

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.

200,000 blooms light up Kandawgyi Gardens as 18th Immersive Flowers Festival opens



This image shows the inauguration ceremony fot the 18th Immersive Flowers Festival at PyinOoLwin National Kandawgyi Gardens.

The National Kandawgyi Gardens in PyinOoLwin, first established in 1924 and now operated by the Htoo Group of Companies under a 15-year lease since 2010, span a total of 436.96 acres, including 366.96 acres of land and about 70 acres of water surface.

According to U Zaw Min Tun, warden of the National Kandawgyi Gardens (PyinOoLwin), more than 200,000 flowering plants are on display at the 18th “Immersive Flowers Festival” held at the National Kandawgyi Gardens (PyinOoLwin).

He said, “We are holding this flower festival with several aims – to make it one of the garden’s signature events, to present seasonal flowers in one place at the same time in creative and striking arrangements that offer visitors complete enjoyment, to develop the festival into an international-standard

event for both domestic and foreign tourists, to support Myanmar’s floral industry, to promote greater appreciation of the natural environment, to boost Myanmar’s tourism sector, and to contribute to regional development.

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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.

Four National Objectives for 78th Independence Day 2025

- To safeguard the non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty by all citizens, as they are the most essential and suitable national objectives and national duties
- To strive forward for national unity and Union peace to implement sustainable and balanced development
- To establish a genuine, disciplined democratic system completely by exercising the freedom and justice in accordance with the laws and regulations
- To advance other economic sectors and promote MSMEs based on regional products

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

Issued at 7 pm Monday 8 December 2025

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is a few cloud over the Andaman Sea and partly cloudy to cloudy over the Bay of Bengal.
FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 9 December 2025: Weather will be generally fair in Bago Region and Kayah State and partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States.
STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about 4-6 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.
OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of slight decrease in night temperatures in Kayah, (southern and eastern)Shan States.
FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 9 December 2025: A few clouds.
FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 9 December 2025: A few clouds.
FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 9 December 2025: Partly cloudy. — DMH

EARTHQUAKE

Issued at 9 pm MST

A strong earthquake of magnitude 7.5 Richter Scale with its epicentre outside Myanmar (Near East Coast of Honshu, Japan), latitude 40.97 °N, longitude 142.40 °E, depth 50 kilometres, about 3,208 miles north east of the Kaba Aye Seismological Observatory was recorded at 20 hours 40 minutes 11 seconds MST on 8 December 2025. — DMH

Commemorating the 121st anniversary of the founding of Myanmar Cooperatives

18 December 2025



"Let's work together in the cooperative sector to improve socioeconomic life"



Sri Lankan business delegation meets UMTA on tourism cooperation



The Sri Lankan delegation and UMTA are seen discussing the tourism development.

IN an effort to strengthen the cooperation in the tourism industry between Myanmar and Sri Lanka, the business delegation led by the Sri Lankan ambassador had a meeting with

the Union of Myanmar Travel Association (UMTA).

By the invitation of the Embassy of Sri Lanka, the meeting was held a few days ago, aiming to strengthen the bilateral co-

operation in the tourism sector and explore new business opportunities reciprocally beneficial for the two countries.

The two parties discussed the travel sector development, the networking of airlines, encouraging the tourist arrival increased and establishing business cooperation. UMTA said it believes the meeting will be a good foundation for enhancing cooperation in the travel sector of Myanmar and Sri Lanka.

UMTA said it will continue working on international cooperation for the development of the tourism industry. — MT/ZS

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)

Prime Minister attends Qatar National Day dinner reception

PRIME Minister U Nyo Saw and his wife attended the dinner reception marking Qatar's National Day held yesterday evening at the Lotte Hotel in Yangon.

Also present at the event were Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Naing Min Kyaw, regional ministers, ambassadors and chargés d'affaires from foreign embassies, representatives of United Nations agencies, and other guests.

The Prime Minister and attendees were warmly welcomed by Mr Ahmad Ali RA Al-Marri,



The Prime Minister poses for the group documentary photo session at yesterday's Qatar National Day event.

Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of Qatar to Myanmar, together with embassy officials.

The ceremony opened with the national anthems of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the State of Qatar, followed by welcome remarks delivered by the Qatari chargé d'affaires.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister and the Qatari chargé d'affaires cut the commemorative cake together and took a group photo with the attendees.

The Qatari chargé d'affaires then hosted a dinner for the Prime Minister and attendees in celebration of Qatar's National Day. — MNA/MKKS

MIC approves 14 new investment projects

THE sixth meeting of the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) was held yesterday afternoon in Nay Pyi Taw. Union Minister U Mya Tun Oo, who is also chairman of the commission, and members of the commission attended the meeting.

The meeting approved five new foreign investments from the capital increase of six ongoing investments and nine new local investment projects in the industry, hotel, tourism and service sectors. The investment amount of these busi-

nesses is US\$57.295 million and K45,502.978 million, which can create 4,119 job opportunities.

These businesses included the EV motorcycle and automobile assembly industry, education services, food processing and the garment industry.

As of the end of November 2025, among the 53 foreign countries, Singapore, China, and Thailand are the leading countries with the largest foreign investments in the country. Of 12 sectors, the electricity sector accounts for 28.28 per cent



The sixth meeting of the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) is in progress yesterday, attended by Union Minister U Mya Tun Oo.

by drawing the most significant investments, followed by the oil and natural gas sector at 24.65 per cent and the manufacturing sector at 14.6 per cent.

The Myanmar Investment Commission oversees and approves investment project proposals from locals and overseas, and provides services to the existing investors under the Myanmar Investment Law. — MNA/KTZH

Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanma Alinn, the Kyemon and The Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit www.moi.gov.mm/mal, www.moi.gov.mm/km, www.moi.gov.mm/nlm and www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper.

News and Periodicals Enterprise

NATIONAL

Union Minister inspects regional development activities in Shan State



Union Minister for Border Affairs and for Ethnic Affairs Lt-Gen Yar Pyae hears the report on the two-mile-two-furlong gravel road on the entrance road to Naunglong Village, Langkho Township.

STATE Security and Peace Commission Member and Union Minister for Border Affairs and for Ethnic Affairs Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, along with Shan State Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Sein Win and other officials, visited the

Women's Domestic Vocational Training School (Monghsat) yesterday morning. During the visit, they met with staff, trainers, and trainees, presented cash and prizes, inspected practical training sessions, dormitories, dining halls, a

200,000-gallon water storage tank, and a tailoring shop established by the school, and provided recommendations for necessary improvements.

The Union minister then inspected the construction of a 150-by-13-foot suspen-

sion bridge on the Wanhong-Phaphe inter-village road in Wanhong village, Monghsat Township, providing instructions for its completion. He also met staff at the Mongton Township Development Supervision Office.

The Union minister proceeded to review the construction of a two-mile-and-two-furlong gravel road, including four box culverts, on the entrance road to Naunglong Village, Langkho Township. He emphasized the importance of residents working together to complete the project on schedule, meeting the required standards, maintaining the road in the long term, and coordinating submissions from the community.

Finally, the Union minister inspected the construction of a 30-by-14-foot concrete bridge on the Mongnai-Kinton-Longsan inter-village road, as well as the condition of the access road and the gravel-filled retaining wall, providing instructions on the necessary measures to be taken. — MNA/MKKS

Union Minister attends SEAGF Council Meeting to prepare for 33rd SEA Games in Thailand

UNION Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs and for Hotels and Tourism, and Chairman of the Myanmar Olympic Committee, Jeng Phang Naw Taung, and responsible personnel attended the South-East Asia Games Federation Council (SEAGF) Meeting held yesterday morning at the Grand Four Winds Hotel to prepare for the successful holding of the 33rd South-East Asian Games.

At the meeting, Dato' Seri Chaiyapak Siriwat, CEO of the SEAGF Office, delivered the opening remarks. This was followed by speeches from Atthakorn Sirilatthayakorn, Minister of Tourism and Sports of

Thailand, and Honourable Assistant Professor Pimol Srivikorn, Chair of the SEAGF Council and President of the National Olympic Committee of Thailand.

Subsequently, leaders from 11 participating countries discussed the necessary preparations to ensure the successful organization of the 33rd SEA Games.

In addition, Deputy Minister for Information U Ye Tint, together with Yangon Region Social Affairs Minister U Htay Aung, visited the National Broadcasting Service of Thailand in Bangkok. They observed the coordination efforts being made to enable MRTV, MRTV-



The South-East Asia Games Federation Council (SEAGF) Meeting is underway in Thailand, attended by Union Sports and Youth Affairs Minister Jeng Phang Naw Taung.

4, and Hey Play to receive and broadcast news coverage of the Games. Officials emphasized

the need to broadcast competition updates in real time, allowing the people of Myanmar

to follow the events live and support their athletes. — MNA/MKKS

Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

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Printed and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.
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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

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)



200,000 blooms light up Kandawgyi Gardens as 18th Immersive Flowers Festival opens

FROM PAGE 1

“At the opening ceremony held on the morning of 6 December, renowned singers Phoe Thauk Kya, May Thet Htar Swe and other vocalists performed. The festival will continue until 4 January and will feature daily entertainment, including musical performances and other entertainment programmes, allowing flower lovers and music fans to relax and enjoy themselves. With this good news, we warmly invite everyone to visit.”

During the one month of the 18th “Immersive Flowers Festival”, musical performances and other engaging entertainment programmes will be held on crowded days, including opening-day events. During Christmas, New Year and Independence Day holiday weeks, additional programmes such as magic shows and dance performances will also be included.

The National Kandawgyi Gardens in PyinOoLwin covers a total area of 436.96 acres, comprising 366.96 acres of land area and about 70 acres of water surface. The gardens, first established in 1924, have been operated by the Htoo Group of Companies on a 15-year lease since 2010. — ASH/KNN



A glimpse of the flowers festival.

Advance voting for 2025 Multiparty Democratic General Elections



FOR the 2025 Multiparty Democratic General Election, Myanmar Embassies, Myanmar Permanent Missions, and Myanmar Consulates-General, 50 in total, are opening polling stations on designated dates to facilitate advance voting for Myanmar citizens abroad.

As of 8 December 2025, advance voting procedures have been completed at 41 Myanmar Embassies, the Myanmar Permanent Missions and Myanmar Consulates-General.

The remaining polling stations will reportedly remain open until the specified dates to allow Myanmar citizens abroad to continue to cast their advance votes. — MNA

The top-left and left images show advance voting in the 2025 Multiparty Democratic General Elections at the Myanmar Embassies in Bangkok and New Delhi.

Construction materials distributed to quake-hit locals in Sagaing



Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Myat Kyaw and officials oversee the distribution of provided construction supplies in Sagaing yesterday.

SAGAING Region Chief Minister U Myat Kyaw inspected the distribution of construction materials provided by the National Disaster Management Committee to the quake-hit wards and villages in Sagaing at the Myanma Agricultural Development Bank, Sagaing District, yesterday.

He also oversaw the reconstruction of the arch of Sagaing Region and the working processes of the combined team of the Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force at Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon), and made proper instructions.

During the meeting with the

combined teams of the Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force of Ayeyawady (Yadanabon) and Kantalu camps of Sagaing at the Sagaing District General Administration Department’s meeting hall, the relevant officials reported on their respective work plans, and the chief minister instructed the necessary measures to be carried out.

He attended the meeting with the ward administrators of Sagaing to discuss holding a multiparty democracy general election at Athinkhaya Guesthouse in Sagaing, as well as the ceremony to distribute urea fertilizers, seedlings, and drum seeders for the 2025-2026 edible oil crops and summer paddy target at the city hall.

He also observed the sunflower plantation of the Agriculture Department near the bank of the Ayeyawady River. — IPRD/KTZH

NATIONAL

Online scam hub buildings demolished, 232 illegal foreign entrants detained

THE government of Myanmar manages the combined team comprising security forces, administrative bodies and local authorities to raid illegal buildings in Shwe Kokko and KK Park areas where telecom fraud and online gambling activities are operated, and systematically dismantle the confiscated materials and illegal buildings used in the online scams and gambling activities. A total of 341 buildings have been recently

demolished in the KK Park area, and the gambling-related materials were burned down. Yesterday, the combined team dissolved eight more illegal buildings: six two-storey buildings, one three-storey building and one four-storey building used in telecom fraud and online gambling activities in the Myawady-Maethawtalay (KK Park) area. Therefore, a total updated number of 341 buildings out of 635 illegal buildings

have been demolished in the KK Park area. The combined teams conducted security measures in Myawady, and found 232 Chinese nationals – 217 males and 15 females – in four 10-wheeled trucks near Myitta Lin Myaing village on Phalu-Laykaykaw-Myawady road. Moreover, they found eight illegal buildings — five three-storey buildings and three one-storey buildings in Ward 3, and destroyed them

so as not to reuse them, and two three-storey buildings and a one-storey building were demolished yesterday. To prevent future reuse of the materials in the online scams and gambling activities in KK Park and Shwe Kokko areas, the seized materials were incinerated systematically. Yesterday, the authorities deported 72 individuals: 56 from Indonesia, seven from Ethiopia, four from Uzbekistan, four from

Ghana and one from Kyrgyzstan, through the Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge II. The government considers the eradication of telecom fraud and online gambling crimes as a national responsibility and, to ensure that such activities can no longer operate within Myanmar, will continue its efforts in coordination not only with domestic forces but also with the governments of neighbouring countries. — MNA/KTZH



Ongoing demolition measures in Ward 3, Myawady.



Images show the burning of the online scam-related items in the Shwe Kokko area.



Photos show the three-storey structure linked to telecom fraud and online gambling in the KK Park Section 3.



Tatmadaw vessels deliver healthcare to Bogale locals

TATMADAW Naval Hospital Ships named Shwe Puzun and Saku provided healthcare services to 733 locals in Bogale Township yesterday. The Tatmadaw medical team provided healthcare services to residents at the Bogale Township Public Health Department. The treatments included general medical consultations

for 203 patients, surgical care for 22 patients, obstetric and gynaecological care for 29 patients, paediatric treatments for 16 children, orthopaedic care for 215 patients, ear, nose, and throat treatment for 55 patients, ophthalmology services for 151 patients, and dental care for 42 patients, totalling 733 patients. Moreover, seven patients underwent general surgeries,

four received eye surgery, 21 received dental services, 21 had x-ray examinations, 38 were tested using ultrasound testing, 23 underwent ECG heart screenings, and 51 had laboratory tests. — MNA/KTZH

Bogale residents are seen receiving medical care from Tatmadaw naval hospital ships.



Quality education seen as key investment for a safe national future

- ❖ “Only with a strong foundation of basic education will it become easier to learn applied skills.”
- ❖ “Improving the quality of education is an investment for the future, and the education sector must be systematically prioritized to ensure a secure future for the country.”

(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)

Urea fertilizer committee recommends fertilizer and pesticide imports

THE Urea Fertilizer Purchasing and Distribution Steering Committee recommended importing licences of over 1.5 million tonnes of fertilizer and 27,490 tonnes of pesticide in the nine months of the current financial year 2025-2026 beginning 1 April.

The Union Minister for the Cooperatives and Rural Development attended the work coordination meeting held on 3 December. The objectives of the meeting is to import agricultural inputs and set reference prices.

Additionally, 1.6 million tonnes of fertilizer and 32,000 tonnes of pesticide are planned to be imported in the current financial year 2025-2026.

The Steering Committee recommended that business companies seek import licences for over 1.5 million tonnes of



Fertilizers and pesticides are displayed at a shop in DaikU Township.

fertilizer and over 27,490 tonnes of pesticide during the April-December period. The Ministry of Commerce also endorsed imports of fertilizer and pesticide after screening applications in line with rules and regulations.

The Union Minister addressed the distribution of fertilizer to growers to meet cultivation input targets in August and September under the harvest loan scheme, granting licences to importing companies

and helping them get access to foreign currencies, asking the companies to bring them in as soon as possible during the period of the validity of the licence. The committee’s members are also asked to monitor

the shops if they stick to the set reference prices, adding some transportation fee and the profit margin and if they manipulate the market with stockpiles. The Union Minister also urged the officials and institutions concerned to ensure fair prices and the quality of the fertilizer.

The committee’s secretary, Permanent Secretary U Khant Zaw, presented the import volume that the committee granted a recommendation in October-December and the distribution of fertilizer in September under the harvest loan scheme. Representatives of the Myanmar Fertilizer, Seed and Pesticide Entrepreneurs Association also explained the distribution and sales of the urea fertilizer and pesticide. — NN/KK

MoHT to offer bakery & pastry basic course in end-Dec

THE Centre for Tourism Development under the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism will open a Bakery & Pastry Basic Course between 29 December 2025 and 26 January 2026 every weekday from 9:30 am to noon at the CTD in Pabedan Township, Yangon. The fee is K350,000, including documents, materials used in training and apron. A pro-

fessional baker with more than 20 years of experience will teach trainees over 40 types of pastries, breads and cakes. The course will cover basic hygiene measures, use of equipment, ingredients in banking, cake decorating for beginners and baking pastries and bread items, including muffins, loaves, batters, doughnuts,

pudding, éclair, etc.

Those interested individuals can register through Google Form <https://forms.gle/GZ3pTTfcLoJ4nHv78> or the centre office at 01 8377559 and 09 663186684. Those previously registered do not need to reregister, and their names have already been listed. — NN/KK

Nawaday Sugar Mill to offer sugarcane at K170K per tonne

THE Nawaday Sugar Mill will purchase the sugarcane at K170,000 per tonne in the 2025-2026 sugarcane season, including delivery. The sugar mill requested suppliers to deliver fresh sugarcane only after cleaning dirt and roots. The Agriculture Department hosted a work coordination meeting with sugar mills to buy sugarcane in the 2025-2026 sugarcane season on 24 October at the meeting hall at Office 43 in Nay Pyi Taw.

The meeting focused on matters related to the probability of 29 sugar processing factories to buy all sugarcanes, on-time delivery of sugarcane to factories, implementing contract farming between companies and sugarcane growers, maintenance of sugar mills, maximizing energy efficiency, installing new advanced equipment to boost sugar productivity and quality. The Agriculture Department coordinate matters regarding distributing good sugarcane varieties, providing technical assistance, raising awareness of the right time to harvest sugarcane for peak sweetness and post-harvest management to mitigate waste, harvesting sugarcane after measurement with a hand-held refractometer for sugar concentration and Brix content, systematic sugarcane crushing, together with traders and growers.

There are 29 sugar mills in Myanmar with a crushing capacity of over 5.37 million tonnes of sugarcane, sugar production of 543,663 tonnes and 261,895 tonnes of syrup in the 2024-2025 financial year. — NN/KK

HUMAN RIGHTS GO WITH YOU.

HUMAN RIGHTS, OUR COMMON LANGUAGE.

(၇၇) နှစ်မြောက် အပြည်ပြည်ဆိုင်ရာ လူ့အခွင့်အရေးနေ့ အခမ်းအနား

Our Everyday Essentials

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Shape a society free from corruption

CRIMINAL exploitation is one of the most heinous acts in human society. The consequences arising from such exploitation can easily destroy an individual's life and even bring down an entire nation.

Those who commit crimes act solely for their own benefit, without ever considering morality. However, when they eventually face the punishment of the law, they experience both personal and emotional suffering as a result of their misdeeds. At that point, no one can come to their rescue. Therefore, from the moment one begins their journey in life and gains understanding, everyone must avoid making selfish decisions that form the basis of criminal acts. Through this, people can refrain from actions that harm others, such as bribery, oppression, exploitation, or verbal abuse.

In line with the theme set for the International Anti-Corruption Day: "Uniting with Youth Against Corruption: Shaping Tomorrow's Integrity", everyone has to take care of their activities to be free from corruption so as to build themselves with integrity while shaping a peaceful, safe and prosperous society. If so, individuals from the society will have the chance to enjoy the heavenly abode and can leave a better legacy for new generations. This theme highlights the crucial role that young people play in fighting corruption and building a future with greater integrity and transparency.

care of their activities to be free from corruption so as to build themselves with integrity while shaping a peaceful, safe and prosperous society. If so, individuals from the society will have the chance to enjoy the heavenly abode and can leave a better legacy for new generations. This theme highlights the crucial role that young people play in fighting corruption and building a future with greater integrity and transparency.

Corruption is a complex social, political and economic phenomenon that affects all countries. Corruption undermines democratic institutions, slows economic development and contributes to governmental instability. As such, everyone has the right to experience happiness and peace within their community. In order to live with dignity in society, everyone must change their mindsets to avoid engaging in criminal or harmful behaviour and work toward building a joyful and harmonious life.

gins their journey in life and gains understanding, everyone must avoid making selfish decisions that form the basis of criminal acts. Through this, people can refrain from actions that harm others, such as bribery, oppression, exploitation, or verbal abuse.

Today's world is facing a variety of challenges. Moreover, the human society is trying to overcome tragedies, inequalities and injustices, many of which are tied to corruption. With 1.9 billion young people in the world, fighting corruption is vital for the future of nearly a quarter of the global population.

The campaign for International Anti-Corruption Day 2024-2025 focuses on the role young guardians of integrity play as advocates, raising awareness about corruption and its impacts on their communities. They will actively participate in discussions, share their experiences and propose innovative solutions to combat corruption. The campaign will amplify the voices of integrity leaders of tomorrow, allowing them to express their concerns and aspirations, with the hope that their appeals will be heard and acted upon.

In line with the theme set for the International Anti-Corruption Day: "Uniting with Youth Against Corruption: Shaping Tomorrow's Integrity", everyone has to take

MYANMAR is preparing for another important election that will decide the country's future direction. This election is especially meaningful because a large number of young people will be voting for the first time. Many of them have grown up in a changing society and are eager to take part in the democratic process. Their voices represent new hopes, ideas, and dreams for a better nation. When young people participate actively, they bring energy and creativity to politics. They can help promote fairness, equality, and progress in their communities. Every vote cast by a young citizen is a step towards building a stronger democracy. Therefore, youth participation is not just a right – it is a responsibility. The decisions made today will affect their future, so young voters in Myanmar need to stand up, speak out, and help shape the nation's path forward.

Myanmar's Youth Demographic

In Myanmar, young people make up a large part of the population and are becoming an important force in shaping the country's future. According to recent reports, about one-third of Myanmar's people are between the ages of 15 and 35. This means millions of young citizens will have the chance to influence the next

election. With their numbers and energy, youth can play a major role in deciding who leads the country and what policies are made. Many young voters care deeply about education, job opportunities, technology, and justice. If they vote actively, political parties will have to listen to their voices and create plans that meet their needs. On the other hand, if they stay silent, their future may be decided by others. Therefore, the participation of young people is not only powerful but also necessary for Myanmar's democratic growth and national development.

Why First-Time Votes Matter

First-time voters play a vital role in every election because they bring new ideas, hopes, and energy into the political process. Most of them are young and eager to see positive change in their country. Their votes often reflect the dreams of a new generation that values fairness, peace, and progress. Unlike older voters, they are not tied to traditions or political habits, so they can think

independently and choose leaders who represent their vision for the future. The decisions made by first-time voters can shape the direction of a nation for many years. Their choices influence government policies on education, jobs, technology, and social equality. When they vote responsibly, they help build a stronger democracy and encourage accountability among leaders. Therefore, every first-time vote matters; it is a voice of hope and a powerful step toward a better and more inclusive Myanmar.

Challenges Faced by Young Voters

Although young people in Myanmar have great potential to influence elections, they also face many challenges that limit their participation. One major problem is the lack of civic education. Many students do not fully understand how elections work or why their vote is important. This leads to low awareness and confidence in taking part. Another challenge is misinformation, especially on

Young Voices, Big Choices

By Yin Nwe Ko



PHOTO: GOOGLE

social media, where false news can easily confuse first-time voters. Some youth also feel political apathy because they believe their votes will not make a difference. Moreover, there is a clear gap between urban and rural areas. Young people in cities often have better access to the internet, news, and voter education programs, while those in rural areas receive less information and

fewer opportunities to engage. To build a stronger democracy, these barriers must be reduced so all young voters can make informed and active choices.

Youth-Led Movements and Civic Engagement

In recent years, young people in Myanmar have become strong voices for change and accountability. Many youth organizations

have also focused on community service, helping displaced families, promoting education, and raising awareness about human rights. In ethnic regions, young people such as Kayin and Kachin youth have worked to protect their land, culture, and environment. These actions show that Myanmar's youth are not only demanding political reform but also working to build a fair and inclusive society. Their courage and teamwork reflect a deep desire for accountability, freedom, and progress. Through civic engagement, Myanmar's young generation continues to shape the nation's path toward a more hopeful and democratic future.

Creating a Culture of Participation

To strengthen democracy in Myanmar, it is important to create a culture where young people actively take part in elections and civic life. One effective way is through peer influence, when friends and classmates discuss voting, it motivates others to do

the same. Social media campaigns can also inspire youth by sharing real stories, short videos, and messages that highlight the power of every vote. In schools, civic education programmes and student-led activities can teach the value of participation and help first-time voters understand their rights and responsibilities. Families, teachers, and community leaders also play key roles by guiding young people to think critically and make informed choices. Civil society organizations can organize workshops and youth dialogues to promote trust and engagement. When everyone works together, voting becomes more than a duty – it becomes a shared commitment to shaping Myanmar's future with responsibility and hope.

Vision for Myanmar's Future Through Youth Voices

Myanmar's young generation dreams of a future filled with peace, progress, and opportunity. Many young people hope for better education, where learning is

creative and accessible for all. Others wish for environmental protection, clean cities, and sustainable development that safeguards the country's natural beauty. Job creation and fair employment are also key goals, as youth want to build stable and meaningful lives at home rather than abroad. These hopes can only become reality through active participation in democracy. By voting, young citizens can choose leaders who value education, protect the environment, and create opportunities for youth empowerment. Every vote is a way to express these dreams and turn them into action.

A Call to Action

As the election approaches, it is time for young people across Myanmar to step forward with confidence and purpose. Every single vote has the power to influence the direction of the nation. Youth voices are not just important; they are essential for creating meaningful change. By voting, young citizens can turn their hopes for education, peace, equality, and progress into real results. This is the moment to speak up, take responsibility, and show that the new generation is ready to lead. Your voice matters. Your choice shapes Myanmar. Together, young voters can build the nation they truly believe in.

Technology and Spirituality: Friends or Foes?

By Khin Maung Myint

Why scientific and spiritual values should work in harmony, not in opposition

In the modern world, technology rushes forward like a river after heavy rain — fast, forceful, and difficult to channel. Artificial intelligence, biotechnology, social media, and digital communication shape our days in ways that would have seemed like magic only a generation ago. Yet alongside this whirlwind of innovation, people still reach for meaning, emotional balance, and moral guidance. Spirituality remains the quiet lamp in the corner, offering light when the power of intellect alone is not enough.

Are these two domains — technology and spirituality — destined to collide?

From the lens of Buddhist

philosophy, the answer is simple: **no**. They are not rivals on a battlefield but two oxen pulling the same cart — one strong in power, the other steady in direction. When guided wisely, they work in harmony to move society forward with both efficiency and heart.

The Middle Way: Avoiding Extreme Views

At the heart of Buddhism lies the Middle Way — the gentle path between “too much” and “too little”. Technology fits this teaching perfectly. Like a knife that can cut vegetables or injure a hand, it carries no inherent virtue or poison. Everything depends on **Cetana**, the intention of the user.

A smartphone may spread gossip or spread kindness.

Artificial intelligence may ma-

nipulate emotions or heal the sick.

The tool is merely the bow; the intention is the archer.

The Middle Way asks us to avoid two traps: the belief that “technology will save everything,” and the fear that “technology will destroy us.” As a Burmese proverb says, “**The bee gives honey, but it can also sting**”. Balance, not blind enthusiasm or panic, is the wiser stance.

Technology as a Modern Force for Reducing Suffering

The Buddha taught that knowledge is most valuable when it reduces Dukkha — the burden of suffering and dissatisfaction. Under this light, modern technology becomes a strong ally in compassion.

It improves medical care,

connecting diagnoses with cures faster than ever before.

It brings isolated people together across continents.

It offers mental health support through digital platforms.

It predicts natural disasters and saves lives.

It opens doors of education to millions who were once left outside.

Used with Karuna — the heartfelt wish to alleviate suffering — technology becomes a bridge of kindness reaching far beyond the limits of time and distance.

A small lantern can brighten a long, dark road, and in today's age, that lantern is often powered by electricity.

The Need for Mindfulness in a Hyperconnected Era

Yet even the sweetest fruit attracts insects.

Technology, for all its gifts, can also feed craving (Tanha) and confusion (Moha).

Endless notifications pull the mind like a restless horse.

Social media invites unhealthy comparison.

Information overload creates anxiety.

Virtual connections may crowd out genuine human presence.

Without mindfulness, the digital world turns into a forest of illusions. The Buddhist practice of Sati — being fully awake to the present moment — offers the an-

tidote. With awareness, we can use technology as a servant, not become its servant.

Mindfulness is the hand that holds the reins. It helps us set healthy limits, choose meaningful interactions, and notice how our digital habits shape our hearts. As the saying goes, “**The boat may float on water, but it sinks when water enters it**”. Technology is the water outside the boat; mindfulness prevents it from flooding in.

Beyond Conflict: A Non-Dualistic View of Knowledge

Buddhism does not divide the world into what is “spiritual” and what is “scientific”.

The mind that meditates is the same mind that creates machines and solves equations.

Science studies the outer world of causes and conditions.

Spirituality studies the inner world of intention and consciousness.

Together, they are like two eyes, offering depth, clarity, and a full view of reality. When one eye is closed, our vision becomes flat and misleading. When both are open, the world becomes clearer and more meaningful.

Technology as a Modern Form of Skilful Means

In Buddhism, Upekkha (Skilful Means) teaches that methods must evolve with time. Centuries ago, monks walked barefoot from village to village to share teachings. Today, a single online talk can reach millions before sunrise.

Technology, when guided by wisdom, becomes the new vehicle of compassion — a digital Dharma wheel.

It spreads knowledge, bridges cultures, supports mental wellness, and helps build more inclusive societies. The tools may be new, but the intention remains the same.

As another proverb reminds us:

“**The bird changes trees, but not its wings**”.

The form evolves; the purpose endures.

Conclusion: Harmony, Not Opposition

The question “Technology and spirituality: friends or foes?” only arises when we see them as two separate worlds. Buddhism shows us a more integrated view.

Technology provides power. Spirituality provides direction.

Together, they form the compass and the map for the journey ahead.

In the uncertain landscape of the 21st century, the union of scientific progress and spiritual wisdom may be the very key to building a humane, ethical, and sustainable future. After all, “**A cart moves best when both wheels turn together**”.

NATIONAL

ME to South Korea extends polling by 5 days



This photo captures Myanmar workers arriving in the Republic of Korea in November.

FOR Myanmar nationals in the Republic of Korea to cast the advance vote, the polling period has been extended another five days, said the Myanmar Embassy to the Republic of Korea.

The polling station was open on 6 and 7 December at the embassy in Seoul, and now an additional five days have been extended from 8 to 12 December, from Monday to Friday, between 10 am and 4 pm.

Therefore, voters can come to cast a vote during these days, it said. For advance voting, an original Myanmar passport or original or copy of the Citizenship Scrutiny Card is required. — MT/ZS

MoH expands cervical cancer vaccine age coverage for 2026

THE Ministry of Health announced that the HPV vaccination programme for young girls to prevent cervical cancer will continue in 2026, with the age limit extended up to 18 years old.

In Myanmar, the cervical cancer vaccine has been administered annually to girls aged nine to 11 since 2023, using both school-based and community-based approaches, said Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win at the commemorative ceremony at the Myanmar Convention Centre on Mindhamma Road, Mayangon, Yangon.

He emphasised the need to strengthen efforts for the community-based vaccination approach. The vaccination (HPV MAC - HPV Multi-Age Cohort Vaccination) for girls will be further extended, increasing



A young girl receiving the vaccine at the commemorative ceremony for the community-based cervical cancer (HPV) vaccination.

the age range from nine years to 18 years old in August and September 2026.

In 2025, 58,024 young girls between the ages of nine and 11 in Yangon Region were successfully vaccinated against cervical cancer.

The ministry provides routine vaccinations for children under one year old and pregnant women, tetanus-diph-

theria vaccination for school-age children, cervical cancer vaccination for girls aged nine to 11, COVID-19 vaccination, oral cholera vaccine, tetanus vaccine, and rabies vaccine from birth to old age (Life Cycle Approach). The government is purchasing and providing 13 types of vaccines to the public at a cost of approximately US\$10 million. — MT/ZN

Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs' message on International Anti-Corruption Day 2025

1. Corruption is not always visible, but its impact is everywhere. It weakens institutions, affecting all of us, increasing inequalities and eroding the trust that keeps societies together. When corruption spreads, tensions deepen, and communities become more fragile and vulnerable to conflict.
2. On this International Anti-Corruption Day, we recognize that young people understand these challenges and see these realities very clearly across the world. They are calling for systems that are more transparent, fair, and accountable. Their demand for integrity is a broader aspiration for stability, inclusion, and peace.
3. This message could not be timelier. This year, we mark the 10th anniversary of the UN Security Council resolution on youth peace and security. A milestone that affirmed the essential role of young people in preventing conflict and sustaining peace.
4. A decade ago, the international community acknowledged a simple truth. Peace is impossible without the meaningful participation of young people. Today, that role is even clearer. Integrity and anti-corruption are central to a stability agenda that directly impacts the youth peace and security framework.
5. When young people push for ethical leadership, for inclusive governance and for more just institutions, they are helping to prevent conflict before it begins. They are building the foundations of lasting peace and development. From leading community initiatives to creating innovative digital tools for transparency, young people are shaping a future where openness and accountability are guiding principles for public life. Their work is a reminder that where integrity grows, peace has space to grow, too.
6. But creating this future is a shared responsibility. It requires open dialogue, joint work, respect for diverse perspectives, and a commitment from all of us to strengthen trust wherever we can.
7. Supporting integrity, transparency, and ethical behaviour benefits everyone. When we stand with young people and amplify these values, we can create communities grounded in trust, in resilience, and in lasting peace. A world where every young person has the opportunity to thrive. — UNODC



Myanmar reports no new COVID-19 cases

THE Ministry of Health tested 112 samples from 8 pm on 30 November 2025 to 8 pm on 7 December 2025, and no new cases were detected. Therefore, no new casualties were reported.

Currently, there is no need to worry about infection and deaths from COVID-19, but all need to follow personal hygiene methods, and the high-risk groups.

- Elderly people (aged 60 and above)
- People with diabetes, chronic respiratory diseases, and cancer
- Pregnant women (especially those beyond the third month of pregnancy) are prioritized to receive COVID-19 booster shots.

More detailed COVID-19 information can be found on the website of the Ministry of Health, moh.gov.mm.

Myanmar CDC
Public Health Department, Ministry of Health

The people are urged to receive vaccination of COVID-19 without fail as full-time vaccination of COVID-19 and receiving booster shots can effectively mitigate infection of the virus, severe suffering from the disease and increase of death rate due to the disease.

WORLD

'Five Nights at Freddy's' sequel slashes to top of box office

HORROR video-game movie "Five Nights at Freddy's 2" proved jump scares can still rake in the cash with a debut that ruled North American theatres, industry estimates showed Sunday.

The second film in Universal's "Freddy's" franchise — about animatronic characters at a pizza shop, the tween girl (Piper Rubio) who befriends them, and the murderous if cheesy events that follow — brought in \$63 million in the Friday-through-Sunday period, Exhibitor Relations reported.

It earned another \$46 million internationally.

"Critics' reviews are poor, but the genre is immune to reviews," said David A. Gross of Franchise Entertainment Research.

"The audience score is more important, and it's very good for a horror picture, although not as good as the first pic."

Sliding to second spot was another sequel, Disney's feel-good animated film "Zootopia 2".

The buddy cop comedy featuring a menagerie of talking animals battling stereotypes earned \$43 million, for a two-week total of \$220 million and a worldwide haul nearing the \$1 billion mark.

Dropping one spot to third place, with \$16.8 million in its third weekend, was "Wicked: For Good," Universal's second chapter in the musical saga of Oz's most notable witches — the green-skinned, outcast Elphaba (Cynthia Erivo) and popular pink-wearing Glinda (Ariana Grande). — AFP

Philippines grapples with sharp, alarming HIV epidemic in Asia-Pacific

THE Philippines is confronting the fastest-rising human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) epidemic in the Asia-Pacific region, with an average of 61 Filipinos diagnosed every day this year, up 22 per cent from last year, prompting urgent calls for more decisive national action.

The World Health Organization (WHO) earlier identified the Philippines, Fiji, and Papua New Guinea as the countries

in the region where HIV infections continue to climb. It said the three now face some of the region's sharpest surges in new HIV infections.

Fiji has recorded a tenfold increase in cases over the past decade, driven mainly by injecting drug use, while Papua New Guinea declared HIV a national crisis in June amid spikes among women of reproductive age and children. — Xinhua

How Paris's oldest bridge will become an 'immersive cave'



'You will be completely lost in terms of your sense of direction and reference points in relation to the outside world,' JR told AFP. PHOTO: AFP

FRENCH artist JR, who made his way from tagging graffiti on the street to being one of the most recognizable figures on the country's art scene, has told AFP how he plans to turn the oldest bridge in Paris into an "immersive cave" for his latest project.

Once hailed as the "French Banksy" after the secretive British street artist, JR has become famous for outsize projects, having already transformed the Palais Garnier Paris opera to look like a cave and mounted a painting that made the famous Louvre pyramid seem to disappear.

Now he intends to create a 120-metre "cave" along the

Pont Neuf, the oldest bridge over the Seine in Paris, that anyone will be free to walk through.

"You will be completely lost in terms of your sense of direction and reference points in relation to the outside world," JR, whose real name is Jean Rene, told AFP in a recent interview at his studio in Paris.

"It's going to be a monumental project, but this is a city that knows how to welcome monumental projects," he said, hailing how Paris handled last year's Olympic Games.

He said the project, which will open next June after two years of work, was an homage to an earlier work by artists

Christo and Jeanne-Claude.

The France-based couple wrapped the same bridge in woven fabric in 1985.

"The task is made easier for me because I'm following in their footsteps," he said.

Easier in terms of construction, but also in terms of administration.

While Christo and Jeanne-Claude battled for 10 years to make their project a reality in the face of political reluctance, Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo welcomed JR's plan calling it a "gift" to Paris.

Cars and buses will be banned from the bridge during the installation's run between 6 and 28 June. — AFP

Georgia's street dogs stir affection, fear, national debate

AT a bus stop in central Tbilisi, two tagged dogs dozed on a bench as some commuters smiled at them and others cast angry glances.

In the streets of the Georgian capital, such scenes are part of daily life: community-fed "yard dogs", yellow municipal tags on their ears, lounge outside bakeries, metro entrances and school gates.

The free-roaming canines stir both affection and fear. What to do with their swelling numbers — in the tens of thou-

sands in Tbilisi alone — has become a nationwide dilemma.

Stray animals tied the top spot for public concerns in a poll by the National Democratic Institute, with 22 per cent of respondents naming it the most pressing issue.

Many welcome the dogs as a symbol of Tbilisi, a showcase of Georgian hospitality and the warm street life that draws tourists to the capital.

"Street dogs in Georgia have made a more positive impact on tourism and the

image of Georgia than people and culture alone," said journalist Elena Nikoleisvili, 51, who helps street dogs.

"If anything, these adorable creatures should be the symbol of the capital — like the cats of Istanbul."

On cafe terraces, regulars slip bones under tables as mongrels curl up between patrons' feet, while each neighbourhood and cul-de-sac has its own local canine mascot. — AFP



Many welcome the dogs as a symbol of Tbilisi, a showcase of Georgian hospitality. PHOTO: AFP

ECONOMY

WORLD

China's departure tax refunds grow sharply in first 11 months

THE number of overseas visitors claiming China's departure tax refund surged 285 per cent year on year in the first 11 months of 2025, according to data released by the State Taxation Administration on Monday.

In the same period, both the sales of tax refund-eligible goods and the total amount of tax refunds increased 98.8 per cent year on year, the data showed.

China has introduced a series of measures since April to optimize its tax refund system for overseas visitors.

