

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

Four Objectives of the National Defence and Security Council

1. To steadfastly strive for emergence of political forces and the people’s representatives who can implement a genuine, disciplined multi-party democratic system while constantly emphasizing on the national interests of the State.
2. To persistently strive for promoting the socio-economic life of the people through the development of agro-based industries in improving the agricultural sector; the vital foundation of the economic growth of the State.
3. To put emphasis on enhancing the national education and health sectors for sustainable development of the State.
4. To implement multi-party democratic system, with the participation of the people, to ensure the success of multi-party democratic general election process and successfully moving towards with the multi-party democratic system aspired by the entire people.

Ending armed terrorism and restoring peace and stability essential for all

Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing met Tatmadaw members and families of Pathein Station at Ayeyawady Hall of the South-West Command Headquarters yesterday morning.

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General said that Tatmadaw must be a capable and strong armed force that can effectively safeguard the country. Tatmadaw members serving in various regions should work in unity with local residents to effectively ensure regional security, stability, and peace.

With the mindset of being a good Tatmadaw member, he continued that each Tatmadaw member should avoid, as much as possible, indulgence in drinking, smoking, and other habits that could harm their lives and well-being, and must maintain proper conduct and live in accordance with military discipline.

He added that just as the Tatmadaw is making efforts to ensure the comfort and well-being of Tatmadaw members and their families, they should also strive, to the best of their ability, to successfully carry out agriculture and livestock breeding activities within military-owned areas.

Tatmadaw members serving in various regions should work in unity with local residents to effectively ensure local security, stability, and peace.



Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing comforts a Tatmadaw member who receives medical treatment at the local Tatmadaw hospital in Pathein yesterday.

SEE PAGE 4

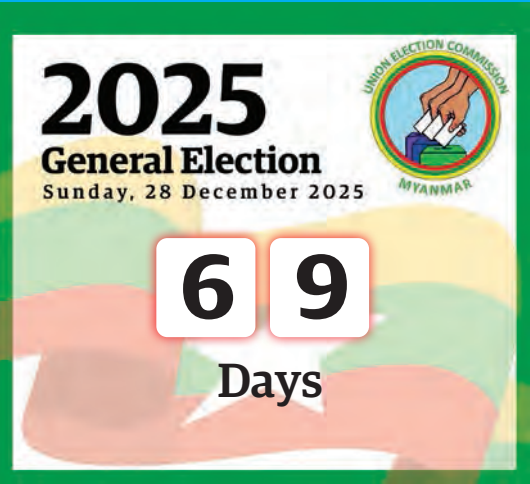
NATIONAL



2025 MULTIPARTY DEMOCRACY GENERAL ELECTION

- Domestic election observers who wish to monitor the multiparty democratic general election, which will begin in phases on 28 December 2025, may apply for election observation permits at the Union Election Commission (UEC), as well as the relevant Region/State, District, and Township Election Subcommissions from today until 5 December 2025.
- The Union Election Commission announced on 16 September 2025 that domestic election observers must follow the Code of Conduct for Observers, issued under Notification 68/2025, and adhere to the procedures set out for their observation activities under Notification 69/2025. These notifications are available for viewing and can be downloaded from the Union Election Commission’s official website <https://www.uec.gov.mm>.
- The Union Election Commission has also announced that international election observers will be allowed to monitor the multiparty democratic general election. Invitations will be extended directly to representatives of relevant countries and international organizations. In addition, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, invitations will be sent to representatives of foreign embassies, consulates, and permanent missions that maintain diplomatic relations with the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Union Election Commission



- 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.

Top websites and web portals to access
Military Service Rules

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Office of the State Administration Council
https://sacoffice.gov.mm | 4. Ministry of Information
https://www.moi.gov.mm |
| 2. Ministry of Defence
https://www.mod.gov.mm | 5. Myawady Webportal
https://myawady.net.mm |
| 3. Ministry of Legal Affairs
https://www.mlis.gov.mm | 6. Myanmar National Portal
https://myanmar.gov.mm |

Enquiries and Reports on Voter Registration Now Accepted

1. To facilitate enquiries and reports regarding voter registration, the Union Election Commission has established call centres staffed by officials from the Union Election Commission, the Ministry of Home Affairs, the General Administration Department, and the Ministry of Immigration and Population. These call centres enable voters to enquire about voter registration matters and report any difficulties they may encounter. Voters can contact the following call centre numbers during office hours: -
- (a) Union Election Commission (Nay Pyi Taw)
(1) 067 3404302
(2) 067 3404303
(3) 067 3404304
(4) 09 252116996
(5) For text messages (SMS): 09 252116996
 - (b) Election Subcommission (Nay Pyi Taw Council)
(1) 067 417967
(2) 067 417963
(3) 067 881750256
(4) 09 5330130
(5) For text messages (SMS): 09 881750256
 - (c) Election Subcommission (Kachin State)
(1) 01 3331635
(2) 09 422544669
(3) For text messages (SMS): 09 400021303
 - (d) Election Subcommission (Kayah State)
(1) 09 881446686
(2) 09 886834233
(3) For text messages (SMS): 09 685636811

- (e) Election Subcommission (Kayin State)
(1) 058 21175
(2) 058 23432
(3) For text messages (SMS): 09 778710146
- (f) Election Subcommission (Chin State)
(1) 01 3336611
(2) 01 3336622
(3) For text messages (SMS): 09 442993233
- (g) Election Subcommission (Sagaing Region)
(1) 071 2032095
(2) 071 2032096
(3) For text messages (SMS): 09 679779520
- (h) Election Subcommission (Taninthayi Region)
(1) 059 2021211
(2) 059 2023525
(3) For text messages (SMS): 09 403729990
- (i) Election Subcommission (Bago Region)
(1) 052 2221268
(2) 052 2201991
(3) For text messages (SMS): 09 251133187
- (j) Election Subcommission (Magway Region)
(1) 063 2028889
(2) 063 2028890
(3) For text messages (SMS): 09 5202659
- (k) Election Subcommission (Mandalay Region)
(1) 02 4069042
(2) 02 4067344
(3) For text messages (SMS): 09 36022777

- (l) Election Subcommission (Mon State)
(1) 057 2027256
(2) 057 2024391
(3) For text messages (SMS): 09 400070903
- (m) Election Subcommission (Rakhine State)
(1) 09 421742428
(2) 09 43094457
(3) For text messages (SMS): 09 421715494
- (n) Election Subcommission (Yangon Region)
(1) 01 2506293
(2) 01 2306250
(3) For text messages (SMS): 09 441651416
- (o) Election Subcommission (Shan State)
(1) 081 2124995
(2) 081 2124540
(3) For text messages (SMS): 09 254101508
- (p) Election Subcommission (Ayeyawady Region)
(1) 042 24616
(2) 042 23783
(3) For text messages (SMS): 09 695837030

2. Please note that any telephone numbers used for purposes other than enquiries or reporting, including nuisance calls, will be recorded and deactivated.

Union Election Commission

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)

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing urged all to operate cultivation of paddy plus breeding of fish and prawn in low-lying areas of Ayeyawady Region.

Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission Senior General Min Aung Hlaing met departmental officials and town elders in Pathein of Ayeyawady Region yesterday afternoon to discuss regional development initiatives.

Arriving in Pathein, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla were warmly welcomed by departmental official and town elders.

At the town hall in Pathein, the Senior General discussed regional development measures with departmental officials and town elders.

The Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister reported on agriculture and livestock activities in the region, food security measures, efforts to meet the target production, salient points of agricultural tasks, efforts to increase edible oil security, export of livestock and fishery products, operating agriculture and livestock farms with the use of State economic promotion fund, generating electricity, paddy husk-fired power generation, transport facilities in the region, development undertakings for MSME, promotion of education and sports sectors, arrivals of travellers and development process.

Town elders and businesspersons requested the Senior General to upgrade the Pathein-Yangon road section, the Thalakkhwa bridge on Pathein-Ngwehsaung road and construct a multipurpose stadium. They reported to the Senior General on improvment of agriculture sector in Ayeyawady Region, needs of assistance for more production of tapioca, generating electricity from the paddy husk-fired power, and cooperation of MSME production with international communities.

Union Ministers and region chief ministers discussed swift and smooth transport activities, maintenance of river courses, plans to operate more flights, loans for agriculture and production, needs to follow laws and rules for expansion of cultivable lands, and opening



Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission Senior General Min Aung Hlaing views round MSME products of Ayeyawady Region at the town hall in Pathein yesterday.

Ayeyawady Region must promote the brand of Pawsan rice

If fallow and virgin lands are genuinely going to be cultivated, permission will be granted for such use.

of industrial, and agriculture and livestock high schools to turn out necessary qualified human resources for agriculture and livestock production sector.

