flooding threat

AUTHORITIES in New Zealand's Northland region declared a state of emergency on Thursday as heavy rainfall cut off several communities and closed key highways across the upper North Island.

Nearly 2,000 homes and businesses in Northland were without power, and almost 4,000 students were affected by school closures, local authorities said.

Local councils of the country's northernmost region said the declarations, effective for seven days, would give Civil Defence access to emergency powers to protect lives and property.

A red heavy rain warning remains in place for parts of Northland, with the worst downpours expected later Thursday.

Fire and Emergency New Zealand urged people in low-lying or flood-prone areas to be ready to evacuate. — Xinhua

War in the Middle East: latest developments

Here are the latest developments in the Middle East war:

- # Gulf countries said that they wanted to be involved in any talks between the United States and Iran. “We emphasize the necessity of involving the GCC countries in any talks or agreements to resolve this crisis, in a way that contributes to strengthening their security and stability,” Gulf Cooperation Council Secretary-General Jassem AlBudaiwi said in a televised speech.
- # “NATO nations have done absolutely nothing to help with the lunatic nation, now militarily decimated, of Iran,” US President Donald Trump posted on his Truth Social platform. “The USA needs nothing from NATO”.
- # US President Donald Trump said Thursday that Iran “better get serious soon” in US talks to end the Middle East war.
- # Pakistan's Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar said that indirect negotiations were being held to end the war in Iran. “In reality, US-Iran indirect talks are

- taking place through messages being relayed by Pakistan,” he wrote on X.
- # Canadian Foreign Minister Anita Anand told AFP in an interview that she had spoken to all coun-



Escalated Middle East tensions raised uncertainty over South Korea's financial stability, a central bank report said Thursday. People work at the dealing room of Hana Bank in Seoul, South Korea, 4 March 2026. PHOTO: JUN HYOSANG/XINHUA

- tries impacted in the region and all G7 members “to ensure that we are all collectively advocating for de-escalation and for the opening of the Strait of Hormuz and for a path forward for the Iranian people that preserves their lives.”
- # Defence Minister Israel Katz said that an Israeli airstrike had killed Alireza Tangsiri, commander of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards' navy, along with other senior navy officers.
 - # South Korea's government said it aims to roll out a \$17-billion “wartime” supplementary budget and expand fuel tax cuts to counter rising energy prices, in the latest example of how the war has affected countries across the globe.
 - # Two people were killed and three were wounded by falling debris after air defences intercepted a ballistic missile on the outskirts of Abu Dhabi, the government media office said.
 - # Israel's military said its forces had carried out a wave of strikes across Iran, including in the central city of Isfahan. — AFP

SPORTS

Myanmar futsal team to train in Thailand for ASEAN Championship

THE Myanmar national futsal team will travel to Thailand for pre-tournament training ahead of the 2026 ASEAN Futsal Championship, with a squad of 17 players selected.

The team will depart for Thailand on 29 March and play friendly matches during the training period. Myanmar began preparations on 14 March with 26 preliminary players and later reduced the squad by nine. Fourteen final players will be

selected after the training camp in Thailand.

The 2026 ASEAN Futsal Championship will be held in Thailand from 6 to 12 April. Myanmar are drawn in Group A with Thailand, Vietnam and Timor-Leste, while Group B comprises Indonesia, Australia, Malaysia and Brunei. Myanmar will face Vietnam on 6 April, Thailand on 7 April and Timor-Leste on 9 April in the group stage. — Shine Htet Zaw/KZL



Players from the Myanmar futsal team are seen in a training session.

Myanmar beat Afghanistan in Asian Cup qualifier



Myanmar striker Than Paing attempts a header during the match against Afghanistan.
PHOTO: SOE NYUNT THAW

THE Myanmar national football team defeated the Afghanistan national football team by two goals to one in the 2027 AFC Asian Cup qualification Group E match held at the Thuwunna Youth Training Centre on 26 March.

Before the match, players and officials observed a one-minute silence in memory of former Myanmar national team player and coach U Tin Myint Aung, who passed away on 23 March at the age of 59.

Although Afghanistan were scheduled to host the match, they were unable to stage it at home. The game was initially planned to be played in Qatar but was later held in Myanmar due to the situation in some Middle Eastern countries. As a result, Myanmar played both legs at home and won both matches.

Afghanistan took the lead in 10 minutes through Omid following a mistake by Myanmar

goalkeeper San Satt Nang. Myanmar pushed forward for an equalizer, and striker Than Paing scored just before half-time. Substitute Khun Kyaw Zin Hein netted the winning goal in 74 minutes.

After five matches, Myanmar have nine points, while Afghanistan have two points. Myanmar will play their final group match against the Pakistan national football team away on 31 March. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

MFF opens recruitment drive for football academies in Yangon, Mandalay

THE Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) has announced that it will soon begin the recruitment for new trainees at its academies in Yangon and Mandalay, aiming to uplift the standard of Myanmar football.

Selections will be held across 10 locations in various States and Regions, including Myanmar's first women's football academy in Mandalay. Current players at the Yangon and Mandalay academies who do not show significant progress based on annual reviews will be released, and they will be replaced.