The policy optimization has included the establishment of instant tax refund counters in major shopping districts in cities such as Beijing, Shanghai, Chongqing, Chengdu and Guangzhou. Cities including Shanghai and Hangzhou have also introduced online refund options, making the process more efficient.

The continued optimization of tax refund services has better met overseas visitors' refund needs and further fuelled their enthusiasm for traveling in China.

As of the end of November, there were 12,252 departure tax refund shops across the country, with more than 7,000 of them offering immediate refund upon purchase services, according to



A sign of tax refund point is seen at a downtown duty-free shop in north China's Tianjin Municipality, 28 November 2025. PHOTO: XINHUA

the administration.

China first implemented the departure tax refund policy for overseas visitors in 2015. Since then, the scale of departure tax refunds has continued to grow year by year, benefiting an increasing number of overseas visitors. — Xinhua

Germany industrial output jumps in boost for economy



New cars stored at tower storage facility of German carmaker Volkswagen (VW) are lit by sunset light at the company's headquarters in Wolfsburg, central Germany, at dusk on 21 November 2025. PHOTO: AFP

GERMAN industrial production unexpectedly jumped in October, official data showed Monday, the latest sign that Europe's crisis-racked top economy may be turning a corner.

Factory output rose 1.8 per cent month-on-month, according to preliminary data from federal statistics agency Destatis, after a 1.1 per cent rise in September.

The positive result, boosted by the construction and the machinery sectors, was far better than a 0.55 per cent decline forecast by analysts surveyed

ly positive production trend in September and October, no noticeable upturn in industrial activity is expected at the end of the year," it warned in a statement.

According to Destatis, production in the construction sector rose 3.3 per cent in October and in the manufacture of machinery and equipment, it was up 2.8 per cent.

But it dipped 1.3 per cent in the crisis-hit auto sector.

October's increase was the latest positive sign after industrial orders — an indicator of future business activity — jumped in the same month, driven by strong demand for defence goods as Germany rearms.

Chancellor Friedrich Merz has hugely increased public spending on defence and infrastructure to get the economy moving again after two years of recession, although he faces criticism that it is moving slowly.

The German government is forecasting the economy will eke out meagre growth of 0.2 per cent in 2025, before picking up speed in 2026 on the back of the spending bonanza. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Vietnam's pepper exports exceed US\$1.5 bln in 11 months

VIETNAM'S pepper exports surpassed US\$1.5 billion in the first 11 months of this year, Vietnam News Agency reported Monday, citing the Vietnam Pepper and Spice Association.

The country exported 225,009 tonnes of pepper during the period, including 192,899 tonnes of black pepper and 32,110 tonnes of white pepper. Black pepper exports brought in nearly US\$1.25 billion, while white pepper earned more than US\$262 million. — Xinhua

Singapore takes action against misleading website features by retailers

SINGAPORE'S competition regulator has found that two retailers of consumer electronics and home appliances used website design features to mislead consumers.

In a statement on Monday, the Competition and Consumer Commission of Singapore (CCS) said that Courts, a major consumer electronics, IT and furniture retailer, had automatically added unsolicited items to customers' online shopping carts.

Courts has given an undertaking to the CCS to immediately stop the practice, and agreed to refund customers affected by what the regulator described as an unfair trade practice. — Xinhua

Japan bankruptcies likely to surpass 10,000 in 2025 for 2nd straight year

THE number of corporate bankruptcies in Japan totalled 9,372 in the January-November period, making it likely that the figure for 2025 will surpass 10,000 for the second consecutive year, a survey by a credit research company said Monday.

Bankruptcies with liabilities of 10 million yen (\$64,500) or more in November fell 7.5 per cent from the previous year to 778, Tokyo Shoko Research said. — Kyodo

Tesla Shanghai factory hits 4-mln car output mark

TESLA'S Gigafactory in Shanghai rolled out its four millionth vehicle on Monday, according to the company, marking a new milestone as the US carmaker deepens its development in step with China's rapidly growing new energy sector.

The company's Shanghai plant, its first gigafactory outside the United States, began construction in January 2019 and produced its first vehicle in December of that year.

Now turning out a new car roughly every 30 seconds, the plant accounts for nearly half of Tesla's global electric vehicle deliveries.

It took more than 30 months for the plant to produce its first 1 million vehicles, while output rose from three million to four million in about 14 months, according to the company.

It serves both the Chinese mainland market and overseas

customers, with vehicles exported to Europe and the Asia-Pacific region. In October, the Shanghai plant shipped more than 35,000 vehicles abroad, the highest monthly export volume in two years, according to the company. — Xinhua



Staff members pose for a group photo to mark the four millionth vehicle produced here at Tesla's Gigafactory in Shanghai, east China, 8 December 2025. **PHOTO: TESLA'S GIGAFACTORY IN SHANGHAI/HANDOUT VIA XINHUA**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rising gold prices added over \$100 bln to Russia's reserves in past year

RUSSIA'S gold reserves have grown by \$112 billion in just one year, thanks to rising prices for the precious metal, according to Sputnik's calculations based on the Bank of Russia data.

At the beginning of December last year, the Bank of Russia held \$198.1 billion worth of gold bars in its vaults, while a year later, the figure had risen to \$310.7 billion.

This is all due to the rally in the gold market: over the past 12 months, the price of the metal has increased by about 60 per cent, to \$4,300 from \$2,600 per troy ounce. At the same time, in physical terms, Russia's gold reserves, on the contrary, have decreased slightly. According to the latest available data, they stood at 2,326.5 tonnes, while exactly one year ago they were 6 tonnes higher. — SPUTNIK

IMF launches regional centre in Shanghai

THE International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Monday officially launched the operations of its regional centre in Shanghai, headed by Johannes Wiegand, an IMF economist, as the director.

As one of the regional centres set up by the IMF worldwide, the IMF Shanghai Centre is expected to enhance the IMF's engagement with the Asia-Pacific region, according to a statement from the IMF. — Xinhua

Vietnam's aviation industry projected to handle 84 mln passengers in 2025

THE Civil Aviation Authority of Vietnam (CAAV) has projected total passenger traffic to reach 84 million in 2025, up 11.4 per cent year on year, Vietnam News Agency reported Monday. Uong Viet Dung, director of the CAAV, said the upward momentum is expected to continue into 2026, with passenger numbers forecast to rise 13 per cent to 95 million. — Xinhua

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY HOLIDAY NOTICE

AS the wharves, warehouses and chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 19th December 2025 (Kayin New Year Day) and 25th December 2025 (Christmas Day), Loading, Unloading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.

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Notice for change of distributor

Notice is hereby given that the official distributor – Myanmar Arysta LifeScience Co.,Ltd. to Titan Agro Science Co.,Ltd. has been changed for the following pesticide manufactured by Jiangsu Yongan Chemical Co.,Ltd.

No.	Brand Name	Active Ingredients	Registration No.
1.	Merlin 330 EC	Pendimethalin 33% EC	F 2022 - 3440

Myanmar Arysta LifeScience Co.,Ltd. invites objections to Co-secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein township, Yangon from all parties within a period of fourteen (14) days from the publication of this notice. If no objections are received within the period prescribed, parties mentioned above shall proceed with the completion of formalities recorded with the Pesticide Registration Board.

Myanmar Arysta LifeScience Co.,Ltd. Suite # 09 – 02, Crystal Tower, Kyun Taw Road, Kamayut Township, Yangon. 01 – 933 93 59, 933 93 60

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V MAERSK VALENCIA VOY.NO. (547W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MAERSK VALENCIA VOY.NO. (547W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **9-12-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP/MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S MAERSK A/S

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V MCL 9 VOY.NO. (15N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MCL 9 VOY. NO. (15N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **9-12-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **YIGTL** 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 MAWLAMYINE CENTURY LOGISTICS
COMPANY LIMITED

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V RANONG MOE VOY.NO. (003)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V RANONG MOE VOY.NO. (003)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **9-12-2025** 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 ANDAMAN SEA GATEWAYS GROUP OF
COMPANIES LIMITED

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V JIN HAI XIN VOY.NO. (106079)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V JIN HAI XIN VOY.NO. (106079)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **9-12-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT-3** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S CHUN AN INTERNATIONAL LOGISTICS CO
LTD

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Indonesia suffers food, medical shortages as Asia flood tolls rise

REGIONS hit by floods that killed hundreds in Indonesia were suffering from food and medical shortages, authorities said, as elephants pitched in on Monday to help clear up debris.

Tropical storms and monsoon rains have pummelled Southeast and South Asia this month, triggering landslides and flash floods from the rainforests of Indonesia's western Sumatra island to highland plantations in Sri Lanka.

"Everything is lacking, especially medical personnel. We are short on doctors," Muzakir Manaf, the governor of Indonesia's Aceh province, told reporters late Sunday.

Indonesia's national disaster mitigation agency (BNPB) said 961 people in Aceh, North Sumatra and West Sumatra had been killed, while 293 were missing. More than a million people were displaced, the agency said.

In Pidie Jaya, a district in



Volunteers pack relief supplies for delivery to flood victims, at the Indonesian air force home base in Blang Bintang, Aceh province, on 7 December 2025. **PHOTO: AFP**

Aceh badly affected by the floods, four elephants from a nearby training centre picked up large pieces of rubble with their trunks

and helped shift stuck vehicles. "We brought four elephants to clear the debris from the houses of the communities that were

swept away by the flood," Hadi Sofyan, the head of a local conservation agency, told AFP. "Our target is to clean

the debris near the residents' houses so they can access their homes," he said, adding the elephants would be used for the rest of the week.

The downpours and subsequent landslides throughout western Indonesia have injured at least 5,000 people and devastated infrastructure, including schools and hospitals.

In the city of Banda Aceh, long queues formed for drinking water and fuel, and prices of basic commodities such as eggs were skyrocketing, an AFP correspondent said.

Costs to rebuild after the disaster could run up to 51.82 trillion rupiah (\$3.1 billion), the BNPB said late Sunday.

In Sri Lanka, the military deployed thousands of extra troops to aid recovery efforts on Monday after a devastating cyclone caused a wave of destruction and killed 627 people. — AFP

Nobel laureate Kitagawa urges long-term basic research support in Japan



This photo shows this year's Nobel chemistry prize co-winners, Susumu Kitagawa (L) and Omar Yaghi, at a press conference in Stockholm on 7 December 2025. **PHOTO: KYODO**

THIS year's Nobel chemistry prize co-winner, Susumu Kitagawa, said Sunday that long-term support is vital for scientists to work on basic research.

"It takes 25 years for research results to be implemented in society, so long-term support is necessary," Kitagawa said at a press conference in Stockholm ahead of the award ceremony on Wednesday.

"I have advised the government many times to increase support for more basic research," he said.

The 74-year-old professor at Kyoto University won the Nobel prize for developing metal-organic frameworks, or MOFs, networks of metal ions and organic molecules that can capture and release gases. Experts expect MOFs to help solve energy and environmental issues.

Omar Yaghi, one of Kitagawa's co-winners, said MOFs are suitable for gas adsorption and separation and can separate carbon dioxide from air or extract drinking water. — Kyodo

Iraqi FM "surprised" at US remarks on Iraq's internal situation

IRAQI Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein told US Special Envoy for Syria Tom Barrack on Sunday that the Iraqi government is surprised at Barrack's recent statements regarding Iraq's internal situation, according to a statement by the Iraqi Foreign Ministry.

In recent interviews on the US Middle East policy, Barrack said decentralization has never really worked anywhere in this region, citing Iraq as an example.

He also asserted that while the Iraqi prime minister was elected, he has "zero power" as the prime minister "can't form a coalition of the parliament".

During their meeting, which was held on the sidelines of the 23rd Doha Forum in Qatar, Hussein stressed that the choices of the Iraqi people are respected, and that democracy and the federal system are enshrined in the Constitution and have become a firmly established path with no alternative, despite the challenges, read the statement.

Barrack said that "the US administration views the Iraqi experience with respect," and that his remarks "relate to the American experience in Iraq," read the statement. — Xinhua

Man arrested after firing shot in Oslo shopping centre

A 19-year-old man was arrested after firing a shot inside a shopping centre in the Norwegian capital of Oslo on Monday morning, police confirmed. No injuries were reported in the incident.

The shooting occurred at Storo Storsenter, one of Oslo's largest shopping malls. According to the police, the suspect entered the building and fired

a single shot from a shotgun into the ceiling.

In addition to the firearm, the man was in possession of a baseball bat and possibly a knife. The suspect notified the police of the incident himself. He has been charged with grave illegal handling of firearms.

"There is nothing to suggest that

he attempted to harm anyone," incident commander Tømm Berger was quoted by the Norwegian public broadcaster NRK as saying.

The incident triggered an immediate evacuation of the mall and a large-scale emergency response, with heavily armed police and a helicopter deployed to the scene. — Xinhua



Myanmar Sepak Takraw team starts competing in Hoop Takraw at SEA Games

THE Myanmar Sepak Takraw team will compete at the XXXIII South-East Asian Games in Thailand on 9 December.

There are nine categories for the SEA Games Sepak Takraw, and the Myanmar team will compete in seven events. The Myanmar team will compete in Hoop Takraw, men's and women's Rague event and Quadrant event, the mixed Quadrant format. The first stage of the men's and women's Hoop Takraw event will be on 9 December. It is such kind of event that the Myanmar Sepak Takraw team can win gold medals.

The Rague event will be from 11 to 14 December; the mixed Quadrant event will be from 14 to 16 December; and the Quadrant event will be from 16 to 18 December. The group matches of the men's Rague event will be on 11 December with the Philippines, while the Myanmar team will face Singapore and Malaysia on 12 December. For the women's group events, the Myanmar team will face Indonesia and Malaysia on 11 December, with Cambodia on 12 December. For the mixed Quadrant event, it will take on Laos on 14 December; Vietnam and Malaysia on 15 December. For the mixed Quadrant event, the team will encounter Thailand and Indonesia on 16 December; with Timor and the Philippines on 17 December. The women's event will be with Thailand on 16 December and with Malaysia and Indonesia on 17 December; respectively. — Chit Ko Ko/KTZH

Myanmar men's futsal team arrives in Thailand ahead of 33rd SEA Games



The Myanmar national futsal team is seen training in Yangon before leaving for Thailand.

THE Myanmar men's futsal team arrived in Thailand on the evening of 8 December to participate in the 33rd SEA Games, and from 9 December onwards, they will begin training and preparation sessions. The team travelled to Thailand in advance to take part in pre-tournament preparations, including two warm-up matches. The head coach of the Myanmar national team, Thai national Pattara Pikhun, brought a squad of

16 players. Following the warm-up matches, the squad will be reduced by two players to finalize a 14-player team for the SEA Games competition.

The head coach of the Myanmar national futsal team, Pattaya Pikhun, from Thailand, will take the 16 players to select 14 players for the SEA Games after the warm-up matches. The Myanmar national futsal team includes Administrator U Naing Thaung Htike, Head

Coach Pattaya Pikhun (Thailand), Technical Advisor U Htay Myint, Assistant Coach U Zaw Ye Maung, Fitness Coach Tawan (Thailand), and Goalkeeper Coach Sokanthika (Thailand). The athletes are Goalkeeper Mai Soe Myat Htwe (MIU), Kyaw Zin Myo Oo (YRG), Myo Ko Ko Oo (MIU), players Myo Myint Soe, Ko Ko Lwin, Naing Lin Htun Kyaw (YRG), Min Khant, Thet Htun, Min Khant Thu, Set Wai Yan, Sai Pyone Aung, Htoo Wai Yan, Htun Aung Kyaw (MIU), Aung Kyaw Phyto, Nyein Min Soe (YCDC Dream Team) and Htun Htun Win (Pyaesone FC).

The SEA Games men's futsal tournament will be held from 15 to 19 December. Since only five teams, including host Thailand, Myanmar, Indonesia, Vietnam and Malaysia, will compete. They will be held in a round format, with gold, silver and bronze medals awarded based on the highest points. Myanmar will play Indonesia on 15 December, Thailand on 16 December, Malaysia on 17 December and Vietnam on 19 December in group matches. — Maung San Gyi/MKKS

Myanmar blanks Malaysia 3-0 at 33rd SEA Games

THE Myanmar women's football team had their second victory at the 33rd SEA Games when they defeated the Malaysian women's team with a score of 3-0, yesterday. Myanmar Olympic Committee

Chairman and Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs, and for Hotels and Tourism, Jeng Phang Naw Taung, and relevant departmental officials and about 3,166 spectators watched the match. Myanmar scored through San Thaw

Thaw (26 minutes and 39 seconds), May Htet Lu (35 minutes and 29 seconds), and Win Theingi Tun (65 minutes and four seconds). The Myanmar women's team is in Group B with the Philippines, Malaysia

and Vietnam, and the team achieved victory over the Philippines with a score of 2-1 on 5 December and over Malaysia with 3-0 yesterday. Myanmar will play its third match against Vietnam on 11 December. — MNA/KTZH



Images show the Myanmar women's football players are seen in action yesterday in the match against Team Malaysia.



New US National Security Strategy appealing to Russia, focuses on dialogue – Kremlin

THE nuances of the new US National Security Strategy are appealing to Russia, as the document focuses on dialogue, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Monday.

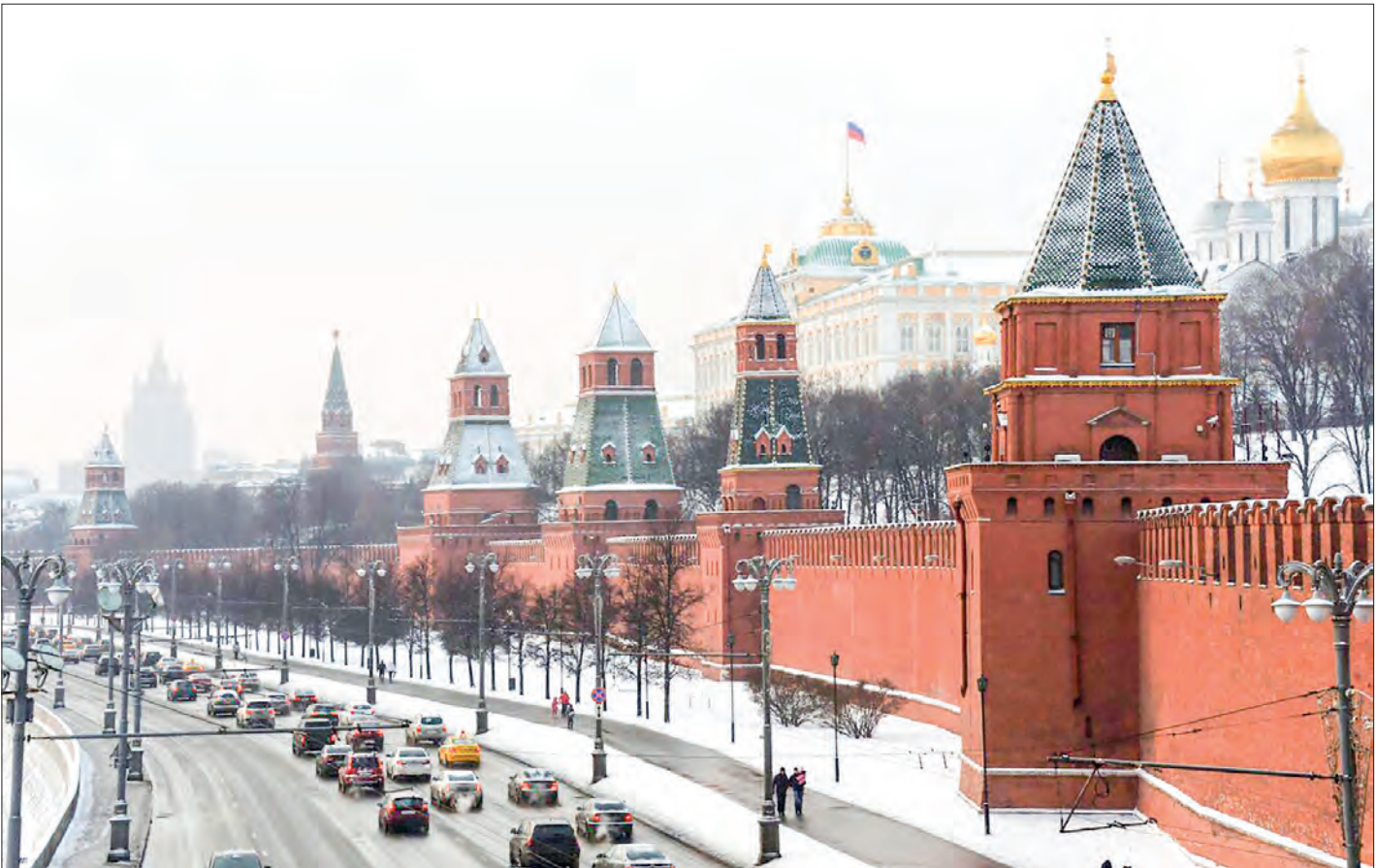
With the elimination of mutual irritants the prospects for restoration of relations between Russia and the United States may open up, Peskov added.

Different US administrations have different positions, there are always concerns that the next administration will change its foreign policy course, Peskov said.

Extensive work has already been done during the meeting between Russian President Vladimir Putin and US special envoy Steve Witkoff in Moscow, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov also said on Monday.

Putin received Witkoff and Kushner in the Kremlin on 2 December, for almost a five-hour negotiation. Kremlin aide Yuri Ushakov said the meeting helped Moscow and Washington “make a step towards better understanding one another’s positions”.

It is important for Moscow to understand the results of the work of the United States and Ukraine after the Russian-US consultations in Moscow, Kremlin spokes-



The Moscow Kremlin. PHOTO: SPUTNIK

man Dmitry Peskov also said. — Dmitry Peskov also said on Monday. — SPUTNIK

India, being a sovereign state, pur-

chases energy resources where it is beneficial for the country, Kremlin spokesman

M7.6 quake strikes northeastern Japan, tsunami warning issued



Office items are seen scattered on the floor of Kyodo News’ Hakodate bureau in Hakodate, Hokkaido, shortly before midnight 8 December 2025, after a powerful earthquake struck the region. PHOTO: KYODO

A powerful quake with a preliminary magnitude of 7.6 struck northeastern Japan late Monday night, with the weather agency issuing a tsunami warning for coastal areas of Hokkaido as well as Aomori

and Iwate prefectures.

The Japan Meteorological Agency warned of tsunami up to three metres following the quake, which it said occurred at 11:15 pm off Aomori at a depth of 50 kilometres. The magni-

tude was revised from the initially reported 7.2.

The highest tsunami observed so far has been about 50 centimetres in Hokkaido and Iwate. The agency warned that higher tsunami may later reach the northeastern Japan coasts.

The quake logged an upper 6 on the Japanese seismic intensity scale of 7 in parts of Aomori. It was felt in central Tokyo.

The Japanese government was checking for injuries and property damage, Chief Cabinet Secretary Minoru Kihara said in a press conference in the early hours of Tuesday. Defence Minister Shinjiro Koizumi separately told reporters that Self-Defence Force aircraft was deployed to collect information in northeastern Japan. — Kyodo

UN environment assembly opens in Kenya with call to safeguard planetary health

THE seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7) opened on Monday in Nairobi, the Kenyan capital, amid calls for a lasting solution to mounting threats facing the planet.

Nearly 6,000 delegates, including environment officials, representatives of multilateral agencies, academia, industry, and civil society from over 170 countries, are attending the five-day conference under the theme “Advancing Sustainable Solutions for a Resilient Planet”.

In a video message, UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina J Mohammed stressed the urgency to tackle ecological threats such as climate change, habitat loss, and pollution in a bid to secure a resilient future for humanity.

“We must act with a sense of urgency to safeguard the health of our planet. Now is the time to invest in a stable climate and thriving ecosystems, ensuring that multilateralism delivers tangible results for people and the planet,” said Mohammed.

As the world’s highest-level decision-making body on matters related to the environment, UNEA has been held since 2014 with universal membership of all 193 UN member states.

During this year’s edition, delegates will discuss 15 draft resolutions and three draft decisions calling for enhanced protection of glaciers, sustainable production of metals and minerals, and reducing the ecological footprint of Artificial Intelligence. — Xinhua