In his address, the Senior General pointed out that agriculture and livestock industries in Ayeyawady Region need to produce quality products with the high yield.

He unveiled that the target production has been set to have 100 baskets each of monsoon and summer paddy per acre in the region. So, officials have to systematically collect data in respective regions.

He noted that some 10 per cent of farmlands in Ayeyawady Region are located in the low-lying areas, it is necessary to operate cultivation of paddy plus breeding of fish and prawn.

The Senior General gave guidance that since the Pawsan variety rice is truly of high quality, it should be promoted as a brand of the Ayeyawady Region. Efforts should also be made to enhance the cultivation of sunflower to ensure oil sufficiency.

He underscored that efforts should be made to improve teaching and learning in

the higher education sector. At the same time, the government is supporting the development and advancement of basic education schools and universities to the best of its ability.

He unveiled that stadiums are being upgraded in regions and states while emphasis is being placed on construction of swimming pools to meet the standard.

He pledged that the government will coordinate with relevant ministries to upgrade the road section from Bo Myat Tun Bridge to Pathein and the Thalakkhwa bridge.

SEE PAGE 4

NATIONAL

Ending armed terrorism and restoring peace and stability essential for all



Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of the Senior General, gives words of encouragement to the wife of Tatmadaw member at the maternity ward of the local Tatmadaw hospital in Patheingyi yesterday.

FROM PAGE 1

The Senior General pointed out that as the country has long been weak in industrial production, natural resources have been continuously extracted and

used over generations. Therefore, since the country already has a foundation in agriculture and livestock breeding, members of the Tatmadaw should assist local people in their respective areas to enhance

production in these sectors.

He underlined that if armed terrorist act continues to cause instability, it will be impossible to carry out economic activities. Therefore, it is essential to put an end

to armed terrorism and restore peace and stability in the regions.

The meeting was also attended by Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, the wife of the Senior General, senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives.

The Senior General presented food-stuff for Tatmadaw members and families of the station to the commander while the wife of the Senior General gave the cash award for the station maternal and child welfare association through the wife of the commander.

After the meeting, the Senior General, his wife and party cordially greeted the Tatmadaw members and families.

At the local Tatmadaw hospital, the Senior General comforted Tatmadaw members who sustained injuries during serving the defence and security duties of the State and asked them about their injuries and healing conditions individually. After hearing their reports, the Senior General attended to their needs. The Senior General asked about requirements of the hospital and fulfilled the needs.

The wife of the Senior General also comforted family members of Tatmadaw members who receiving medical treatments at the hospital, cordially asked about their health conditions and presented foodstuffs. — MNA/TTA

Ayeyawady Region must promote the brand of Pawsan rice

FROM PAGE 3

Regarding land, the Senior General highlighted that if fallow and virgin lands are genuinely going to be cultivated, permission will be granted for such use. At the same time, officials must supervise and ensure that the farmlands are not used for other purposes.

He underscored that bamboo can be used to produce pulp and paper with the use of abundant growth of bamboo in Ayeyawady Region, as well as various consumer goods. Therefore, efforts should be made to further develop and expand the production of bamboo-based products.

He spotted that prepara-

tions are underway to hold a free and fair election in December. In casting votes, voter people should choose representatives who can responsibly uphold Our Three Main National Causes and possess political, security, economic, and administrative perspectives, as well as the ability to genuinely work for the benefit of the nation and their regions.

The meeting was also attended by Commission Secretary and Joint Executive Chief General Ye Win Oo, Union ministers, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, chief ministers of Ayeyawady, Bago and Yangon regions, and the commander of

South-West Command.

The Senior General viewed round the products of MSME in Ayeyawady Region and gave necessary guidance to officials.

The Senior General inspected progress in construction of the Institute of Sports and Physical Education (Patheingyi) under the Department of Sports and Physical Education in Patheingyi and gave guidance to officials.

He also observed completion of the modern swimming pool (Patheingyi) and watched youths in the basic swimming course at the swimming pool.

At the lounge of Patheingyi Airport, the Senior General heard reports on upgrading of the Patheingyi Airport by the Union

Salient points in the speech delivered by the Senior General at the meeting with officials and town elders in Patheingyi

1. The target production has been set to have 100 baskets each of monsoon and summer paddy per acre in the region.
2. The government will coordinate with relevant ministries to upgrade the road section from Bo Myat Tun Bridge to Patheingyi and the Thalakhwa bridge.
3. Efforts should be made to further develop and expand the production of bamboo-based products.
4. The government is supporting the development and advancement of basic education schools and universities to the best of its ability.

Minister for Transport and Communications. The Senior General stressed that the Patheingyi Airport is being upgraded for en-

hancement of the tourism sector. The project must be implemented systematically for completion on the schedules. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

General Aung San Declares Firm Stand Against Election Disruption

“Our Government shall not permit any disruption of the forthcoming election. The electoral process shall remain free and fair, and no interference shall be exercised upon those who participate in it. Yet, let it be firmly declared that any attempt to disturb or sabotage the election shall be met with the full weight of authority”.

(An excerpt from the radio address regarding the election, delivered by General Aung San on 13 March 1947)



Myanmar delegation arrives back from attending Ministerial Meeting of Non-Aligned Movement

WHILE in Kampala, Uganda, for the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Ministerial Meeting held on 15-16 October 2025, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe held bilateral meetings with the Foreign Ministers from the Republic of Mozambique, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Cuba, as well as the Foreign Affairs Advisor of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh and Ambassador of the Republic of Nicaragua to the Republic of Italy.

In addition, the Myanmar delegation visited the Uganda Buddhist Centre in Kampala. They offered a replica of sacred Buddha relic brought from Myanmar and donated robes, Myanmar traditional food, monastic prerequisites, and financial support. This contribution will aid the centre’s



Photo shows a Buddhist monk and Union Minister U Than Swe and delegation at the Uganda Buddhist Centre in Kampala, Uganda.

ongoing educational and social welfare activities for its monks, novices, and nuns.

The Uganda Buddhist Centre has a strong connection to Myanmar. It was established

in 2005 by Ugandan Venerable Bhante Buddharakkita under the guidance of Myanmar Venerable Sayadaws and with the financial support from donors in the United States. It serves

as a key hub for sharing the Buddha Dhamma in Africa. In addition to its religious mission, the centre also offers education, healthcare and social services to the local commu-

nity. Today, it is preparing to launch the Africa Buddhist College (ABC). The centre’s connection to Myanmar remains active, with one Myanmar venerable monk and two nuns currently engaged in missionary work there. Furthermore, it is reported that there are nearly 70 Ugandan novices and nuns in total attending the centre.

This visit marks a strategic milestone in advancing Myanmar’s international relations. Myanmar’s active participation in the NAM platform, along with its support for the Uganda Buddhist Centre, stands as a clear testament to the Country’s strong commitment and unwavering efforts toward global peace and development.

The Myanmar delegation, led by Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe, arrived back in Myanmar yesterday evening. — MNA

MoSYA Union Minister attends 8th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Sports in Hanoi

UNION Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs and for Hotels and Tourism, and Chairman of the Myanmar Olympic Committee Jeng Phang Naw Taung attended the 8th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Sports and related meetings held at Melia Hotel in Hanoi, Vietnam on 16 and 17 October. He was accompanied by Director-General for Sports and Physical Education Department U Nyan Zaw Oo.

During the meeting, the Union Minister discussed Myanmar’s participation in promoting ASEAN sports standards

and development, as well as the country’s consistent organization of annual sports competitions to mark ASEAN Day. Representatives from ASEAN member countries also attended the meeting.

The Union Minister also met sports ministers and senior officials from Vietnam, Thailand, and Laos to discuss coordinated inclusion of traditional sports from respective countries in upcoming regional and Asian sporting events. They also exchanged views on improving the invitation system



Sports ministers and senior officials from ASEAN nations pose for documentary group photo at the 8th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Sports at Melia Hotel in Hanoi, Vietnam.

for regional competitions — proposing that invitations be issued at least three months in advance instead of the current two-week period.

Meanwhile, Director-General U Nyan Zaw Oo also attended the 16th ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on sports and related meetings held from 12 to 14 October at the same venue, joining representatives from ASEAN member countries, China, and Japan.

The Union Minister and delegation returned to Yangon by air on 18 October. — MNA/KZL

NATIONAL

Resilient and strong social community activities underway in disaster-affected Tatkon villages

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, Chairman of the Working Committee on Information and Development of a Resilient and Strong Social Community, visited yesterday the disaster-affected villages of Magyeepin and Nyaungpintha in Tatkon Township, Nay Pyi Taw, accompanied by committee members and departmental officials, to inspect the progress of activities aimed at building a resilient and strong social community and to address the needs of the local people.

First, the Union minister and his party paid homage to the abbot of Magyeepin-Nyaungpintha Monastery, presenting Buddha images, donation items, and cash before meeting local residents of Magyeepin and Nyaungpintha villages.

During the meeting with locals, the Union minister stated that he will work with depart-



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn meets locals from Magyeepin and Nyaungpintha villages in Tatkon Township, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday.

ments to implement preventive measures to avoid further flooding in villages and urged people not to lose hope despite their difficulties, encouraging them to strive for a better society.

He added that the State is investing in shaping Magyepin and Nyaungpintha villages model villages after natural disasters by supporting information and activities to build a resilient

and strong social community, emphasizing that success depends on the local people being strong-minded and working together in unity to improve their own lives.

He urged people to vote as a civic duty in the upcoming multiparty democratic general election, emphasizing that they should choose candidates who can contribute to the development of their communities, and added that entertainment programmes will be organized to boost local morale.

Afterwards, the Union minister and his team visited Nyaungpintha village to review livestock farming activities aimed at achieving self-sufficiency in the meat sector and to inspect houses built for flood-affected residents. He also checked the progress of the Nawin Creek embankment maintenance project, assessed the living conditions of households, including access to food, drinking water, and electricity, coordinated local needs, and provided financial assistance to the residents. — MNA/TH

Deputy Health Minister attends food trade forum in Shanghai



The “Forum on Deepen Cooperation Mechanisms and Promoting Agrifood Trade” among Belt and Road Countries in progress in Shanghai, the People’s Republic of China.

DEPUTY Minister for Health Dr Aye Tun led the Myanmar delegation to attend the “Forum on Deepen Cooperation Mechanisms and Promoting Agrifood Trade” among Belt and Road Countries held in Shanghai, the People’s Republic of China on 15 and 16 October.

The forum aimed to enhance cooperation in food and agricultural product trade among Belt and Road countries through mutual exchanges of mechanisms, coordination on policy matters, and experience-sharing programmes focusing on communication and

study visits. At the opening ceremony, a senior official from the Shanghai Municipal Government delivered the inaugural address, after which discussions and forums continued. Director-General of the Food and Drug Administration under the Ministry of Health Dr Ye Myint presented a paper titled “Myanmar’s Import and Export Food Safety Cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative”. Delegates from South Africa, Bolivia, Kazakhstan, Türkiye, Uzbekistan, Yemen, Brunei, and Cambodia attended the forum. At the forum, participants made study visits to the Waigaoqiao Global Hub, Pudong New Area Enterprise, Shanghai Customs Building’s “2025 Shanghai Urban Space Art Exhibition”, and the Shanghai Yu Garden. — MNA/KZL

Yangon Region Chief Minister sees off Russian delegation

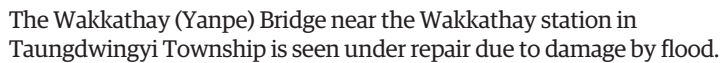
A delegation led by Mr Evgeny Grigoryev, Member of the Government of Saint Petersburg, the Russian Federation, and Chair of the Committee for External Relations, departed from Yangon by air on 18 October. Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, regional ministers, Russian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Iskander Azizov, officials from the Ministry of For-

eign Affairs’ Strategic Studies and Training Department, and ethnic students saw the delegation off at Yangon International Airport. During the farewell at the airport lounge, the Yangon Region Chief Minister and regional ministers presented a photo album documenting the delegation’s visit and commemorative gifts to Mr Evgeny Grigoryev. — Zwe Htet Ko (IPRD)/KZL



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein presents a photo album documenting the delegation’s visit to Mr Evgeny Grigoryev, Member of the Government of Saint Petersburg, the Russian Federation, in Yangon on 18 October. PHOTO: ZWE HTET KO (IPRD)

(An excerpt from the speech delivered by Chairman of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, at the National Planning Commission held on 24 March 2025)



According to the new route, the trains will stop over in Yangon, Toekyaunggalay, Bago, DaikU, Nyaunglebin, Pyu, Toun-goo, Pyinmana, Lewe, Sath-wagon, Taungdwingyi, Myothit, Natmauk, Layeain, Thahmya, Pinchaung, Kyaukpadaung, Ngaminmay, Suti and Bagan stations. — Htun Htun/ZS

— MT/ZN

Expedite efforts to improve the Earth as a greening society

RESEARCHERS estimate that by 2030, about 70 per cent of the world’s population may be living in urban areas. There are many reasons for this shift to big cities, but generally it is due to greater job opportunities, better access to healthcare and education, more developed infrastructure, and higher living standards in urban areas.

The rapid expansion of megacities with populations in the millions has led to numerous challenges, including housing shortages, water and sanitation issues, waste management problems, energy demands, public transportation difficulties, and environmental pollution. Moreover, the construction of buildings, roads, sidewalks, parking lots, and open spaces in densely populated urban

If we continuously plant, conserve, and care for forests and trees to protect the natural environment, our efforts will benefit future generations. With the policy slogan, ‘Let’s protect our environment for the prosperity of the Nation,’ every citizen must take part in conservation activities – from their own urban and rural communities – to ensure that the entire country remains green, lush, and beautiful.

phere. Shade trees reduce heat and light reflection from buildings. Trees absorb carbon dioxide released from burning fossil fuels and release oxygen in return. They also naturally filter and conserve groundwater. A single tree can absorb about 48 pounds of carbon dioxide from the air each year. Therefore, cities with large numbers of trees will enjoy far better air quality than those without trees.

A tree can improve its environment. As such, forests comprising a large number of trees of various species can mitigate the possibility of dangers based on environmental degradation. As living beings, especially humans and trees, are inseparable, everyone needs to participate in planting trees in order to save the Earth as well as themselves.

If we continuously plant, conserve, and care for forests and trees to protect the natural environment, our efforts will benefit future generations. With the policy slogan, ‘Let’s protect our environment for the prosperity of the Nation,’ every citizen must take part in conservation activities – from their own urban and rural communities – to ensure that the entire country remains green, lush, and beautiful.

centres contributes to higher temperatures, increased heat reflection, and the release of gases and particulates. These factors aggravate environmental problems that negatively affect both the physical and mental health of residents. In addition, the growing use of vehicles, electrical appliances, and electronic devices in urban areas generates more heat emissions, causing city air temperatures to become significantly warmer than those of the surrounding environments.

The simplest way to address many forms of urban pollution is by planting trees in cities. Growing shade trees, hedges, ornamental plants, lawns, and small green forests along road medians, roadsides, and sidewalks, and maintaining them to remain lush and green, can help resolve numerous environmental pollution problems in urban areas.

Urban trees and forests capture airborne particles and remove toxins from the atmosphere. Shade trees reduce heat and light reflection from buildings. Trees absorb carbon dioxide released from burning fossil fuels and release oxygen in return. They also naturally filter and conserve groundwater. A single tree can absorb about 48 pounds of carbon dioxide from the air each year. Therefore, cities with large numbers of trees will enjoy far better air quality than those without trees.

If You Want to See My Mind

Dhammadūta Ashin Chekinda

ONCE upon a time, there was a vast forest inhabited by all sorts of creatures. This great forest lay beside an ocean. The ocean had beautiful beaches, as well as high, deep cliffs. Within the forest, there were tall, thick trees in abundance, along with diverse species of small flowering plants. There were flower gardens and also lush, green meadows. It was a forest where many kinds of wild animals lived. Humans call them “wild animals,” but they lived among their own kind and in their own groups, yet they also co-existed and co-operated with those of different species and groups. I never heard of any problems arising. As far as I could observe, I didn’t see or hear of any instances of seriously bad or malicious behaviour.

Just look now! They were celebrating the anniversary of their arrival and communal living in this forest: the three hundred and thirty-three thousand, three hundred and thirty-third-year celebration. Seizing the opportunity to observe, I went to their playground. It was amazing! The variety of animal species was complete. The types of sports and games were also diverse. With competitions for land animals on the ground, aquatic animals in the water, and birds in the sky, the array of events was truly varied. The roar of cheering, shouting, and yelling from the diverse audience was deafening — it could be heard even high up in the sky. Since I was there to observe, I made sure to look everywhere. If I were to tell you everything I saw, I don’t think I’d be finished in a month or two.

Ah, but the place I’ve reached now has captured my interest. It’s the running track. The racecourse is so sophisticated! The grandstand has three tiered levels with circuits. The chief referee is Mr Owl, and the assistant referees are Mr Deer and Ms Horse. I love it — Mr Owl is famous for his impartiality. Mr Deer and Ms Horse are the most expert in supervising running races.

Since there was still time, I sat in the grandstand and waited. A moment later, they announced there would only be two contestants in the race. As soon as I heard

the loud voice of Mr Elephant, the Master of Ceremonies, I suddenly felt like leaving. Just look at the competitors! Mr Rabbit, the champion, and Mr Tortoise, a rookie. That’s why I wanted to leave! Are those two really competitors? Are they in the same class? Besides, the race between Mr Rabbit and Mr Tortoise is an ancient story I’ve known since I was a child, and Mr Tortoise won that one. He’s going to win this one, too. I already know the outcome!

I realized that saying that brought up a lot of things to think about. The standard expectation is that in a race between Mr Rabbit and Mr Tortoise, Mr Rabbit is quick, fast, and a mature runner. Mr Tortoise, on the other hand, is sluggish, barely budging, and moves so slowly that one step is worth a million kuta (a traditional unit for very large numbers). So, Mr Rabbit should win the race. However, in the folktale, Mr Rabbit loses and Mr Tortoise wins. That story offered many things to consider; contemplate, learn, and remember. Countless people in the world gained wisdom from that bedtime story, leading to success through effort. So now, I felt an intense desire to wait and see what kind of wisdom this present race between Mr Rabbit and Mr Tortoise might offer.

My thoughts drifted. I lost track of time. When I finally came back to my senses, I heard Ms Horse, the assistant referee, give the count, “One, two, three,” followed immediately by the starting signal, “RUN!”

As soon as the race began, Mr Rabbit bounded and leapt, immediately shooting toward the finish line — he was a blur! Mr Tortoise, as expected, was just moving, moving, moving, slowly creeping forward. It was hard to tell if he was even running or just walking. Mr Deer, the assistant referee, was running alongside the track, monitoring the runners’ progress. Mr Owl, the chief referee, had flown up into the sky at the finish line, waiting to watch the runner cross. I knew in advance that this race would be one-sided. Since Mr Rabbit was fast, he would surely win.

Wait, he’s doing it again! Mr

Rabbit was running, running, and then, halfway down the track, he stopped, as if waiting for Mr Tortoise. Was Mr Rabbit looking down on Mr Tortoise? Did he want to wait until the little Tortoise got close, then run again just to mock and tease him? What was he thinking about when he stopped?

Watching and waiting made me so sleepy. I figured I could catch a nap and still watch the race, so I fell asleep right there in the stands. When I woke up and looked, Mr Rabbit was still asleep halfway down the track! I looked around for Mr Tortoise, who had dared to enter the race with such composure, and lo and behold! He was only about a yard from the finish line! I was utterly astonished! Just as I was watching, Mr Tortoise crossed the finish line! The sound of the audience’s applause was so loud it was nearly deafening.

That tremendous roar of cheering and commotion woke Mr Rabbit up. The instant he woke, he dashed for the finish line. He was so incredibly fast, a true blur! He displayed all his ability, but it was too late. He had become the rabbit from the folktale. He was experiencing the regrets that come too late. I was so tempted to rush down from the grandstand and tell the young Rabbit all the wisdom and knowledge I had gained from listening to that story!

The entire audience suddenly grew silent. I wondered what was happening. I quieted down, too. I couldn’t stand it, so I quietly whispered a question to Ms Pig next to me. She told me it was their custom to allow the loser up to two attempts at a rematch if they wished for one.

Look! They’re going to race again!

They all took their positions. The runners were at the starting line, behind the tape. The referees had also taken their spots, as usual. As soon as the signal came and the command to “RUN!” was given, both of them took off. This time, Mr Rabbit didn’t stop halfway; he kept running straight for the finish line. That’s good. He

is a skilled runner, mature and experienced. His loss in the first round must have been due to carelessness alone. It also seems he may have been a bit dismissive of his competitor. It’s human nature to want to see the loser win, isn’t it? And it’s also human nature to pity the underdog.

I did feel a pang of sympathy for the weaker runner, Mr Tortoise, and wanted to see him win. So, when I looked at Mr Tortoise, I was pleased to see him continue to run steadily, if sluggishly, like he was rolling along. When I looked back at Mr Rabbit, he was already close to the finish line, maybe just three or four jumps away. Wait, now it’s two jumps, and now just one jump left!

My attention and eyes are back on Mr Tortoise now. He’s just moving slowly, as is his habit. It looks like the race is over. Mr Rabbit only had one jump left to the finish line; he must have crossed it by now.

But wait, I haven’t heard the crowd cheering for a finish yet. I looked toward the finish line, and there he was, the noble gentleman, fast asleep, perfectly at ease! Mr Tortoise, meanwhile, was running step by step, steadily moving forward, like the proverb says: ‘A Lhan a day, Bagan won’t move’ (meaning steady progress). Look! Mr Tortoise has reached the spot where the Rabbit is sleeping, and Mr Rabbit still isn’t waking up! It was so frustrating! I wanted to shout and wake him up so he could get up and cross the finish line! What should I do? Oh, look, look! Just like that, Mr Tortoise crossed the finish line!

Mr Rabbit had lost again this time. Was he just lazy? Or did he want to tease, mock, or jeer at the approaching Tortoise right before the finish line? Did he lose the race because he couldn’t shake that habit? Seeing him lose when he clearly had the ability was incredibly exasperating for me as a spectator, but he seemed perfectly calm about it. And look! He’s going to race a third time! He certainly knows how to take advantage of the opportunity he’s been given.

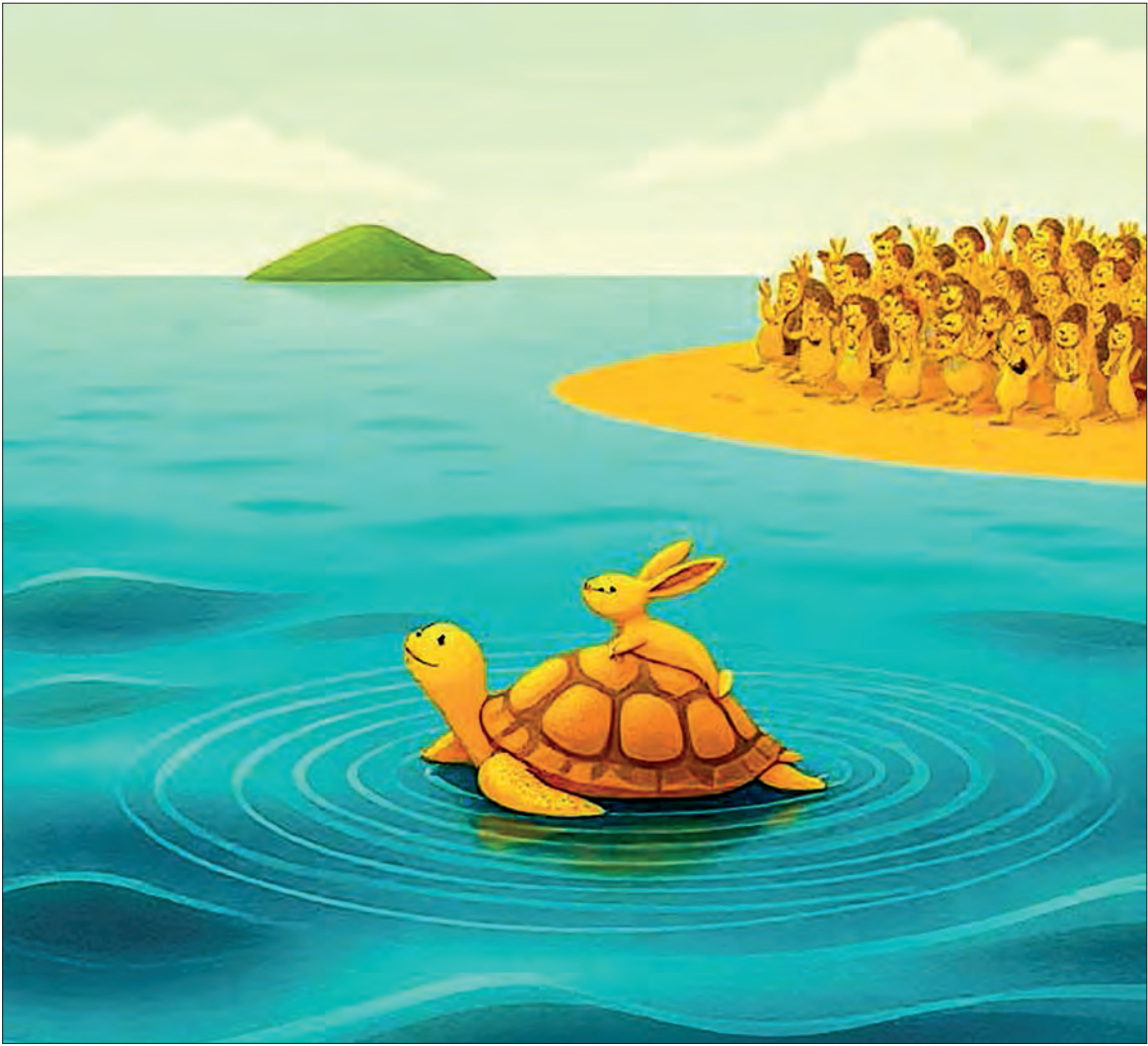
I was only watching this third race because I had already invested the time; I had no enthusiasm or desire to watch it anymore. The referees were in their places. The race was about to start. Ko Shwe Yone (Mr Golden Rabbit) didn’t lose face, nor did he look ashamed. But the audience was yelling at him, shouting that he’d lose again, asking if he wasn’t ashamed, and telling him to get out and not compete. The commotion was deafening! Yet, he wasn’t ashamed; he just stood there with a straight face, as if mocking the audience.

They started running. As usual, Ko Shwe Yone (Mr Golden Rabbit) shot off in a flash the moment the race started. Ko Shwe Lait (Mr Golden Tortoise) was his usual steady self. Although I wasn’t interested and didn’t want to look, I couldn’t help but see them — Mr Rabbit and Mr Tortoise were miles apart. Look, Ko Shwe Yone (Mr Golden Rabbit) is getting close to the finish line! Look, he leapt across the finish line! He’s at the end! He won!

The entire race track erupted with cheers and applause! I was watching without interest, yet I don’t know how I started yelling and clapping myself. I only stopped when the palms of my left and right hands started to hurt. Even then, I still wanted to keep clapping!

The reason this happened isn’t because I love Mr Rabbit more than Mr Tortoise. No. Is it because I want the one who keeps losing to win? That might be part of it, but mostly, I think it’s because I was frustrated with someone who possessed full ability and capacity but failed to use it. Seeing him finally put his skills to full use made me feel satisfied.

Oh, the Master of Ceremonies is announcing something! The loser, Mr Tortoise, has requested another race! If things stay the same, Mr Tortoise will lose, and Mr Rabbit will win again. There’s no point watching this race again; the outcome is known before it even starts. The audience is getting restless — not exactly a panic, but definitely murmuring. What’s going on? I hear the announcement. The loser, Mr Tortoise, will run another race. However, he is



The name of the island they were on was “Unity Island”. **ILLUSTRATION: CONCEPT ART**

requesting to “change the race-course!” Therefore, the audience is kindly requested to follow and support them on the new track.

Now I’m interested! I’m interested in the new venue, and I’m interested in Mr Tortoise’s idea to change the track. It makes sense, doesn’t it? You should avoid the place where you’ve lost or are likely to lose, and you should move to a place where you can win. Intelligent beings know what is suitable and what isn’t for them.

Where else could there be a sports field? The entire audience is intrigued by the new location. Once the Master of Ceremonies officially announced the new itinerary, the audience started moving in groups, following their own crowds, heading toward the ocean. Some branched off, going down to the seashore, while others climbed up toward the towering cliffs beside the sea. The starting line for the race was set three feet back from the edge of the tall cliff, facing the ocean. The finish line was marked by a pole stuck into the water at the edge of the sea. I was astonished! Astonished by the civility of their law that allowed the choice of a new racecourse, and astonished by the one who made the choice!

The race was set up as usu-

al. With the signal to “RUN!” Mr Tortoise slowly advanced to the edge of the cliff. When he reached the very end, he pulled his head, arms, and legs into his shell and let his body roll down the cliff face, which was over three hundred feet high, all the way to the ground at the water’s edge. Just imagine! I can’t say if it was wisdom or sheer cunning, but Mr Tortoise reached the finish line almost instantly!

Look at Mr Rabbit now! The moment the signal was given to run, instead of running, he had to search for a route first. He couldn’t run the way Mr Tortoise did, and he couldn’t jump off the cliff. He had to quickly backtrack down the path he came up and around toward the finish line by the sea. By the time he arrived, Mr Tortoise would have crossed the finish line and perhaps even finished a nap if he felt like it.

Four races have now been completed. Mr Tortoise has won three times, and Mr Rabbit has won once. Based on this, the winner’s award ceremony should be held for Mr Tortoise. It seems the officials are about to prepare for the awards; they’re all moving around, shuffling about, and bustling with activity.

However, the way they’re act-

ing suggests it’s not going to be like that; something is different. After the race officials huddled together for a consultation, the distinct voice of the Master of Ceremonies rang out clearly: “We will hold one more race! The starting line for this race is the seashore, and the finish line is the nearest island, “Mid-Ocean Island”!

The criticism, blame, and know-it-all voices immediately erupted into a great clamour: “Who asked for another race?” “Mr Rabbit is just going to lose again; how can he possibly swim in the sea?” “Mr Tortoise shouldn’t have asked again; he already won! Is he just trying to humiliate Mr Rabbit?” “The officials shouldn’t allow this again! They must have been bribed!” The noise was absolutely deafening.

Oh, well, that’s just how most of the audience is! No matter the place, the community, or the group, how many people speak, criticize, and act as if their own opinion is the only correct one? If Mr Tortoise, who has already won, really did ask for another race, there had to be something special behind it. It’s best to just wait and watch without opening your mouth.

See page 10

NATIONAL/ARTICLE

Myanmar, Russia to discuss plans to build oil refineries for distribution at home and abroad

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Energy, Myanmar and Russia have discussed promising prospects for establishing and operating oil refineries in Myanmar, which would enable the distribution and sale of petroleum products not only domestically but also to countries in the region.

The discussions were held between the Ministry of Energy of Myanmar and State-owned Gazprom International Limited and Zarubezhneft JSC of the Russian Federation.

A Myanmar delegation from the Ministry of Energy attended the 8th Russia Energy Week International Forum (REW) in Moscow of Russia from 15 to 17 October. Meanwhile, the Myanmar delegation held talks with General Director Mr Sergey Tumanov of Gazprom International Limited of Russia and General Director Mr Sergey

Kudryashov of Zarubezhneft JSC Company of Russia separately.

They discussed investment and cooperation in the exploration, drilling, and production sectors of oil and natural gas, the potential opportunities for conducting energy trading using Myanmar's deep seaports, and the promising prospects of establishing oil refineries in Myanmar to distribute and sell petroleum products not only domestically but also to countries in the region.

The Myanmar delegation also held a meeting with a delegation led by Mr Shatirov Sergey Vladimirovich who is the honorary consul to the Russian Federation and a member of the Supervisory Board of the Roscongress Investment Fund of the Russian Federation. Their discussions focused on the progress of ongoing joint projects



This photo depicts an oil refinery in Myanmar.

between Myanmar and Russia's Roscongress Investment Fund, future cooperation plans,

enhancing collaboration in the energy sector between the two countries, and accelerating ef-

orts for the mutual economic development and prosperity of both nations. — ASH/TTA

If You Want to See My Mind

From page 9

It's true, though, the format of this race seems absurd. Look, Mr Rabbit and Mr Tortoise are standing ready at the seashore to run, and the finish line is "Mid-Ocean Island" in the middle of the water. Look at Mr Rabbit's face — a tamarind leaf would be bigger than his expression of dejection!

The signal was given, "RUN!" and they took off. Mr Tortoise immediately went into the water and dove under, while Mr Rabbit could do nothing but watch with a long face. The tortoise that dove into the water was completely out of sight.

One minute, two minutes, three minutes went by — gradually it became about fifteen minutes. Some spectators were looking intently to see how far Ko Shwe Lait (Mr Golden Tortoise) had travelled towards the island, but there were also many others with expressions that showed a complete lack of interest in the race. Fifteen minutes passed. Mr Tortoise was completely gone, like the small tortoise that was thrown into the water in a

folk tale; he didn't reappear. The viewers were getting exhausted from the long wait.

Wait! Mr Tortoise has surfaced! Everyone thought he would surface near the island, maybe four or five hundred feet away. But when he did surface, it was right back at the shoreline! What could he be planning now?

Surfacing in the water, Mr Tortoise called out, "Hey, Mr Rabbit, what are you looking at? Come on, get on my back! Let's go to Mid-Ocean Island together!" Only then did Ko Shwe Yone (Mr Golden Rabbit) jump onto Ko Shwe Lait - Mr Golden Tortoise's back with a big smile on his face, and away they went!

Thousands of spectators stared at the scene, utterly captivated. They were astonished, delighted, and overjoyed. At that moment, the immense crowd's silence was so deep you could have heard a pin drop. It lasted for only an instant. Then, the sound of the entire audience clapping, without opening their mouths to shout, swelled up to the heavens. There wasn't a single trace, not a particle, not

a drop of the sound of cheering for one person winning over the other.

Instead, the thunderous applause — clapping from the hearts of the spectators — not only reached the heavens but resounded across the entire universe. This applause continued to echo, undiminished and constant, even after Mr Tortoise and Mr Rabbit reached Mid-Ocean Island and vanished from sight.

Once they arrived at Mid-Ocean Island, Mr Tortoise, as the host, began showing Mr Rabbit, the guest, all over the island. He led the way, pointing out rock formations, stone flowers, and scenic views that Mr Rabbit had never seen, talking excitedly about how peaceful and beautiful everything was.

After a long time, Mr Tortoise looked up at Mr Rabbit, who had been following in silence without a single comment or reaction, and finally had to ask, "Hey, Mr Rabbit, what's wrong?"

You haven't said a word, even though I'm showing you such lovely scenery. What are

you thinking about?"

It was true; such scenery was rare, and visiting a place like this might be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

"Elder Brother Tortoise," Mr Rabbit replied, "I'm extremely grateful for you showing me these rare sights.

However, I can't focus on this scenery. I'm interested in something else".

"And what is it that you're so interested in?"

"What I'm interested in is your mind, Elder Brother (Tortoise). Why did you bring me along on your back like this? You could have swum by yourself and won, so why did you carry me?"

I wanted to see, I was interested in understanding, the mind that made you carry me".

"Oh, is that it? If you want to know and see my mind, then look at your own mind".

"Huh?"

"Listen, Mr Rabbit, did you think I wouldn't know? In the very first race, you fell asleep halfway. I kept running and won; you lost. That's the audience's view, the public view, but the audience doesn't know what you and I know, do they? Did you think I didn't see you open one

of your little eyes and peek when I passed you halfway?"

"Oh, so you knew I wasn't really asleep? Is that right?"

"And in the second race, you again 'fell asleep' near the finish line. That's the audience's assumption and perception; they didn't see you open your eyes. They think you're lazy. But I know. And I know this much: those two races weren't my victories; they were yours. You won both of those races".

"Just think about it. An acclaimed champion runner like you and me — we aren't truly competitors. The third race was the only normal competition, a normal win and loss that no one can deny. I accept that kind of loss, and the audience accepts it too".

"Oh."

"That's why I said it: if you want to see my mind, you should look back at your own mind."

"Thank you, Elder Brother. I will strive to cultivate a noble spirit like yours".

"Thank you very much, little brother. And I, too, will strive to cultivate a noble spirit like yours".

The name of the island they were on was "Unity Island".

NATIONAL

Top students from 2024-2025 matric exam return from overseas study tour

UNDER the State-sponsored study tour programme, a group of 33 outstanding students who passed the 2024-2025 matriculation examination with distinctions in various subjects, accompanied by supervising officials, visited the Ancient City in Samut Prakan Province on 18 October to explore Thailand's historical and cultural heritage and shop at MBK Shopping Centre.

In the afternoon, they visited the wax figures of world-famous personalities at Madame Tussauds Museum, and explored the underwater exhibits at the Siam Ocean World. In the evening, they went shopping at Chatuchak Weekend



Outstanding students and supervising officials are seen during the study tour in Thailand.

Market. Yesterday morning, they visited the Arun Pagoda and the Emerald Buddha in Bangkok, and toured the Queen Sirikit Museum of Textiles to

view the textile art that has developed over the centuries under the reign of Thai kings.

They continued their studies of ancient Thai art and historical artifacts at the Bangkok National Museum, and in the evening, departed by plane to return to Yangon.

In accordance with the guidance of the Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Ministry of Education organized a study tour abroad to provide students with valuable experiences and to foster love for their country and patriotism. — MNA/TH

Tatmadaw reoccupies Laykaekaw area



Tatmadaw members conduct security measures in KK Park.

TATMADAW columns have continued operations along the Myanmar-Thailand border within Myanmar territory to prevent KNLA and PDF terrorists from finding refuge, as well as to stop notorious foreigners from illegally crossing into Myanmar from the border areas to conduct online financial fraud and gambling. On 9 September, operations were conducted around the Lekhahtaung Pagoda hillock, where terrorists were sheltering, and Tatmadaw columns also advanced in stages to capture the new Laykaekaw town, which had been built in 2015 by Japan's Nippon Foundation for locals displaced by regional conflicts. By 5 October, Laykaekaw Town

was successfully brought back under control of Tatmadaw. Meanwhile, Tatmadaw columns conducted operations in KK Park near Myanmar-Thai border.

During the operations, Tatmadaw engaged with the terrorists six major clashes and 52 minor fighting and seized 10 dead bodies of terrorists, 16 arms and accessories. In KK park, Tatmadaw also seized 30 sets of Star Link receivers and accessories, 10 one-storey buildings, 100 two-storey buildings, 20 four-storey buildings, two five-storey buildings, 20 one-storey shops, 30 two-storey shops, 15 one-storey warehouses, 20 two-storey warehouses, 10 four-storey warehouses and

21 two-storey buildings are under construction. Moreover, 10 three-storey buildings, five four-storey buildings, five five-storey buildings and two one-storey clinics were also founded together with 1,645 male workers and 455 female workers, totalling 2,198.

Regarding the construction of buildings and land ownership within KK Park, no official documents have been found to verify government permits, land ownership rights, or hotel and tourism construction approvals. Since relevant responsible persons were not present when summoned, necessary actions will continue to be carried out in accordance with proper procedures.

Tatmadaw columns have continued operations with full military momentum, and the Shu Khin Tha outpost, which was under KNLA and PDF terrorists control in 2024, was recaptured on 17 October. Likewise, the Point 1078 hill Swedaw outpost was also brought under control yesterday. Key locations along the border areas have been restored to Tatmadaw control, and Tatmadaw columns are reported to continue clearing operations throughout the border regions. — MNA/TTA

Myanmar arrests 15 Chinese scammers, deportation total reaches 9,337

FIFTEEN Chinese nationals, who illegally entered Myanmar through border routes after transiting neighbouring countries including Thailand, were arrested yesterday in Myawady, Kayin State. They had been involved in online gambling, online fraud and other criminal activities in the Myawady-Shwe Kokko area, particularly around KK Park and Kyaukkhat zone.

Deputy Director U Myint Bhone of Kayin State from the Ministry of Immigration and Population and officials from the departments concerned inspected the detainees and collected personal data and records to transfer them to their respective countries as soon as possible.

From 30 January to 19 October 2025, a total of 9,551 foreign nationals who illegally entered Myanmar have been arrested. Among them, 9,337 were deported to their respective countries through Thailand under legal procedures, while 214 more are being well cared for in preparation for repatriation.

The Government continues to take decisive action to identify and arrest foreign nationals involved in online scam centres and those operating behind them, while actively co-operating with other countries to repatriate victims of human trafficking and foreign nationals facing various difficulties. — MNA/KZL



Myanmar Immigration and officials processing undocumented foreign entrants.

NATIONAL

Mawlamyine Taungwine to hold hot-air balloon ceremony on Tazaungmone full moon



Mawlamyine Taungwine Kandawgyi Lake was thronged with visitors in Thadingyut Festival.

AT the Mawlamyine Taungwine Kandawgyi Lake which was packed with thousands of people last Thadingyut Festival, the hot-air balloon release and lantern floating ceremony will be held on the full moon day of Tazaungmone, according to the Sasana Nwe Foundation.

The celebration has been set to start at 6 pm at the lake and free ice-cream will be served to visitors. The ceremony of lantern release to the water has been planned to hold on full moon day of Thadingyut and Tazaungmone every year, it said.

The Sasana Nwe Foundation said visitors can stroll along the bund of the lake enjoying the evening breeze between 5:30 pm and 7:30 pm. Free parking lot which can house 160 motorcycles and free car parking which can provide the space for more than 50 cars have been provided. — MT/ZS

770 candidates to take special EPS-TOPIK 2025

OF the eligible candidates, there are 770 who will sit the Special EPS-TOPIK 2025, said the Government's Public Overseas Employment Agency (POEA-EPS).

The special test is designed for EPS workers who have worked at least three years in South Korea and came back to Myanmar after 1 January 2010, and are going back again to the country. POEA announced in September that more than 5,700 EPS workers are eligible for the test.

This month, POEA said there are 770 candidates for the test, which has been scheduled on 23 and 24 October.

For the test, the online application was accepted on 22 and 23 September, and the registration fee was paid on 24 and 25 September. If any dishonest acts are found, a four-year suspension will be imposed. Personal information such as name, date of birth and



Applicants for the Special EPS-TOPIK in 2024.

passport number will have to match the passport's personal information; if there is any difference, the candidate won't be included in the final result, as well as employment permit will be denied, it said.

Under the memorandum of understanding between the Myanmar's Ministry of Labour and the Republic of Korea's Ministry of Employment and Labour, POEA has worked on sending Myanmar workers who want to work in the Republic of Korea under the foreign worker employment permit system. — MT/ZS

MPC celebrates graduation ceremony of 4th news media training

THE News Media Development Committee of the Myanmar Press Council held a graduation ceremony of news media training 4/2025 on 17 October in Botahtaung Township, Yangon Region, with 27 trainees.

Executive Committee member U Tin Ko Ko of the Myanmar Press Council and U Sein Toe, head of news media training, delivered the remarks at the graduation ceremony.

The executive committee members of MPC and trainers handed over the completion certificate to the trainees. Those talented individuals are also awarded for writing good and accurate reporting. The commemorative photo for the graduation ceremony of the news media training was taken at the closing ceremony.

The news media training was held weekly Fridays. Experts and veteran media professionals offered media ethics and responsibility, editing news, photos and videos and cartoon media illustrations.

MPC continues to open media training with both internal and external journalism experts as instructors. — ASH/KK



This image displays the graduation ceremony of the news media training 4/2025 of the Myanmar Press Council.

Royal Brunei Airlines honoured with Asia's Leading Cabin Crew 2025

ROYAL Brunei Airlines (RB) has once again been recognized on the global stage, winning Asia's Leading Cabin Crew 2025 at the prestigious World Travel Awards, the airline said in a press release on Friday.

This marks the fourth time since 2020 that RB has secured this honour, reaffirming its position as a leader in service excellence across the region.

"We are incredibly proud of our cabin crew for this remarkable achievement, which reflects not

only their world-class service standards but also their genuine passion for caring for our guests," said Captain Sabirin Haji Abdul Hamid, chief executive officer of RB.

RB has also been honoured with the ASEAN Halal Brand Award 2025, marking its first-ever win at this prestigious regional recognition. The award celebrates outstanding brands that exemplify Halal excellence, sustainability, and brand leadership across ASEAN. — Xinhua



Established in 1974, Royal Brunei Airlines (RB) is the national carrier of Brunei Darussalam. **PHOTO: ROYAL BRUNEI AIRLINES (RB)**

Chinese tourists help drive winter tourism revival in Egypt's Luxor



Chinese tourists take photos while touring the Karnak Temple Complex in Luxor, Egypt, on 5 October 2025. **PHOTO: AHMED GOMAA/XINHUA**

A surge of Chinese tourists is helping revitalize Luxor's winter tourism season, transforming the ancient Egyptian city into a year-round destination and boosting the local economy.

The shift toward independent travel is re-

shaping Luxor's tourism landscape. "My wife and I did not want to come in a tourist group that is organized by a tourist agency; We just booked flights and hotels and made it to Egypt. This gave us more freedom to move around and visit more places,"

said Li Bo, a 30-year-old tourist from Beijing, while touring the Karnak Temple Complex with his wife. Luxor is "unique" and "a big museum that is full of antiquities and museums," Li told Xinhua, adding, "you can smell history everywhere

in Luxor." The trend has also extended to family travel. Wang Changhui, who lives and works in Dubai, reunited with his Shanghai-based brother Wang Dong and their mother for a historical tour of Egypt. — Xinhua

Capcom stepping up efforts to bring game worlds to big screen

MAJOR Japanese game developers Nintendo Co and Capcom Co are stepping up efforts to bring their iconic game characters and worlds to the big screen.

Nintendo plans to release the animated film "The Super Mario Galaxy Movie" in April 2026, followed by a live-action adaptation of "The Legend of Zelda" in May 2027.

In August, the company reorganized a subsidiary to strengthen its business in live events and merchandise based on movie characters.

The move comes after the 2023 release of



File photo taken in October 2023 shows a "Mario" photo spot outside Nintendo Co's official store in Kyoto. **PHOTO: KYODO**

"The Super Mario Bros. Movie," co-produced with major US animation studio Illumination, boosted sales of games in the franchise after becoming a record-breaking global hit.

Shigeru Miyamoto, executive fellow at Nin-

tendo and the creator of Super Mario, views such adaptations as a gateway for fans to reconnect with the company's games as part of a broader strategy to grow Nintendo into an enduring global brand. — Kyodo

NEWS IN BRIEF

Festive season trade to cross Rs 5 lakh crore as offline sales surge, says CAIT

THE Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) on Sunday stated that trade during the festive season is expected to surpass a record Rs 5 lakh crore, with offline markets witnessing a surge, even as online sales experience a sharp decline.

The trade body said that this year's Diwali is shaping up to be a truly Swadeshi celebration, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for promoting Indian goods and recent GST relaxations sparking a nationwide festive boom.

Amidst some confusion over the festival date, CAIT has confirmed that Diwali will be celebrated on 20 October across most of India, including key religious cities such as Ayodhya and Varanasi. — ANI

Flights resume after fire at Bangladesh's main airport

A blaze that broke out at the cargo village of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport on Saturday afternoon has been fully brought under control, and flight operations resumed later in the evening, according to the Bangladeshi Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism.

The fire, which erupted at around 2:15 pm local time, was contained following a prompt and coordinated effort by the fire service and airport authority, while no casualties were reported in the accident, said the ministry in a late Saturday press release.

The airport authority also confirmed that flight operations had resumed. — Xinhua

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

Pakistan, Afghanistan agree to
immediate ceasefire in Doha talks

Mediated by Qatar and Türkiye, talks led to an agreement between two neighbouring countries to end hostilities and establish mechanisms for lasting peace and stability.



Afghan Defence Minister, Mullah Mohammad Yaqoob Mujahid and Pakistan's Defence Minister, Khawaja Muhammad Asif shake hands, following the signing of a ceasefire agreement, during a negotiations meeting mediated by Qatar and Turkey, in Doha, Qatar, 19 October 2025.
PHOTO: QATAR MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIR / ANI

PAKISTAN and Afghanistan agreed to an immediate ceasefire during a round of negotiations held in the Qatari capital of Doha, according to a statement by Qatar's Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Sunday. The talks, mediated by Qatar and Türkiye, led the two

sides to reach an agreement on ending hostilities and establishing mechanisms aimed at fostering lasting peace and stability between the two neighbouring countries, the statement said. The statement added that the two parties also agreed to hold follow-up meetings in the coming days to ensure the durability of the ceasefire and verify its implementation in a reliable and sustainable manner, contributing to achieving security and stability in both countries.

The Qatari Foreign Ministry expressed hope that this step would help ease border tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan and lay a solid foundation for sustainable peace in the region. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Nationwide 'No Kings' protests target Trump's policies

A huge number of demonstrators gathered in cities and towns across the United States as part of the "No Kings" protests, a coordinated nationwide movement voicing strong opposition to President Donald Trump's administration and policies, CNN reported on Saturday. According to CNN, more than 2,500 events took place in all 50 states, drawing large crowds in major urban centres and centres of communities alike. — ANI

Israel says Hamas handed over 2 coffins

ISRAEL on Sunday confirmed that Hamas has handed over two coffins containing the remains of deceased hostages from the Gaza Strip, marking a sombre development in the ongoing ceasefire negotiations. According to a series of posts by the Israeli Prime Minister's Office (PMO) on X, the remains were received via the Red Cross and transferred to Israeli authorities. — ANI

S Korea takes N Korean soldier into custody

SOUTH Korea's military said Sunday that it had taken into custody a North Korean soldier who crossed the border earlier in the day. The soldier has expressed a desire to defect, the Joint Chiefs of Staff said. South Korea's Yonhap News Agency reported it was the first known defection of a soldier from the North since President Lee Jae Myung took office in June. — Kyodo

Jewellery stolen from Louvre Museum in Paris

THE Louvre Museum in Paris was closed to the public on Sunday "for exceptional reasons" following a robbery in which several items of great historical value were stolen, French authorities said. No injuries were reported. According to initial reports, masked perpetrators allegedly entered the museum through an area under renovation, used a freight elevator to reach the targeted room, and broke windows to gain access. French Interior Minister Laurent Nunez, who visited the scene, described the stolen artifacts as being of "inestimable" heritage value. Investigators from the Paris police headquarters have secured the site and launched a technical investigation. — Xinhua



French police officers stand in front of the Louvre Museum after robbery, in Paris on 19 October 2025.
PHOTO: DIMITAR DILKOFF / AFP

Cambodia's leading think tank to host forum on small state foreign policy

A Cambodia's leading think tank will convene next week the fourth International Relations Forum under the theme "Small State Foreign Policy: Peaceful and Preventive Diplomacy," an organizer said on Sunday. Scheduled for 20 October in Phnom

Penh, the forum, organized by the International Relations Institute of Cambodia (IRIC) of the Royal Academy of Cambodia (RAC) in cooperation with Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS), will bring together officials, diplomats, scholars, researchers, university professors

and students. IRIC's Director General Kin Phea said the forum will examine contemporary security and development challenges facing small states in the context of global geopolitical competition and uncertainty. — Xinhua

SPORTS

New generation Myanmar Lethwei tournament held in Yangon

THE Department of Sports and Physical Education, Myanmar Lethwei Federation, and Myanmar Martial Art Group (MMAG) jointly organized the Myanmar Fight: New Generation Lethwei Tournament, with main sponsorship from Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Public Co Limited. The event took place at Theinbyu Gymnasium in Yangon at 1 pm yesterday, featuring ten bouts.