The recruitment will cover specific age groups: boys born 2014 (U12), boys born 2013 (U13),



This image displays the previous recruitment session for the football academies.

boys born 2012 (U14), girls born 2013/2014 (U13), and girls born 2011/2012 (U15). The preliminary selection will be divided

into Lower Myanmar and Upper Myanmar zones – Hpa-an and Nay Pyi Taw: 31 March-1 April; Mawlamyine and Mandalay: 3-4

April; Bago and Taunggyi: 6-7 April; Kalaw: 8-9 April; Patheingyi: 9-10 April; Nyaungdon: 11 April; Yangon: 11-12 April. Shortlisted candidates will undergo final trials – Mandalay: 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13 May; Yangon: 16, 17, 18, 19, and 20 May. The final result will be announced on 25 May. Interested youths can download the application form at the Academy Form Link. Required documents include copies of the birth certificate, household registration, Citizenship Scrutiny Card, and a recommendation letter from the school. In-person submission deadlines are 5 April for Yangon, and 2 April for Mandalay and other cities. — MT/ZN

FIFA's Football for Schools programme launched in Cameroon

THE Cameroon Football Federation (FECAFOOT) on Wednesday signed a partnership agreement with the country's Ministry of Basic Education to implement FIFA's Football for Schools (F4S) initiative in the central African nation.

The agreement marked the launch of the initiative, which uses fun football sessions to teach children life and academic skills.

More than 100 children took part in the launch in Yaounde, experiencing the joy of the game while developing important values.

FECAFOOT President Samuel Eto'o said F4S "will permit children to dream and help them achieve life's goals." — Xinhua



WORLD

The conflict in the Middle East is causing significant damage to global logistics and industry, Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Thursday.

“The armed conflict in the Middle East is making an increasingly significant contribution to the current situation and causing significant damage to international logistics, production, and cooperation chains,” Putin said at the plenary session of the congress of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs.

The consequences of the conflict in the Middle East are difficult to accurately predict, even those involved in it cannot do so, the Russian president also said, adding that there are estimates that the consequences of the conflict can be compared to the coronavirus.

“The events facing the global community in recent years demonstrate that upheavals in trade, investment, and international relations in general are occurring with increasing frequency. They are becoming a new reality,” Putin said.

Russia must strengthen its own sovereignty, and the importance of this currently is beyond doubt, Putin said.

“For this, it is necessary to strengthen our own sovereignty. I think now no one doubts what sovereignty means in the modern world,” Putin said.

Russia will adhere to a conservative approach in the budget sphere and fulfill its obligations to the citizens, Putin added. — SPUTNIK

Middle East conflict causes significant damage to global logistics, industry: Putin

The consequences of the conflict in the Middle East are difficult to accurately predict, even those involved in it cannot do so.



The FESCO Diomid container ship, the largest one in the history of the far eastern shipping, belonging to Far-Eastern Shipping Company, OJSC, unloaded in the port of Vladivostok. PHOTO: SPUTNIK

OECD sees global growth at 2.9% in 2026 amid Middle East tensions

GLOBAL economic growth is projected to ease to 2.9 per cent in 2026 from 3.3 per cent in 2025, before edging up to 3.0 per cent in 2027, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said in its latest Economic

Outlook on Thursday. The report said that the evolving conflict in the Middle East will test the resilience of the global economy. A prolonged period of higher energy prices would add markedly to business costs,

raise consumer price inflation, and have adverse consequences for growth.

Prior to the conflict’s escalation, global growth remained resilient due to strong AI-related investment and production as well as favourable fiscal conditions, the report said. Following the fighting in the Middle East, surging energy prices and heightened uncertainty have raised costs and dampened demand, offsetting earlier growth momentum, it added.

According to the report, economic growth in the United States will moderate from 2.0 per cent in 2026 to 1.7 per cent in 2027, as strong AI-related investment is gradually offset by a slowdown in real income growth and consumer spending. In the euro area, economic growth is expected to ease to 0.8 per cent in 2026, as higher energy prices weigh on activity, before rising to 1.2 per cent in 2027, supported by stronger defence spending. — Xinhua

China-Europe SMILE satellite ready for launch

THE Solar wind Magnetosphere Ionosphere Link Explorer (SMILE), a satellite jointly developed by the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and the European Space Agency (ESA), has completed all pre-launch preparations at the space launch site in Kourou, French Guiana, and is scheduled for launch on 9 April local time, according to the CAS on Thursday.

The SMILE satellite mission represents China’s first mission-level, all-around in-depth cooperation with the ESA in the field of space science exploration.

The satellite will apply soft X-ray imaging technology to achieve, for the first time, a global view of the large-scale structure of Earth’s magnetosphere. It is, notably, expected to yield a series of scientific breakthroughs in areas such as space weather forecasting and fundamental understanding of magnetospheric physics.

The SMILE satellite has been mounted on a Vega-C launch vehicle. — Xinhua



South Korea faces OECD-projected economic headwinds from the Iran war’s oil price surge. The Daejeon Daewon Self station, run by Hyundai Oilbank, offers self-service fueling at its Bira-dong location in Daejeok-gu, Daejeon, South Korea. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS