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

The Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

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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.

All Ethnic Citizens Called on to Put Nation and People First

Ethnic armed organizations and terrorist groups in Shan State are invited to understand the country's legitimate needs, abandon armed conflict and unrest, participate in dialogue for peace, and cooperate in national development.

ACTING President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing sent a message to the ceremony to mark the 79th Anniversary of Shan State Day, which falls on 7 February 2026. The full text of the translated message is as follows: -

SEE PAGE 3

Public Funds Projects Required to Benefit Concerned Regions

The Myanmar-Korea Friendship (Dala) Bridge is enhancing road connectivity between downtown Yangon and Twantay, Kawhmu and Kungyangon, supporting broader urbanization and regional development efforts.

A ceremony to inaugurate the Myanmar-Korea Friendship (Dala) Bridge was held at the venue in Yangon Region yesterday morning, graced by the presence of Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

SEE PAGE 4

Acting President and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing shares warm conversation with participating ethnic youth during unveiling of Myanmar-Korea Friendship (Dala) Bridge.

NATIONAL

National Objectives for 79th Union Day 2026

1. To work together among all ethnic nationals to achieve the country's prosperity and food security, the national goal of the country.
2. To cooperate hand-in-hand with the government, Tatmadaw and all ethnic nationals in successfully implementing the measures for stability and rule of law.
3. To strive together with ethnic armed groups to establish a lasting peace, while propagating justice, freedom and equality within the country.
4. To build a Union based on democracy and federalism, practising a genuine and disciplined multiparty democratic system through the friendship, trust, unity and collaboration of ethnic people.
5. To cooperate, ensuring the development of education, health and socioeconomic status of ethnic nationals and the emergence of a developing country.

- **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.**

Mottos for 79th Union Day 2026

1. Unity is strength, Unity is power,
   Peace is beauty.
2. Let's build lasting peace
   for the Union's development
3. National brethren, let's unite
   and join hands for the Union
4. Unity boosts friendship
   Harmony brings peace

Acting President & SSPC Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing comforts patients at Sitagu Sakkhu Dana Hospital, pays homage to Sitagu Sayadaw

Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, accompanied by Prime Minister U Nyo Saw, Commission Secretary General Ye Win Oo, the chief minister of Yangon Region, the commander of Yangon Command, and the Yangon mayor, yesterday morning visited the Sitagu International Missionary, Sitagu International Buddhist Academy and Sitagu Sakkhu Dana Hospital in Dagon Myothit (North) Township, Yangon Region, and paid homage to State Ovadacariya, 16th Shwegyin Sangharaja Chancellor of Sitagu International Buddhist Academies Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Aggamaha Saddhammajotika Dr Bhaddanta Nyanissara.

The Senior General, the Prime Minister and the Commission Secretary provided glasses for the people who have received eye surgery at the Sitagu Sakkhu Dana Hospital and comforted them.

The Senior General also cordially greeted the people who were waiting to receive eye surgery operations at the hospital.

The Senior General paid homage to Sitagu Sayadaw, supplicated religious affairs and listened to the Ovada Katha of the Sayadaw, who gave Dhamma gifts.

Acting President and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits and consoles patients at the Sitagu Sakkhu Dana Hospital.

On the occasion, the Senior General donated alms and K30 million to be spent on repairing projects of the Buddha relics enshrined in the pagodas damaged by the powerful Mandalay earthquake.

Some 1,600 patients receive eye tests at the Sitagu Sakkhu Dana Hospital, some 500 of who need to undergo eye surgery. The hospital provides free eye surgery for the people. — MNA/TTA

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)

All Ethnic Citizens Called on to Put Nation and People First

FROM PAGE 1

Esteemed national brethren residing in Shan State,
Everybody, Mingalaba!

I extend my greetings with best wishes for all Union-born national people residing in Shan State and the entire nation to enjoy physical and mental well-being with peace and prosperity on the occasion of the 79th Anniversary of Shan State Day, which falls on 7 February 2026, today.

Shan State is the largest area among all regions and states, as a home to the largest number of ethnic nationalities. Shan State, located in the eastern mountain ranges, is situated on more than 60,000 square miles. It is an important state due to sharing borders with other countries.

Historical evidences proof that Shan tribes, namely Shan, Pa-O, Palaung, Danu, Inntha, Taungyoe, Wa, Danaw, Kokang, Lahu, Yinnet, Yinkya, Myaungzee, Akha, etc., have been residing in Shan State for a long time together with other ethnics such as Kachin, Kayah and Lisu.

Shan State is a large and scenic state blessed with a favourable natural climate and home to well-known hill resort towns. In addition, it is rich in Stone Age cultural sites such as Pyadalin Cave, Loiwun Cave, and numerous limestone caves, as well as natural lakes, long-standing urban cultural heritage, and the diverse traditions and customs of ethnic nationalities. With abundant natural resources, Shan State is a well-endowed and well-rounded region in every aspect.

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar is a sovereign nation that, since ancient times, has been home to diverse ethnic groups living together in unity under their own monarchs and governance. With distinct cultures and literary traditions flourishing, the country stood tall with dignity across the world. However, the British colonialists waged three wars of aggression against Myanmar and unjustly occupied the country. As a result, on 1 January 1886, the entire nation of Myanmar fell into colonial subjugation.

In resisting the unjust aggression of the British colonialists and striving to regain independence, the Shan Saophas and the Shan ethnic people stood shoulder to shoulder with other Union-born ethnic groups in a united struggle. The tradition of working hand in hand with unwavering national patriotism, so that the country's sovereignty might remain intact and unbroken, is a source of respect and pride for Shan State and the Shan people.

Throughout the period of the struggle for independence, driven by the strongest and most resolute determination deeply held in the hearts of all ethnic groups that they would continue to fight in every way until genuine independence was fully achieved, the ethnic leaders from Shan State worked energetically and in complete unity, making concerted efforts towards securing Myanmar's independence.

During the period when the "AFPFL" led the struggle in Myanmar and fiercely fought for independence, the Shan people, both elders and youth, in Shan State, also actively participated in the independence movement, fully motivated by their deep love for their ethnic community.

During the period of the Second World War in 1942, fascist Japan occupied and administered the entire country of Myanmar, including Shan State. Although the British colonialists had been driven out, the invading fascist Japanese forces brutally oppressed the nation and its people. As a result, national leaders and all ethnic groups united in active resistance, and on 27 March 1945, they were finally able to completely expel the fascist Japanese from Myanmar's soil.

However, after the end of the Second World War, the British colonialists once again returned and, dividing the hills from the plains, continued to administer the entirety of Shan State under the old feudal system. They retained the local rulers, town chiefs, and tax officers, maintaining a divided administration. Moreover, the British attempted to follow the plan outlined in wartime white papers, aiming to grant Myanmar independence only on the condition that the hill regions would be left aside, allowing them to continue their segregated control.

Thus, due to British oppression, exploitation, and the denial of equality for the hill regions, the unity and determination of all ethnic groups led to a strong demand and active struggle. As a result, in 1947, the British invited the Myanmar delegation, led by General Aung San, to London to discuss the future of Myanmar. During these discussions, General Aung San requested that all hill regions, including Shan State, be granted independence simultaneously when Myanmar was given independence. However, the Executive Council of the Shan State Council objected, stating that General Aung San was not a representative of the Saophas. In response, the leaders of the Shan People's Freedom Organization held a large public assembly in Taunggyi, made decisions, and sent a formal delegation confirming that General Aung San was indeed their representative for the hill peoples and that they fully supported him. Only then was the Aung San-Atlee Agreement signed.

From 3 to 6 February 1947, discussions were held with the participation of Saopha members of the Executive Council and representatives of the Shan people. On 7 February, representatives of the Shan, Kachin, and Chin peoples formed a subcommittee and reached agreements, signing documents to cooperate with the Union in achieving independence. As such, 7 February has been officially celebrated as Shan State Day, honouring the day when the leaders of the Shan, Kachin, and Chin ethnic groups within Shan State were able to make a unified decision to join the Union in gaining independence. This tradition has now continued for 79 years.

Esteemed ethnic people,

The Union of Myanmar was able to reestablish itself confidently on the world stage as a sovereign and independent nation on 4 January 1948, thanks to the unity and strength of its ethnic peoples. However, the legacy of internal armed conflicts that emerged from the British policy of divide-and-rule continues to affect the country to this day. These conflicts, fuelled by ethnic divisions, rigid ideologies, and excessive self-interest, have created narrow political and ethnic perspectives, resulting in ongoing hardships and suffering for both the nation and its people.

Therefore, ethnic unity is not only critically important for achieving peace in ceasing the domestic armed conflicts, but it also serves as a major driving force for a nation's development. Accordingly, ethnic brethren must work to remove suspicions among themselves, engage in dialogue and negotiation, build trust, and strive to achieve durable peace.

The State has been making concentrated efforts within a short period to ensure peace, stability, and development across the entire country. At the same time, it has been allocating billions of kyats to rebuild and restore damage caused by domestic armed conflicts, unrest, violence, and natural disasters. In this regard, following the major Mandalay earthquake on 28 March 2025, over K147 billion has been allocated to rebuild government office buildings, staff housing, religious buildings and pagodas, hospitals, schools, and the homes of residents in Shan State. The relevant departments, led by skilled professionals, are carrying out these reconstruction efforts.

Since our country is built on a union system, ethnic unity is of fundamental importance. The most crucial and necessary step to achieve harmony among ethnic groups is to cultivate a sense of union identity, instilling in every citizen, regardless of where they live, the understanding that they are an ethnic member of the Union.

SEE PAGE 10

NATIONAL

Public Funds Projects Required to Benefit ...

FROM PAGE 1

On the occasion, Union Minister for Construction U Myo Thant explained the purpose of building the bridge. A documentary movie on the construction of the bridge was screened.

A representative from Soosung Company of the Bridge Construction In-charge Team of Korea handed over documents related to the bridge to Director-General U Kyaw Kaung Cho of the Department of Bridges under the Ministry of Construction.

The Union minister presented a gift in commemoration of the opening of the bridge to the Senior General.

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General said that in implementing projects for national development, it is necessary to ensure that public funds are used without waste, that quality is maintained to ensure long-term sustainability, and that responsible persons work together to assess, provide constructive criticism, and make corrections regarding whether projects truly benefit the local areas.

He stressed that projects carried out using public funds must also be ones that generate tangible benefits for the regions concerned.

To build the bridge, he continued that the bilateral meetings between Myanmar and Korea were initiated in 2012. About the construction process, US$157.833 million from the Economic Development Cooperation Fund-EDCF of Korea and US$30.341 million and K23.062 billion of the Myanmar government, totalling US$188.174 million was spent on implementing the project.

The Senior General underscored that in Yangon Region, efforts are being made to develop infrastructure to ensure an orderly traffic system in line with the characteristics of a city, such as expanding urban roads, constructing overpasses, and building major four-lane river-crossing bridges like the present ones at necessary locations. As such, traffic congestion can be reduced, and the flow of passengers and goods can be accelerated, thereby promoting further development in the economic, social, and health sectors of the public.

He highlighted that the already-commissioned Dala bridge provides smooth transport facilities to the people travelling to Dala, Twantay, Kawhmu and Kungyangon from Yangon as well as to townships in Ayeyawady Region.

Moreover, he added that the bridge helps create the road transport facilities which connect the downtown Yangon with Twantay, Kawhmu and Kungyangon as part of urbanization efforts.

Consequently, the Senior General noted that Dala becomes an entrance to Yangon and Ayeyawady regions and will have access to transport of domestic products through the land routes. Moreover, people from Dala can travel to townships of Ayeyawady Region such as Dedaye, Pyapon and Bogale, including the beach areas through the Dedaye Bridge in a short time.

The Senior General unveiled that the Government is working with vision and clear objectives to ensure the emergence of the national interests, making continuous efforts with constant vigilance, unwavering perseverance, diligence, and determination.

He emphasized that with the aim of ensuring a peaceful and stable future for the country and a prosperous and happy life for its citizens, the Government is striving to shape sound goals and directions. As such, parents, the people, and brothers and sisters of all ethnic nationalities need to further cooperate and actively support the Government's processes for peace, democracy, and the development of a federal democratic system.

The Senior General stressed the need for the people to comply with the prescribed traffic and road safety regulations when using the Myanmar-Korea Friendship (Dala) Bridge in order to ensure safety, and to work together to help care for and preserve the bridge so that it remains durable and sustainable in the long term.

The Senior General and party arrived at the venue where Commission Member Prime Minister U Nyo Saw, Commission Secretary General Ye Win Oo, Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Mya Tun Oo, Union Minister for Construction U Myo Thant and Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein formally opened the bridge.

On the occasion, the Senior General unveiled the plaque and sprinkled scented water on it. He also sprayed the bronze plaque at Pylon 2.

Acting President and SSPC Chair Senior General Min Aung Hlaing speaks on the inauguration occasion of the Myanmar-Korea Friendship (Dala) Bridge.

goodwill visit to the Republic of Korea in October 2012, at which time they agreed to undertake a bilateral friendship bridge project. On 19 June 2013, responsible officials from both countries held consultations, approving plans to construct a major river-crossing bridge over the Yangon River with financing from the Republic of Korea's Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) loan. With assistance from the Republic of Korea, a feasibility study for the bridge project was launched in April 2013.

The design standards used for the bridge were selected and developed in an integrated manner to be compatible with Myanmar's road and traffic conditions, geological characteristics and ground-bearing capacity, as well as social and economic factors. Construction of the bridge project commenced on 27 May 2019. The main bridge has a gradient of 5.95 per cent and a length of 6,127 feet, with a total width of 79 feet. It comprises four traffic lanes, each 11 feet and six inches wide, and pedestrian walkways on both sides, each 6.5 feet wide. The bridge can withstand 75 tonnes of load. In addition, water pipelines with a diameter of 1.5 feet have been installed on each side of the bridge to supply potable water from Yangon City to Dala Township.

The opening of this bridge is reported to promote development across various sectors in the region, including social services, the economy, education, health, and transportation, while also serving as a prominent landmark of Yangon City. — MNA/TTA

Salient points of the speech delivered by the Senior General at the opening of Dala Bridge

1. The Myanmar-Korea Friendship (Dala) Bridge aims to ensure safety and to work together to help care for and preserve the bridge so that it remains durable and sustainable in the long term.
2. US$157.833 million from the Economic Development Cooperation Fund-EDCF of Korea, and US$30.341 million and K23.062 billion of the Myanmar government, totalling US$188.174 million was spent on implementing the project.
3. Dala becomes an entrance to Yangon and Ayeyawady regions and will have access to transport of domestic products through the land routes.

The Senior General strolled along the bridge and cordially greeted the ethnic youth who attended the ceremony.

Also, present at the ceremony were senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, the commander of Yangon Command, officials from construction companies, engineers from Korea, China and Myanmar and officials.

As the Union Minister for Construction proposed the plans for beautifying the shore around the bridge, the Senior General gave necessary guidance. The Senior General and party visited Dala in a motorcade.

The Myanmar-Korea Friendship (Dala) Bridge originated from discussions between the leaders of the two countries during President U Thein Sein's

NATIONAL

Acting President and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing warmly greets college and university teachers from Yangon Region at yesterday's event.

Efforts to boost education standards must be stepped up

The education sector must be systematically reformed and developed to ensure a stronger and more sustainable future for Myanmar.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing highlighted that parents of students attending government basic education schools generally rely primarily on the public schools opened by the State, rather than private schools.

Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said so at the meeting with rectors, principals, professors and teachers from universities and degree colleges in Yangon Region at the Arts Hall of the Yangon University yesterday afternoon.

In his speech, the Senior General noted that the 2024 population and housing census showed that although over 91.1 per cent of the country's population is literate, most have only completed basic primary education, while relatively few have completed secondary or university-level education. Therefore, efforts to enhance educational attainment need to be further strengthened.

He underlined that it is necessary to promote education in order to elevate the mindset of the nation's citizens. In doing so, every child of school age must be able to attend school, and every attending child should be genuinely taught so that they achieve true educational proficiency.

The Senior General stressed that teaching methods must also be implemented in a modern and appropriate manner. Efforts should be made to engage school-age children so that they are motivated and willing to attend school. In addition, continuous research must be conducted to ensure ongoing improvement and effectiveness in the field of education.

He continued that efforts must be made over time to upgrade all basic education schools. In some ethnic areas, due to language barriers and other factors, there are children who are unable to attend school, resulting in low school enrollment rates. Therefore, special attention must be given to educational development programs in ethnic areas where there is a high need for improving educational attainment.

He spotted that although every child who attends preschool eventually enters primary school, not all children in primary school have had the benefit of attending preschool. Therefore, it is necessary to create enjoyable learning environments and apply effective teaching methods to make school a positive experience for young children. Teachers providing teaching for KG and KG+1 children should carefully and attentively ensure that young children enjoy their time at school.

The Senior General underscored that parents of students attending government basic education schools generally rely primarily on the public schools opened by the State, rather than being able to enrol their children in private schools. The majority of students, therefore, attend government basic education schools. For this reason, it is necessary to ensure that education in government basic education schools is carried out effectively and at a high standard.

Regardless of the appointment system used, he emphasized that efforts must be made to ensure that all teachers possess the same level of quality. Likewise, the entitlements of education staff have been managed and provided according to their respective ranks and positions.

He explained that university education is a system that places greater emphasis on study and discussion rather than just teaching. It is necessary to provide teaching in a way that ensures students truly understand and master the subject matter. Therefore, students should engage in active learning and reciprocal discussions with their lecturers at higher universities.

The Senior General offered his guidance that at universities, it is necessary to teach the foundational subjects of economics. Accordingly, under the current administration, efforts have been made to enable universities and colleges to offer BA (Economics) degrees and teach the basics of economics. Similarly, because a fundamental understanding of the law is essential, basic legal subjects are taught, and steps have been taken to enable the awarding of BA (Law) degrees.

The Senior General cordially greeted the attendees.

Also, present at the meeting were Prime Minister U Nyo Saw, Commission Secretary General Ye Win Oo, the Yangon Region chief minister, the commander of the Yangon Command, departmental heads and rectors of the Ministry of Education and medical universities.

After the ceremony, the Senior General visited the Diamond Jubilee Hall of the Yangon University and gave guidance to officials on upgrading the hall. — MNA/TTA

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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

Several organizations express pride and delight over the University of Yangon's conferment of an Honorary Doctor of Public Administration on Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman

VARIOUS organizations have issued statements expressing their pride and delight over the conferment of the Honorary Doctor of Public Administration (DPA honoris causa) on Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission.

The Myanmar-India Friendship Association, Myanmar-Japan Socioeconomic Development Cooperation Association, Myanmar-Korea Friendship Association, Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Association, and Myanmar-Laos Friendship Association issued statements expressing their pride and delight at the conferment of the Honorary Doctor of Public Administration (DPA honoris causa) by the University of Yangon on Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission for his distinguished dignity and demonstrated leadership in addressing challenges and difficulties encountered during the country's political transition and his ability to manage them systematically and effectively for the benefit of the nation and its people. — MNA/MKKS

Congratulatory message on conferment of Honorary Doctor of Public Administration (DPA honoris causa) upon Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing

6 February 2026

IT is learned that the Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, has been conferred the Honorary Doctor of Public Administration (DPA honoris causa) by Yangon University.

He was awarded due to his demonstrated abilities to take the lead in addressing the challenges and difficulties encountered amid the political transition of the country and to manage them systematically and effectively. The Myanmar-India Friendship Association hereby expresses its great honour and pride on the occasion of the conferment of Honorary Doctor of Public Administration (DPA honoris causa).

Myanmar-India Friendship Association

Myanmar-Thai Friendship Association Statement

6 February 2026

THE Yangon University conferred the Honorary Doctor of Public Administration (DPA honoris causa) upon Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on 5 February.

Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing has demonstrated a profound understanding of global political issues, along with a strong sense of responsibility and accountability, unique personal qualities and professional competence, and the DPA honoris causa was conferred upon him to recognize his utmost efforts.

The Myanmar-Thai Friendship Association issues this statement showing great honour on this conferment, and expresses sincere wishes that he may continue to serve and carry out greater responsibilities for the benefit of the State and the people.

Myanmar-Thai Friendship Association

Myanmar-Laos Friendship Association Statement

6 February 2026

YANGON University conferred Honorary Doctor of Public Administration (DPA honoris causa) upon Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, due to his demonstrated abilities to take the lead in addressing the challenges and difficulties encountered amid the political transition of the country and to manage them systematically and effectively.

For such a historic leadership milestone demonstrated through the great sacrifice and dedication of the Head of State for the interest of the country, the Myanmar-Laos Friendship Association issues this statement showing deep honour and pride on the conferment of this honorary doctoral degree.

Myanmar-Laos Friendship Association

Myanmar-Korea Friendship Association Statement

6 February 2026

AS Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission Senior General Min Aung Hlaing was able to systematically manage and address the challenges in economic, health, security and defence sectors and peace processes amid the political transition of the country, Yangon University conferred the Honorary Doctor of Public Administration (DPA honoris causa) upon him. The Myanmar-Korea Friendship Association issues this statement expressing great honour and pride on the occasion of the conferment of this Honorary Doctor of Public Administration (DPA honoris causa).

Myanmar-Korea Friendship Association

Association of Myanmar Japan Socioeconomic Development Cooperation Statement

6 February 2026

AS Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission Senior General Min Aung Hlaing was able to systematically manage and address the political pressures, economic sanctions, internal peace and national reconciliation efforts, as well as reform measures aligned with international standards, which arose throughout the political transition process, Yangon University conferred the Honorary Doctor of Public Administration (DPA honoris causa) upon him.

The Myanmar Japan Socioeconomic Development Cooperation Association issues this statement expressing great honour and pride on the occasion of the conferment of this Honorary Doctor of Public Administration (DPA honoris causa).

Myanmar Japan Socioeconomic Development Cooperation Association

16,000+ health workers, including new doctors and dentists, appointed since 2021

MORE than 16,000 health workers, including new doctors and dental surgeons, have been appointed since 2021, according to the ceremony to appoint new gazetted officers held at the Ministry of Health on 4 February.

Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win stated that since 2021, health staff have been provided with allowances for specialists, postgraduates, risk allowances, and night duty. He also noted that efforts are being made to upgrade nursing training schools to colleges.

He added that the ministry is continuously fulfilling requirements to ensure that services in public hospitals are modern and aligned with international standards, including enhancing human capacity, upgrading medical equipment, and constructing additional wards and staff housing.

Appointments since 2021 included 2,633 new doctors, 352 new dentists, 447 Bachelor of Nursing Science graduates, 5,899 nursing diploma holders, 185 midwifery diploma holders, 3,177 nurse aides, 237 Bachelor of Pharmacy graduates, 538 Bachelor of Medical Technology graduates, and 3,150 skilled level 4 staff.

Furthermore, to promote professional career development, staff are permitted to sit for postgraduate entrance exams, including international ones, in their respective fields upon completion of the required service period. — MT/ZN

NATIONAL

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
National Defence and Security Council
Construction Sector Development Law
(National Defence and Security Council Law 5/2026)

3rd Waning of Tabodwe 1387 ME
4 February 2026

CONTINUED FROM YESTERDAY

(j) Providing necessary guidelines to steering committees, regional committees, and relevant organizations responsible for supervising and inspecting the construction sector, in order to promote the development of the construction sector, ensure quality compliance, and enforce adherence to standards and specifications, as well as to grant, enhance, or reduce their authority to supervise and inspect.

(k) Assisting in bilateral cooperation or the formation of necessary organizations among the organizations related to the construction sector to develop the construction sector.

(l) Giving guidance for setting qualification requirements for the issuance of registration certificates to consultants or consulting teams, project management teams, quality control teams, architectural and engineering service teams, third-party organizations, or contractors.

(m) Forming and assigning a Registration Certificate Scrutiny and Issuance Committee to approve, based on submissions from the relevant department, whether prescribed qualifications are met when issuing registration certificates, to ensure the development of safe, secure, and standard-compliant, high-quality buildings.

(n) Supervising, verifying, and providing guidance, as necessary, on the issuance of registration certificates by the relevant department to contractors, consultants or consulting teams, project management teams, quality inspection teams, and third-party organizations.

(o) Conducting supervision and providing guidance, as necessary, over the issuance of quality assurance certificates by the relevant department and related departments or organizations.

(p) Carrying out other necessary administrative measures to ensure the development of the construction sector and the provision of infrastructure that meets prescribed standards and quality requirements.

10. The department shall carry out the office work of the Central Committee.

Chapter IV

Formation of the Regional Committee and Responsibilities

11. The central committee shall establish the regional committee with Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman or Chief Minister of the respective Region or State as chairperson, government departments, organizations, region or state-level individuals related to Union Territory or Region or State construction sector, as well as chairpersons of Union Territory, Region or State level organizations established in accordance with the law for construction, experienced professionals in the construction sector within Union Territory or Region or State as members, a Nay Pyi Taw Council member or a construction minister of Region or State government as secretary, and a person from the Ministry, Union Territory or Region or State level as a joint secretary.

12. In accordance with its duties, the regional committee may form a dispute resolving unit and investigation team to resolve disputes related to construction projects, construction processes, standards, and quality, or, upon request from the relevant department or organization as needed.

13. The duties of the regional committee are as follows: -

(a) to approve or reject construction projects submitted by the relevant department or organization that are to be carried out with Region or State budgets, foreign loans, or financial assistances, or under private initiatives for buildings of 9 to 12 floors or 100-140 feet in height, or religious buildings of 40-68 feet in height, and public-use buildings covering an area of 10,000-12,000 square feet.

(b) to ensure that construction projects carried out with Region or State budgets are safe, comply with standards, and to inspect them through the relevant department, organization, or third-party organization. Any substandard projects shall be rectified or reconstructed.

(c) to supervise and inspect private construction projects within the limits of 9-12 floors or 100-140 feet for buildings, 40-68 feet for religious buildings, or 10,000-12,000 square feet for public-use buildings, and ensure compliance with safety standards. Substandard projects must be rectified or demolished.

(d) During the rectification or reconstruction process under subsections (b) and (c), the relevant department, organization, or third party shall supervise. Upon completion, it shall confirm compliance with the quality standards submitted by the relevant department or organization.

(e) to provide guidance and supervision to the relevant urban development committee or body to ensure compliance with approved standards for buildings under nine floors, public-use buildings under 10,000 square feet, or religious buildings under 40 feet in height.

(f) to provide instruction and supervise the relevant department and organizations to implement the guidance set by the central committee.

(g) to request technical and design assistance from the central committee if needed, present it at central committee meetings, and take records.

(h) to register the projects managed and supervised by the Union Territory, region, or state governments.

(i) to educate and supervise builders and quality inspection teams to adopt good practices, and submit evaluation records to the relevant department.

(j) to approve and publish local construction material prices, labour rates, and transportation costs according to the financial year.

(k) to systematically register local construction material producers and suppliers, ensuring that only products meeting specified standards are produced and used.

(l) to provide training, inspection, and evaluation for skilled workers and site supervisors.

(m) to form skills standard authority to nurture local skilled labour.

(n) to organize and arrange to attend the construction sector-related domestic and international architect and engineering seminars, meetings, workshops, exchange programmes, and paper reading sessions in accordance with the central committee guidance

(o) to assign duties to supervision committees to ensure that ongoing construction projects comply with regulations, orders, procedures, the Myanmar National Building Code and technical standards relevant to the sector.

(p) to record and submit to the central committee a list of individuals or organizations penalized for management-related offences.

14. The directorate office of the relevant region or state shall perform the office functions of the regional committee.

Chapter V

Responsibilities of the Department

15. Responsibilities of the Department shall be as follows: -

(a) If necessary, establishing and assigning responsibilities for the Expert Group on Construction Project Management, the Expert Group on Workplace Safety, Health, and Environmental Impact Assessment, the Expert Group on Reviewing Myanmar Construction Standards and Guidelines, the Expert Group on Supervising and Inspecting High-Rise and Public Building Construction Projects, and other groups related to the construction sector with the approval of the Central Committee.

(b) Preparing revisions to Myanmar's construction standards and guidelines in accordance with evolving international technological standards and the changing conditions within Myanmar.

(c) Assigning responsibilities to the relevant organizations according to the construction sector for the dissemination of modern technologies; studying and reporting on modern technologies; and distributing these technologies.

(d) To promote the development of architectural and engineering disciplines and to raise the level of teaching in these fields, studying and researching evolving international construction technologies, facilitating the dissemination of technologies suitable for the country, coordinating and discussing with the relevant departments and organizations, collaborating in implementation, and submitting recommendations to the Central Committee through the Ministry.

(e) Preparing curricula, guidelines, and policies to enable the opening and training of courses to improve the quality of workplace supervisors and produce skilled workers, and sending them to the respective regional committees for implementation with the approval of the Ministry and the Central Committee.

(f) Drafting and publishing, with the consent of the Ministry, the codes of ethics and regulations for constructors; safety regulations for the workplace; environmental protection rules; codes of ethics for quality inspection teams; codes of ethics for relevant construction sector organizations; standard operating procedures; guidelines; and discipline-specific requirements to be followed.

TO BE CONTINUED

Swiftly restore national unity based on the Union spirit

HONOURING the day when the leaders of the Shan, Kachin, and Chin ethnic groups within Shan State were able to make a unified decision to join the Union in gaining independence, 7 February is officially celebrated as Shan State Day yearly, and this tradition has now continued for 79 years.

The Union of Myanmar regained sovereignty and independence on 4 January 1948, thanks to the unity and strength of its ethnic peoples. However, the legacy of internal armed conflicts that emerged from the British policy of divide-and-rule continues to affect the country to this day. These conflicts have created narrow political and ethnic perspectives, resulting in ongoing hardships and suffering for both the nation and its people.

> To ensure the well-being and stability of a nation or an ethnic group, individuals must continuously strengthen their own resilience and enhance their ability to act and perform effectively. If a country or an ethnic group cannot maintain its long-term stability and security through its own strength and unified efforts, the nation's authority will weaken, and it may fall under the control of others. To remain a free and enduring country and avoid subjugation, everyone must act in unity. As such, efforts must be made collectively to restore ethnic unity as quickly as possible.

Therefore, ethnic unity is not only critically important for achieving peace in ceasing the domestic armed conflicts, but it also serves as a major driving force for a nation's development. Accordingly, ethnic brethren must work to remove suspicions among themselves, engage in dialogue and negotiation, build trust, and strive to achieve durable peace.

The State has allocated billions of kyats to rebuild and restore damage caused by domestic armed conflicts, unrest, violence, and natural disasters. In this regard, following the major Mandalay earthquake on 28 March 2025, over K147 billion has been allocated to rebuild government office buildings, staff housing, religious buildings and pagodas, hospitals, schools, and the homes of residents in Shan State. The relevant departments, led by skilled professionals, are carrying out these reconstruction efforts.

Since our country is built on a union system, ethnic unity is of fundamental importance. The most crucial and necessary step to achieve harmony among ethnic groups is to cultivate a sense of union identity, instilling in every citizen, regardless of where they live, the understanding that they are an ethnic member of the Union.

To ensure the well-being and stability of a nation or an ethnic group, individuals must continuously strengthen their own resilience and enhance their ability to act and perform effectively. If a country or an ethnic group cannot maintain its long-term stability and security through its own strength and unified efforts, the nation's authority will weaken, and it may fall under the control of others. To remain a free and enduring country and avoid subjugation, everyone must act in unity. As such, efforts must be made collectively to restore ethnic unity as quickly as possible.

Reading Articles is Good for the Mind

By Dr Than Lwin Tun

IN TODAY'S fast-paced world, the human mind is constantly exposed to information, stress, and distractions. Maintaining mental clarity and emotional balance has become increasingly important. One simple yet powerful habit that supports mental well-being is reading articles. Whether they are related to health, education, culture, or everyday life, reading articles regularly is an effective mental exercise that strengthens the mind, improves thinking ability, and enhances overall quality of life.

Reading articles is good for the mind because it gives your brain a regular workout, kind of like a mental gym session. The following are the reasons why it helps so much:

- Improves focus and attention: When you read an article, you're training your brain to concentrate on one thing at a time. Over time, this strengthens attention span, which is especially helpful in a world full of notifications and distractions.
- Expands knowledge and perspective: Articles expose you to new ideas, cultures, research, and viewpoints. This broadens how you think about the world and helps you see issues from multiple angles instead of just your own.
- Strengthens critical thinking: Reading encourages you to analyze arguments, question assumptions, and evaluate evidence. Your brain practices sorting what makes sense from what doesn't, which is a powerful everyday skill.
- Boosts vocabulary and language skills: The more you read, the more words and sentence structures you naturally absorb. This improves writing, speaking, and even how clearly you think.
- Reduces stress and mental fatigue: Getting absorbed in an article can calm the mind and provide a healthy mental break. It shifts your focus away from worries and helps you reset.
- Supports memory and brain health: Following ideas, facts, and narratives strengthens memory pathways. Regular reading is linked to better long-term cognitive health.
- Encourages curiosity and lifelong learning: Reading sparks questions and motivates you to keep learning. That curiosity keeps the mind active, flexible, and engaged over time.

First, reading articles plays a vital role in expanding knowledge and understanding. Each article introduces new ideas, facts, and perspectives. This continuous exposure to information stimulates the brain and keeps it active. When the mind learns something new, neural connections are strengthened, helping the brain remain flexible and alert. Over time, this habit improves general intelligence and intellectual curiosity, encouraging lifelong learning.

Second, reading articles significantly improves concentration and memory. In a digital age, reading articles trains the mind to concentrate for longer periods. At the same time, remembering key points, arguments, or examples enhances short-term and long-term memory. This mental training is especially beneficial for students, professionals, and older adults alike.

Another important benefit of reading articles is the development of critical thinking skills. Many articles present problems, explanations, or different viewpoints. Readers are encouraged to analyze information, evaluate evidence, and form their own opinions. This process strengthens logical reasoning and decision-making abilities. As a result, people who read regularly tend to think more clearly and respond to daily challenges more effectively.

Reading articles also supports emotional and psychological well-being. Engaging with meaningful content can reduce stress by shifting attention away from worries and mental fatigue. Informative and inspirational articles, especially those related to health or personal growth, can provide reassurance, motivation, and emotional comfort. This calming effect helps maintain mental balance and resilience in stressful situations.

Furthermore, reading articles improves language and communication skills. Regular exposure to well-written content enriches vocabulary, enhances comprehension, and improves writing and speaking abilities. Clear communication is closely linked to clear thinking, and both are essential for personal and professional success.

In addition, reading articles promotes mental independence and awareness. It helps individuals stay informed about social, scientific, and health-related issues, enabling them to make better decisions in daily life. A well-informed mind is less vulnerable to misinformation and more capable of thoughtful judgement.

Moreover, reading articles is highly beneficial for the mind. It strengthens memory, sharpens concentration, enhances critical thinking, reduces stress, and supports emotional well-being. As a simple, affordable, and accessible mental exercise, reading articles should be encouraged as a daily habit for people of all ages. By dedicating even a short time each day to reading, individuals can encourage a healthy, active, and resilient mind.

The Power of Knowledge in the 21st Century

By Ms Monn

BEING poor in knowledge is far more frightening than being poor in money and material wealth. In today's world, countries must make great efforts in every field in order to develop and catch up with others. This is a time when young people can learn skills and technology through mobile phones and laptops. Therefore, they should practise and improve their English. Although correct spelling in the Myanmar language is declining, this is an age of information technology in which anyone who is not foolish and who works hard can make progress and go far.

According to population records, the world's population reached about eight billion in recent years. When the figures are checked on the internet, it shows that in 2026, the global population is between 8.2 and 8.3 billion. This number includes all human beings without distinction of race, colour, age, or gender. Readers and writers are all part of this huge population.

Since we are Asians, it is natural to wonder how many people live in Asia. The internet states that Asia's population is about 4.83 billion. In other words, more than half of the world's population lives on the Asian continent. China alone has about 1.4 billion people, and India also has about 1.4 billion. Myanmar's two neighbouring countries together already have about 2.8 billion people, while Myanmar itself has only about 51 million people.

Although Myanmar's population is small, its land area is relatively large compared with many developed countries such as Japan, England, France, and Germany. Historically, the Myanmar people lived among mountain ranges, plateaus, plains, rivers, forests, lakes, and long coastlines. Ancient Myanmar was once a powerful nation, and this fact is clearly recorded in history. When compared with present-day Bangladesh, Myanmar is about five times larger in land area. Among ASEAN countries, except Indonesia, which has many islands, Myanmar is the largest in land area. Therefore, geographically and historically, the Myanmar people were once strong and capable.

However, Myanmar later fell under British colonial rule for more than sixty years. Some people blame individual kings and queens for this situation, saying that they were weak or careless. Others claim that internal conflicts and palace affairs caused the downfall. Such explanations are narrow and incomplete. In reality, the collapse of feudal systems and the rise of colonial capitalism were global historical forces. With the development of industry and world trade, colonial powers expanded their control over regions rich in raw materials. Not only Myanmar, but also China, India, and many South-East Asia countries fell under colonial rule. This was the nature of the age and the system, rather than the fault of only a few rulers.

The past cannot be changed, and there is no benefit in endlessly arguing about it. What truly matters is learning lessons from history. When the people of Myanmar were united, the country was strong in politics, economy, and military power. When different ethnic groups were divided, the country became weak. History shows both situations clearly. Unity brings strength, and strength brings prosperity. This idea is also supported by the Buddha's teaching that unity leads to happiness and success.

People should not be narrow-minded. Instead of constantly looking for others' faults and weaknesses, they should learn to respect and value one another. In Myanmar's historical records, times of peace and happiness were linked with loving-kindness and unity. Religion and culture were gentle and refined, and people valued kindness more than anger. Families and communities lived in harmony, and society was stable and prosperous.

It is important to look at neighbouring countries and learn from their experiences. Visits to China, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, Indonesia, and Bangladesh show how quickly development can take place. Within five or six years, cities, roads, factories, and businesses can change dramatically. Over thirty or forty years, these changes become astonishing. Such progress is admirable. When these countries are compared with Myanmar, the difference is painful and discouraging.

China and India were once poor rural societies before the 1980s. However, after changing their economic systems, they gradually became powerful nations. This transformation did not happen by magic.

SEE PAGE 10

NATIONAL/ARTICLE

Strong human resources can be deployed to initiate systematic economy

❖ "Only with strong human resources can a systematic and effective economy be developed."
❖ "Everyone must strive to emerge educated human resources."

(Excerpt from the speech delivered by Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with departmental officials and town elders in Myeik of Taninthayi Region to talk about regional development on 19 September 2025)

All Ethnic Citizens Called on to Put Nation and People First

FROM PAGE 3

To ensure the well-being and stability of a nation or an ethnic group, individuals must continuously strengthen their own resilience and enhance their ability to act and perform effectively. It should be noted that if a country or an ethnic group cannot maintain its long-term stability and security through its own strength and unified efforts, the nation's authority will weaken, and it may fall under the control of others. To remain a free and enduring country and avoid subjugation, everyone must act in unity. In times of threat to the nation, Tatmadaw and the people, who bear the primary responsibility for national defence, must work hand in hand, defending and protecting the country with patriotism, courage, and collective strength to ensure its long-term stability. Just as during the period when ethnic groups strove for independence, unity, understanding, and mutual trust must be rebuilt among national brethren. Efforts must be made collectively to restore and demonstrate ethnic unity as quickly as possible.

The government has maintained the State power strictly in accordance with the Constitution to prevent the unlawful seizure of State authority through irregularities in the then ruling party's conduct during the 2020 general election. At present, to enable the path towards the democracy desired by the people, a free and fair election has also been conducted. Arrangements are being carried out to systematically transfer State power to the government that emerges under the Constitution.

Since 2021, due to domestic and overseas provocations and instigations, unrest and violent incidents have occurred across the country. Some ethnic armed groups have taken advantage of these instabilities to recruit and consolidate terrorist organizations, aiming to undermine national stability. Tatmadaw and the government have made great sacrifices of blood, sweat, and effort to protect the country's peace and security. Through dialogue and negotiation with relevant groups, we have been striving to restore the original stable and peaceful situation. Accordingly, ethnic armed organizations and terrorist groups in Shan State are invited to understand the country's legitimate needs, abandon armed conflict and unrest, participate in dialogue for peace, and cooperate in national development. Furthermore, everyone is urged to collectively work to eliminate activities that harm the nation and the people's dignity and impede national development, such as drug production and distribution, telecom fraud and online gambling, and illegal trade, which continue to occur within the state.

Therefore, all ethnic citizens are encouraged to base themselves on patriotism and a sense of union to work together with the government for the benefit of the country and the people, and to participate in the building of a Union founded on democracy and a federal system that is full of fairness, freedom, and equal rights.

In conclusion, on the occasion of "Shan State Day", which has served as a cornerstone for fostering a peaceful and harmonious Union and promoting ethnic unity, I send this message encouraging all ethnic parents and brethren residing in Shan State to work hand in hand with the government, Tatmadaw, and the ethnic people to build a peaceful, modern, and developed nation.

Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu
Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing
Acting President, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Chairman, the State Security and Peace Commission

The Power of Knowledge in the 21st Century

FROM PAGE 9

It happened through the hard work, discipline, and effort of millions of people. In the twenty-first century, technology such as the internet, computers, and digital communication has become common among young people in China. The number of internet companies has increased rapidly over time, showing how knowledge and technology can drive development.

India has also benefited greatly from education and knowledge, especially because many of its people are proficient in English. Indian professionals now work in leading positions in global technology companies. Many top executives and officials in foreign countries are of Indian origin. These examples clearly show that knowledge is more important than material wealth.

The twenty-first century is the age of knowledge and advanced technology. Countries that invest in education and skills will rise, while those that ignore them will fall behind. Therefore, Myanmar must make great efforts in all fields to catch up with the modern world. Young people should use mobile phones and laptops to learn skills, technology, and languages. English should be practised seriously because it opens doors to global knowledge and opportunities.

This is a time of great opportunity. If people try to force change without using knowledge and correct methods, they will fail. True progress comes through education, discipline, and unity. Understanding the value of knowledge is essential. Geography, history, and global conditions all show that Myanmar has potential. What is needed now is the will to learn, to cooperate, and to work together.

It seems building a developed society is not impossible, but if people make real efforts, change can happen. Knowledge must lead the way. Unity must strengthen the nation. Only then can Myanmar move from backwardness to progress and from weakness to strength.

Reference: The article in the Yadanabon Newspaper published on 3 February 2026.

16th Sitagu eyesight donation programme

THE 16th Sitagu eyesight donation event is still in progress, and more than 1,500 patients have received free medical examination in three days. The free eyesight donation will continue until 9 February.

From 3 to 5 February, a total of 1,527 eye patients gained access to free medical treatment at the 16th time of the free eyesight donation under the guidance of Sitagu Sayadaw. The two-day surgery covered 140 patients. The seven-day eyesight donation will continue until 9 February, after being started on 3 February, so those wishing to restore their eyesight can visit the hospital during the period.

Eye patients at the 16th Sitagu eyesight donation.

As per the motto "To help those who have lost their eyesight to see again, this is the shelter under the lovingkindness of Sitagu Sayadaw", the free eyesight donation project is a huge help for patients struggling with medical costs, said the hospital. Interested donors are also invited to make direct contact with the hospital. — MT/ZS

NATIONAL

People's Military Service Training 19 graduation ceremonies held nationwide

GRADUATION ceremonies for People's Military Service Training 19 were held yesterday at respective regional military command-based training depots, marking the completion of training for young citizens who will dutifully serve the State's defence and security responsibilities.

As every citizen has the duty to safeguard the non-disintegration of the Union, the non-disintegration of national solidarity and the perpetuation of sovereignty, the authorities have been opening People's Military Service training courses for enthusiastic youths who voluntarily registered to fulfil these national responsibilities. In line with this, the graduation ceremonies for Training 19 were conducted simultaneously across the country.

The graduation parade of the People's Military Service Training 19 is underway yesterday.

During the ceremonies, trainees conveyed the State flag and took the oath of allegiance as part of the graduation parade programme. Responsible officials at each training school then delivered graduation addresses and presented awards to outstanding trainees.

After the ceremonies, chief ministers of regions and states, commanders from respective regional military commands, and other responsible officials met the newly graduated national servicemen, delivered words of encouragement at training hall venues, and personally greeted them.

Trainees of Training 19 received step-by-step instruction in physical fitness, drill, military tactics, and other general subjects, it is learnt.

Under the Constitution, the State continues to protect citizens' rights, while citizens are also required to fulfil national duties. Young people who are willing to shoulder these responsibilities are now serving the State's defence and security duties after completing the People's Military Service training.

In addition, experiences gained during the training, positive habits formed, values and convictions developed, and plans to continue serving in assigned battalions and units after graduation were shared through the voices of the newly graduated national servicemen.

In the evening, graduation honour dinners were also hosted for Training 19 national servicemen at the respective training depots. — MNA/KZL

Deputy Labour Minister joins ASEAN forum on platform economy

A Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Labour U Win Shein attended the ASEAN High-Level Forum on Decent Work in the Platform Economy, held in Cebu City, the Philippines, from 3 to 5 February, and returned to Yangon by air yesterday.

The forum was organized to promote policy dialogue on the platform-based economy, focusing on opportunities and challenges in advancing decent work in the ASEAN region, and to share national experiences and good practices in creating fair and inclusive platform-based employment.

Deputy Minister U Win Shein joins a commemorative group photo, linking hands in solidarity with participants at the ASEAN High-Level Forum on Decent Work in the Platform Economy in the Philippines.

During the opening session on 3 February, ASEAN member states delivered country statements. The deputy minister highlighted that the rapid growth of digital platform workers in the ASEAN region has created both opportunities and challenges. He noted that in Myanmar, digital platform jobs have emerged as an important source of income for young people, women and informal workers. He also explained that Myanmar is prioritising the development of the digital economy, with the Ministry of Commerce currently drafting the Myanmar Digital Economy Roadmap 2030.

The deputy minister further acknowledged challenges faced by platform workers, including legal frameworks, social security coverage, minimum wage protection, labour rights and collective bargaining rights, stressing the importance of promoting decent work. He added that under the 2012 Social Security Law, workers can voluntarily contribute and receive social security benefits.

Participants from ASEAN member states and development partners then exchanged views on national experiences and challenges. In the evening, the deputy minister attended a cultural exhibition and dinner reception hosted by the Philippine Department of Labour and Employment.

On 4 February, the deputy director-general participated in a panel discussion on creating decent work in the platform economy. On 5 February, ASEAN member states further discussed national experiences, challenges and policy approaches related to the platform-based economy.

The forum saw representatives from ASEAN member states, development partners including Australia, China, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the European Union, as well as officials from the International Labour Organization (ILO). — MNA/KZL

NATIONAL

996 Myanmar citizens repatriated from Cambodia to date

THE government repatriated a total of 267 nationals who were suspected of being involved in online fraud and gambling activities in Cambodia for various reasons, as the fourth batch yesterday.

Of these, 59 were repatriated by Tatmadaw aircraft to Myeik, while 208 were repatriated by Tatmadaw aircraft to Yangon.

The government took its citizens arriving at the Myanmar Embassy to Cambodia back in batches, 136 as the first batch on 23 January, 430 as the second batch on 25 January, 163 as the third batch on 26 January, and 267 as the fourth batch yesterday, totalling 996 citizens by MAI and Tatmadaw aircraft.

The Myanmar nationals who arrived in Myeik and Yangon yesterday were received back by the commander, along with officials and departmental representatives from Myeik and Mingaladon townships. The returnees were provided with foodstuffs and sent to the designated locations.

Authorities continue to collect the necessary personal information and records of Myanmar citizens returning from Cambodia, conduct required checks and complete all necessary procedures. — MNA/KTZH

Repatriation process is underway for Myanmar nationals linked to telecom fraud and online gambling in Cambodia for various reasons.

Over 3,700 licensed firms distribute traditional medicines nationwide

This photo features a traditional medicine manufacturing facility and a clinic operated as an MSME business.

THE Department of Traditional Medicine under the Ministry of Health announced that there are over 3,700 licensed entrepreneurs distributing Myanmar traditional medicines in accordance with the Traditional Medicine Law.

The Traditional Medicine Law is being implemented to further improve the distribution of traditional medicines, promote health awareness among the public, and expand access to traditional medical care.

Most traditional medicines produced in Myanmar are derived from plants, animals, and minerals. About 70 per cent of the country's population still relies on Myanmar's traditional medicines. With a history of over 2,500 years, Myanmar's traditional medicine continues to play an important role in public health care.

According to the Traditional Medicine Law, manufacturers and dealers of Myanmar traditional medicines must apply for traditional medicine registration and obtain a traditional medicine manufacturing license from the Department of Traditional Medicine before producing and distributing their products.

Additionally, operating a traditional medicine distribution business without the required manufacturing licence or registration is illegal and may result in imprisonment. — ASH/MKKS

Digital tourism marketing batch 2 launches this month; Advanced course set for Apr

THE batch no 2 of the digital tourism marketing training course has been scheduled to start on 9 February, and the advanced course will be continued in early April, according to the Union of Myanmar Travel Association.

With the support of the Yangon Region government and coordination by the regional Department of Hotels and Tourism, the 10-day digital tourism marketing course batch 1 started from 26 January until 6 February at the Centre for Tourism Development located at Yatha Condo.

It is designed to boost the digital marketing techniques for the tourism industry, and there are 66 trainees in batch 1. The second batch is scheduled from 9 to 26 February at the training centre, said UMTA.

UMTA said it has also planned to launch a digital tourism marketing advanced course in early April. — MT/ZS

'Beauty of Spring' exhibition showcases contemporary traditional paintings

A group art exhibition titled "Beauty of Spring" will be held at the Artistic Space Art Gallery in Botahtaung Township, Yangon Region, according to the gallery's exhibition incharge.

Organised by the Contemporary Myanmar Traditional Style Painting Group, the exhibition will run from 7 to 11 February and will be open to the public from 10 am to 5 pm daily at the Artistic Space Art Gallery. Art lovers and members of the public are warmly invited to attend.

The exhibition will feature a diverse range of artworks by group members, including Hlaing One, Aung Khin (Bank), Htay Myint, Win Min Maung, AT Kyin, Htun Win, Ye Min Khaung, Saw Tin Maung, Shan Lay, Metman Thee, Shwe Myat Htet, Sein Win, Myo Tint Shwe, Htun Htun Zaw, K T Maw, Aung San Oo, Hlyan Htet Thu, Ma Zaw, Khine Shwe War Lwin, Ei Shwe Win, Nan Ni Koe and Hayma Su Kyi.

Visitors can view paintings created using watercolour, oil, acrylic and mixed media, exploring a variety of themes and artistic expressions. The works will be displayed in various sizes, including 24 by 24 inches, 36 by 24 inches, 18 by 24 inches and 18 by 18 inches, among others. — ASH/KZL

This image shows the catalogue featuring artworks of the "Beauty of Spring" exhibition.

Union National Races Village opens competitive bids for 22 businesses

THE Tender Acceptance and Evaluation Committee invited qualified and pre-selected suppliers to submit proposals with a competitive procurement process to lease out 22 businesses associated with Union National Races Village (Yangon) under the Department of Ethnic Literature and Culture, the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs.

The commercial lease lasting one year is from 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027. They include two businesses of bike rent, public toilet facilities near main gate, back of Union Hall, and nears Myanmar, Mon, Rakhine, Chin and Kayah houses and Inlay Lake inside the Union National Races Village (Yangon), opening a tea shop on MV-705, buggy rental, restaurant business, duck boat business in Inlay Lake, pony cart rent business, photography business, toy picking machine, water slide business, boat rental, swimming business, Zip Line service and Futsal court lease.

Closed tender forms and regulations can be purchased at Union National Races Village (Yangon) in Thakayta Township, Yangon Region, by 3 March. Individuals can enquire about details through 09 694498289, 09797731667 and 09 421114496 of the office of the Union National Races Village or the ministry's website http://www.moea.gov.mm/. Tender selection will take place on 5 March at the meeting hall of the Union National Races Village (Yangon). — NN/KK

MRCCI, MCFA Mandalay Branch partner on business, education under MoU

MRCCI and MCFA officials are seen signing an MoU.

THE Mandalay Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry (MRCCI) and the Mandalay branch of the Myanmar-China Friendship Association (MCFA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 2 February 2026 to build bridges to foster economic growth, enhance education quality, increase mutual understanding through shared initiatives and boost trade, according to the MRCCI.

Furthermore, as per the MoU, the two parties agreed to conduct business courses to promote bilateral business and trade, hold Trade Fair and Exhibition and Talk Shows and cooperate in future activities.

Chairs and general secretaries of MRCCI and MCFA signed the MoU in the presence of the central executives and work executives of the two institutions. — ASH/KK

Yangon palm oil reference price edges up

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil for the Yangon market are not straying too far at K6,200 during a week ending 12 February from the three-week unchanged level of K6,150 per viss in the last three weeks, according to the Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution.

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 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 together 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 consumption of palm oil 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 imported annually through Malaysia and Indonesia to meet domestic demands. — NN/KK

CBM secures foreign currency injection

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) pumped US$100,000, 500,000 yuan and over 2.2M baht into the market on 5 February, in addition to an injection of over $2 million into the edible oil-importing companies.

CBM injected over 1.939 million baht, purchased from CMP companies, into the market after selling over $2.089 million to the edible oil-importing companies on 4 February.

CBM announced on 3 February that it would inject $28 million into the fuel oil import sector.

Furthermore, CBM sold over $691,600 to edible oil-importing companies on that day after selling 500,000 baht in the market.

CBM sold over $1.8 million to edible oil-importing companies, along with an injection of 2.3 million baht into the market.

CBM sold over $43 million, 65 million baht and over four million yuan in January 2026.

This image displays the facade of the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) in Nay Pyi Taw.

CBM pumped $34 million, 11 million baht and 300,000 yuan into the market in December 2025. CBM aims to curb 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

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GLOBAL VIEWPOINTS/AD
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

India, Gulf Cooperation Council countries sign initial terms for Free Trade deal

This image shows workers at the Khurais oil field in Saudi Arabia. The facility is owned by the state-run oil giant Saudi Aramco. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

INDIA and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member countries signed the Terms of Reference for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) on Thursday in the national capital.

Chief Negotiator for GCC, Raja Al Marzouki, highlighted the importance of the proposed free trade agreement, noting that globalization is under attack.

GCC is a group of six Arab countries: Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.

"So it's a message. It's a signal for the whole group, for the whole globe, and it's important for us at this time to try to be more cooperative, to avoid any risk that our global economy facing as a result of uncertainty," he said.

He welcomed the Indian side to hold the first round of negotiations in Riyadh. He said that it will "be a pleasure to host you there".

In his address at the signing ceremony, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said discussions for an FTA with the Gulf Cooperation Council have been going on for nearly two decades.

"Two trading partners who have been trading amongst each other for over 5,000 years. It is most appropriate that we now enter into a much stronger and robust trading arrangement, which will enable greater free flow of goods, services, bring predictability and stability to policy, help encourage greater degree of investments and take our bilateral relations between the six nation GCC group and India to greater heights," Piyush Goyal said. — ANI

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Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V VIMC VICTORY VOY.NO. (2602)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **7-2-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MKH** 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 UNI SPRING LOGISTICS HOLDING PTE LTD

No Objection Advertisement

If anyone who wish to object the transfer from Buronos Private Co., Ltd to Anawrahta Production Co., Ltd (Add: Buildig No.(646) Condo, Room (6-A), Thamine Myo Hong (6) Street,(1) Quarter, Mayangone Township, Yangon Division, Myanmar) for all registration processes and distribution under mentioned product produced by Zenith Crop Sciences Bulgaria Ltd (Add: Asenovgradsko shose, 4009 Plovdiv, Bulgaria) may state their objection within (14) days from this date to Co- Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board (PRB), Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, Livestock & Irrigation,Yangon Division, Myanmar.

No	Trade Name	Active Ingredients	Registration Type	Registration Number
1	Fortuna 80 WP	Mancozeb 80% WP	Full	F2019-1919

Zenith Crop Sciences Bulgaria Ltd
Asenovgradsko shose, 4009 Plovdiv, Bulgaria

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Sony raises FY 2025 profit outlook to 1.13 trl yen

SONY Group Corp on Thursday raised its net profit forecast for the year through March to 1.13 trillion yen ($7.2 billion), up from 1.05 trillion yen previously forecast, driven by its music and entertainment sector.

The Japanese electronics and entertainment giant's net profit is expected to surpass the 1 trillion yen threshold for the second straight year after hitting a record high in fiscal 2024. – Kyodo

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V XO LUCKY VOY.NO. (X2603E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V XO LUCKY VOY.NO. (X2603E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **7-2-2026** 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 TI2 LOGISTICS PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V TI2 APPLE VOY.NO. (A2604E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V TI2 APPLE VOY.NO. (A2604E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **7-2-2026** 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 TI2 LOGISTICS PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V BOOTES VOY.NO. (010)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BOOTES VOY.NO. (010)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **7-2-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **IBTT** 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 BEN LINE AGENCIES (S'PORE) PTE LTD

SPORTS

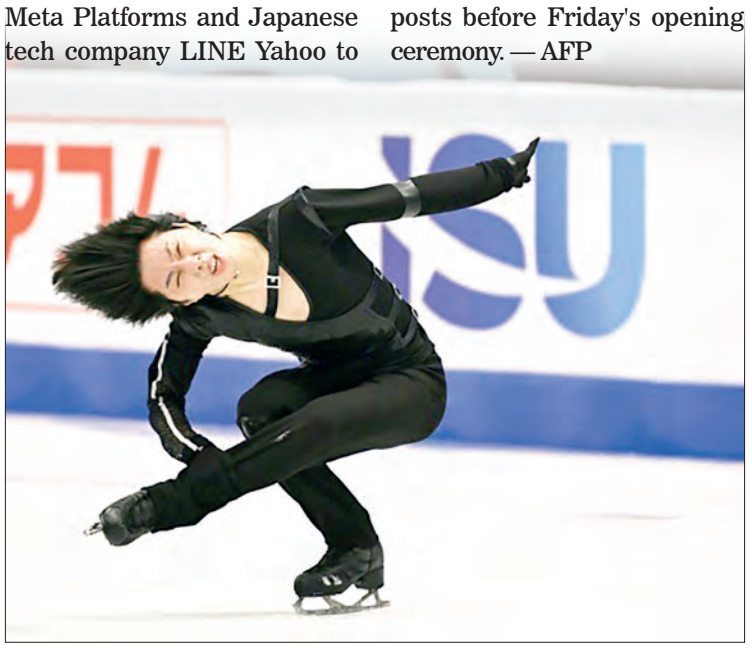
Japan taps Meta to help search for abuse of Olympic athletes

JAPAN'S Olympic committee said on Friday it was working with tech giant Meta to monitor social media around the clock to protect athletes from online abuse at the Milan-Cortina Games.

The Japanese Olympic Committee (JOC) has designated six staff members in Milan and a further 16 in Tokyo to scour social media 24 hours a day, using artificial intelligence tools to help detect malicious material.

The JOC said it was partnering with both Facebook parent Meta Platforms and Japanese tech company LINE Yahoo to combat online abuse. "With the proliferation of social media, defamatory comments and malicious posts targeting athletes have become a serious social issue," the JOC said in a statement.

"Such behaviour not only places significant mental and physical strain on athletes, but also risks impacting their ability to perform". The JOC's monitoring operation began in mid-January and Japanese media said officials had identified roughly 2,000 potentially inappropriate posts before Friday's opening ceremony. — AFP



Kao Miura competes in Beijing ahead of the Olympics. **PHOTO: GREG BAKER / AFP**

2026 MGF President Trophy golf tournaments set for Yangon and Mandalay

THE Myanmar Golf Federation (MGF) will organize the 2026 President Trophy golf tournaments in Yangon and Mandalay during February and March 2026, according to the federation.

The Junior tournaments will take place from 18 to 20 February, while the Tour Pro, Senior Pro and Amateur (men and women) events will be held from 24 to 27 February at Yedaguntaung Golf Course in Mandalay.

In Yangon, the Amateur, Senior Amateur and Junior (ages 15 to 18) competitions will run from 9 to 12 March at Yangon Golf Club (Danyingon).

The Tour Pro, Senior Pro and Amateur women's tournaments will follow from 16 to 19 March at City Golf Resort (Ngwethawda).

The Junior category will include boys' events for under-12, under-14 and under-18 age groups, as well as a girls' under-18 category. In the Amateur division, eligible players will include men with handicaps from zero to twelve and women with handicaps from zero to sixteen.

All competitions will be conducted in accordance with the R and A Rule Limited and USGA Rules of Golf 2023, along with applicable local rules. The Myanmar Golf Federation will announce further details regarding registration and entry procedures at a later date. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Newcastle manager Howe pleads for Woltemade patience

NEWCASTLE manager Eddie Howe has urged fans to be patient with club-record signing Nick Woltemade now the rest of the Premier League is getting to know the German striker's strengths and weaknesses.

Woltemade made a fine start to his time in English football following his pre-season arrival from Stuttgart for a fee of £69 million ($94 million) with six goals in his first 11 games for northeast side Newcastle.

But the goals have dried up for the 23-year-old, who has failed to find the back of the net in his last 12 appearances "He is young, (it's) a new league," Howe said of Woltemade in the build-up to Saturday's match at home to seventh-placed Brentford — four positions above Newcastle in the table. "He started so well and I think everybody expected that to continue but I think that is very difficult to do, as much as we wanted that to happen for him." — AFP

Italy set for 2026 Winter Olympics opening ceremony

THE Milan-Cortina Winter Olympics officially start with a star-studded opening ceremony at the San Siro Stadium on Friday, while US ski great Lindsey Vonn tests her injured knee in a crucial practice run.

The most geographically dispersed Games in history will get underway in Italy's economic capital at 1900 GMT with a three-hour extravaganza that takes in the three other sites spread across the Alps and the Dolomites.

For the first time the 2,900 athletes will parade in the venues closest to where they will compete, in a bid to minimize travel.

The ceremony is expected to draw a global audience of hundreds of millions and offers "a unique platform to convey positive messages, not divisive ones," creative director Marco Balich promised. Balich intends to pay tribute to Italian design and fashion, with a special nod to the designer Giorgio Armani, who died last year. — AFP

The Olympic flame reached the cathedral in Milan ahead of Friday's opening ceremony. **PHOTO: AFP**

WORLD

GLOBAL VIEWPOINTS:
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

India, Gulf Cooperation Council countries sign initial terms for Free Trade deal
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Russia set to build nuclear power plant in lunar exploration programme: Academy of Sciences

The project aims to overcome the 14-day lunar night and support the International Lunar Research Station (ILRS).

On 8 August 2023, Roscosmos launched the Luna-25 lander on a Soyuz-2.1b rocket from the Vostochny cosmodrome. This mission marked Russia's first lunar probe since the 1970s and aimed to test soft-landing technologies while exploring the moon's south pole.
PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ SPUTNIK/FILE

Russia has incorporated the construction of a nuclear power plant into its lunar exploration programme, Russian Academy of Sciences President (RAS) Gennady Krasnikov told Sputnik.

"This, of course, pertains to nuclear energy. The fact is that, unlike Mars for example, the Moon faces significant challenges regarding energy supply," Krasnikov said.

The lunar night is long (which lasts about two Earth weeks) and, naturally, solar panels cannot handle energy generation during that period, the RAS president said.

"If we are to address the issue of a lunar base or large robotic devices operating around the clock on the Moon, then the most promising energy source for this is undoubtedly nuclear," the academician said.

The RAS is working on a lunar exploration program scheduled until 2060. The current lunar programme is planned until 2036, Krasnikov added. — SPUTNIK

China's space industry-developed eVTOL aircraft completes first flight

AN electric vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) aircraft, developed by the ninth academy of China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation, completed its maiden flight in southwest China's Chongqing Municipality on Friday.

The V2000CG CarryAll, a tonne-class electric vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) aircraft, conducts a flight demonstration at a flight test base in Kunshan, East China's Jiangsu province, on 22 July 2025. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Featuring a novel configuration that combines air vehicles and automobile designs, the eVTOL aircraft can seamlessly switch between land and air travel modes to meet diverse transport needs, its developer said.

Consisting of wings, a cabin and a chassis, the aircraft has two major components: an airborne module and a road-going module.

The airborne one is capable of carrying two passengers at a speed of 150 kilometres per hour at altitudes below 3,000 metres, and the road-going one, with a fully electric intelligent chassis, can deliver a range exceeding 300 kilometres.

As a multipurpose low-altitude equipment, the eVTOL aircraft can be used in fields such as transport, logistics and emergency support, according to its developer. — Xinhua

S Korea's cargo ship returns after fire breaks out

A cargo ship has returned to a port in South Korea after a fire broke out in a vehicle aboard on Friday, Yonhap news agency said.

It was reported to the coast guard at around 5:34 pm local time (0834 GMT) that the fire occurred at a vehicle on the 9,952-tonne cargo ship sailing in waters about 17 kilometres north of the port in the southern resort island of Jeju. The vessel, heading from the island to the southwestern port city of Mokpo, returned to the port while making self-extinguishing efforts, as there was no issue with its navigation.

There were 28 people on board the ship that was transporting 86 trucks and 41 passenger cars. – Xinhua