In one of the main matches, Tha Htwe (Shwegyin Myay) faced Arkar (MFC). After an even first round, Tha Htwe won by knockout in the second round with a powerful punch. In another fight, Aung Khit Moe (Kya

Bayin) and Thei Maung (Lone Chaw) went the distance, ending in a draw. Paing Zin Aung (MK1) defeated Thet Lwin (Wam Chone) by knockout in the second round through a series of strong punches.

Other thrilling bouts included Hein Yazar (Kya Bayin) versus Saw Ah Heh Soe (Warrior), Moe Kyo (BOGO Club) versus Naing Zin Oo (Kya Bayin), and Kyaw Soe Than (BOGO Club) versus Thet Ko (MK 1), all of which ended in draws after intense exchanges.

In another highlight, Aung Kaung Khant (Yoya Thwe) defeated Eh Kalu (Lone Chaw) in the first round after landing a de-



Two Myanmar Lethwei fighters seen in a bout with vigorous effort.

cisive punch to the neck, leaving his opponent unable to continue.

Myo Jack Khong (Wam Wam) won by first-round stoppage after

a powerful kick incapacitated Lone Marn (Lone Chaw). Salai Christ (YMA) also delivered an impressive performance, knocking out Sar Nu (STL) in the first round with swift and accurate combinations. In the match between Arkar Bo (BOGO Club) and Sai Gyi (Eagle), Arkar Bo claimed victory in the opening round.

At the conclusion of the event, Saline Christ (YMA) received the awards for Best Fighter and Best Technique. The CEO of the Myanmar Lethwei Federation and the Chairman of the Bago Region Lethwei Subcommittee presented the prizes to winners. — Arkar Lin/KZL

Japan's world number 500 Kataoka qualifies for Masters, British Open

WORLD number 500 Naoyuki Kataoka will make his major debut next year after winning the Japan Open on Sunday. The event is one of a select number of national opens around the world that were recently granted status as qualifiers for next year's US Masters at Augusta and the British Open at Royal Birkdale. The 27-year-old Japanese beat Satoshi Hara in a playoff at the Nikko Club north of Tokyo and could hardly contain his emotions as he stood victorious on the 18th green.

"It's really a dream come true for me. I'm really happy to be able to play in the Masters and The Open," said the 27-year-old, whose victory was only his second on the domestic



Naoyuki Kataoka will make his major debut next year. PHOTO: AFP

Japanese tour. "I'll work as hard as I can, prepare by April, and do my best to be able to compete," he added. "I felt a really strong sense of accomplishment as I finally won again after enduring so many near misses during those barren four years," said Kataoka, whose only previous win came in 2021 at the Japan Players Championship. — AFP

Paz fires high-flying Como to historic win over Juve

RISING star Nico Paz shone again for Como with a goal and assist in Sunday's landmark 2-0 win over Juventus, which lifted the traditionally tiny club up to fifth place in Serie A. Argentina international Paz set up Marc-Oliver Kempf to sweep home in the fourth minute at the Stadio Giuseppe Sinigaglia, before making sure of Como's first win against Juve since 1952 with a wonderful individual goal with 12 minutes remaining. Paz scampered down the right flank before cutting inside Andrea Cambiaso and curling a superb finish past Michele Di Gregorio, a goal which pushed Como above Juve on goal difference.

Owned by tobacco giant Djarum and coached by former Spain and Barcelona star Cesc Fabregas, ambitious Como are on 12 points from seven matches, only three behind the division's leading trio of Inter Milan, Napoli and Roma. That gap to the summit will be increased to four points if fourth-placed AC Milan beat Fiorentina in Sunday's late match and move into top spot. "He's a great player, I'm not worried about his future because I can tell when a player is hungry, whether they have the right mentality to become a top player or whether they're a flash in the pan," said Fabregas to DAZN. — AFP



Nico Paz produced a goal and an assist in Como's 2-0 win over Juventus in Serie A on Sunday. PHOTO: AFP

French pair win ice dance at home figure skating Grand Prix

HOME pair Guillaume Cizeron and his new partner Laurence Fournier Beaudry produced a captivating free dance routine to win gold at their first international competition together at the French Grand Prix in Angers on Sunday. Third after the rhythm

dance despite a fall at the end of the programme, they managed to climb back up the rankings thanks to a wonderful performance in the free dance, skated to the music of the soundtrack from the film 'The Whale'. Their performance earned them 133.02 points, an impres-

sive score for the start of the season. "There's always apprehension, of course," said Cizeron after an impressive first outing for the pair who came together following his official split with Gabriella Papadakis in December 2024. — AFP



Brazil seeking to build strategic alliance with India

Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva described India as an exceptional market and proposed forming a strategic alliance encompassing political, space, entrepreneurial, and economic cooperation to boost Brazil's economy.

BRAZIL intends to build a strategic alliance with India covering the political, economic, and technological spheres, Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said.

“The visit of Vice President Geraldo Alckmin to India, in preparation for my trip early next year, is very important because India has an exceptional market. We can have a fantastic alliance with India — political, space, entrepreneurial, economic. Therefore, we will create a strategic alliance with India and develop Brazil’s economy,” Lula said in a video message posted on X on Saturday.



He noted that the Alckmin’s visit was aimed at expanding business ties, since many Brazilian entrepreneurs want to enter the Indian market. Lula added that Alckmin returned from India “with a lot of news,” including the opening of an Embraer office, the introduction of an e-visa to simplify business, and new partnerships. — SPUTNIK

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi participated in the 17th BRICS Summit being held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on 6-7 July 2025. **PHOTO: DD NEWS/FILE**

Iran says its nuclear programme deserves NPT signatory treatment with expiration of UN resolution



Iranians drive next to a billboard displaying pictures of nuclear scientists, centrifuges and a sentence reading in Farsi ‘Science is the power’. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

IRAN’S Foreign Ministry said Saturday that its nuclear programme should be treated in the same manner as that of any non-nuclear-weapon state party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), with the expiration of a United Nations (UN) resolution limiting its nuclear power.

The United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231, which endorsed the Joint

Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), ended on Saturday, and all its provisions, including restrictions related to Iran’s peaceful nuclear programme and associated mechanisms, “must be considered terminated,” the foreign ministry said in a statement.

The ministry also said that the principal objective of addressing Iran’s nuclear file at the Security Council was to

ensure the peaceful nature of its nuclear programme, a goal that has been fully achieved. Consequently, the Iranian nuclear issue must be removed from the council’s non-proliferation agenda, the statement added. Calling Resolution 2231 and the JCPOA a major multilateral diplomatic achievement, the ministry criticized the United States for its irresponsible withdrawal in 2018. — Xinhua

China-EU Film Festival launched in Brussels to deepen cultural exchange

THE 7th China-EU Film Festival opened on Friday in Brussels and will take place in both Belgium and France, featuring film screenings, “Meet China” international communication events, youth film exchanges and dialogues between Chinese and European directors.

Around 10 films from China and Europe are showcased in this year’s festival, with the opening film “Georgia,” directed by Chinese filmmaker Qiao Mei, premiering on Friday evening.

Yuan Mengqian, secretary-general of the China-EU Film Festival, said in her opening remarks that the festival is not only a platform to present cinematic art but also a cultural exchange initiated through film.

Laura Houlgatte, CEO of the International Union of Cinemas, said that collaboration between Chinese and European filmmakers has injected new vitality into the European film industry. The China-EU Film Festival, she added, presents diverse creative voices and helps European audiences better understand China. — Xinhua