

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.

Call for medical officers to provide capable, trusted leadership

Medical officers are expected not only to deliver healthcare services to Tatmadaw personnel and their families, but also to extend compassionate, community-focused assistance to ethnic populations across the Union.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing highlighted that Tatmadaw medical officers will also be required to serve alongside infantry combat troops in military operations and security duties for national defence.

The passing out parade of the 26th Intake of the Defence Services Medical Academy took place at the parade ground of the DSMA in Yangon yesterday. State Security and Peace Commission Chairman and Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing delivered a speech at the passing out parade.

The Senior General took the salute of the cadet battalions and inspected the graduate company. The cadet companies marched past the Senior General.

The Senior General presented the Best Cadet Award to cadet Aung Kyaw Moe, the Excellent Award in Training to cadet Swan Yi Hte and the Excellent Award in Studies to cadet Min Phone Thant Aung.

On the occasion, the Senior General delivered a speech. He said: Those cadets were

urged to continue studying and refreshing the medical knowledge and skills they have acquired so that they remain highly competent, and to carry out their duties and objectives as members of the Tatmadaw medical corps successfully.

In addition, when the medical officers arrive at their respective assignments, they should not only provide healthcare services to Tatmadaw members and their family members, but also extend compassionate assistance to ethnic communities living across the Union. By doing so, the medical officers have to demonstrate the genuine goodwill and spirit of Tatmadaw.

Just as diagnostic equipment, treatment tools, medicines, and new therapies continue to advance and change, unusual and emerging diseases also persistently challenge the medical community.

The Defence Services Medical Academy is recognized by the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME) and provides medical education and knowledge in line with international curriculum standards.



State Security and Peace Commission Chairman and Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing presents the Best Cadet Award at yesterday’s event in Yangon.

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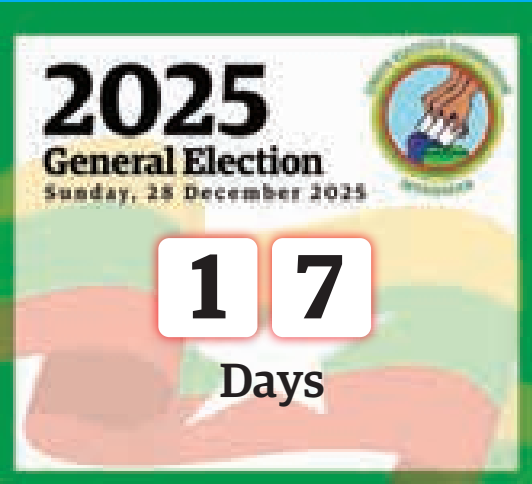
NATIONAL



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.



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.

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

Republic of the Union of Myanmar National Defence and Security Council Office

Order 51/2025
6th Waning of Nataw 1387 ME
10 December 2025

Appointment and Duty Assignment for Deputy Minister

THE National Defence and Security Council has appointed and assigned U Kyaw Naing Win to the duties of Deputy Minister for Energy under Subsection (b) of Section 427 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

By order,
Aung Lin Dwe
Executive Chief

Defence Services Medical Academy holds its 26th Convocation

THE Defence Services Medical Academy (DSMA) held its 26th Convocation yesterday afternoon in Mingaladon Township, Yangon. Commandant Brig-Gen Soe Nyunt, Rector Brig-Gen Khin Aung Tun, and faculty members attended the ceremony.

The convocation began with the National Anthem. Subsequently, the rector announced the commencement of the ceremony and

led the graduates in pledging to abide by the code of conduct.

Following this, the rector presented certificates to the graduate cadets, allowing them to don academic regalia corresponding to their degrees, and signed the convocation record book. The commandant then delivered the convocation speech and concluded the event.

The honours and academic awards conferred upon the ca-

dets were determined through an assessment process involving the rector, professors, and department heads of the DSMA, as well as rectors, professors, and examiners from medical universities nationwide. DSMA's curriculum is aligned with that of other medical universities, ensuring that the credits and distinctions correspond with the broader medical education framework. — MNA/MKKS



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)

Call for medical officers to provide capable, trusted leadership

FROM PAGE 1

To remain on par with international medical universities, postgraduate courses are being offered domestically, while scholarship students are also being sent abroad to study and train in modern medical sciences. At home, medical science conferences, academic exchange programmes, and workshops are being organized, and experience-sharing on military healthcare is being conducted with foreign experts.

In addition, medical research activities are being conducted extensively in accordance with international standards.

Therefore, they have to make efforts to ensure that in medical fields such as treatment, care, and prevention, Tatmadaw can keep pace with international armed forces.

As they are Tatmadaw medical officers, they must embody both the spirit of a good soldier and the ethics of a good doctor.

Just as they were trained to strictly

uphold the 60 military codes of conduct to develop a strong soldier’s spirit, they were also trained to cultivate proper medical ethics, professional conduct, and sound values in addition to their medical studies.

As Tatmadaw medical officers, they will also be required to serve alongside infantry combat troops in military operations and security duties for national defence.

He emphasized that in building a Union based on democracy and a federal system, it is important not to simply copy the models of other countries, but to develop a democratic and federal system that suits the needs of the nation. Democracy is a system of governance chosen by the people, where the majority’s will is implemented, and the rights and views of minorities must also be respected. Federalism involves sharing authority and rights, with its essence being unity and harmony. To establish a Union grounded on democracy and fed-

eralism, a multiparty democratic system must thrive. Since the election process is essential for maintaining a multiparty democracy, a nationwide multiparty democratic general election, which is eagerly anticipated by the majority of the people, will be held starting on 28 December.

Therefore, when the medical officers arrive at their respective battalions or units, they must also contribute, within their assigned roles, to the processes required for successfully holding a free and fair election, ensuring that all eligible citizens can participate and cast their votes.

After taking the salute of the cadet companies, the Senior General left the parade ground.

Also present at the parade were Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, the wife of the Senior General; Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Zeya Kyaw Htin Htein Win and his wife, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Zeya Kyaw Htin Sithu Tun Aung and his wife,

senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, Union-level dignitaries, Union ministers and their wives, the commanders, the commandant of DSMA, officials from Mingaladon station, parents and relatives of the graduate cadets and guests.

After the parade, the Senior General met outstanding award-winning cadets and their parents at the DSMA Headquarters.

On the occasion, the Senior General said that the outstanding graduates of the Defence Services Medical Academy have to continue to diligently carry out the duties entrusted to them by the State and Tatmadaw through ongoing effort and dedication. While fulfilling their responsibilities, they are expected to strive to become capable leaders whom subordinates can trust and rely on, and to develop themselves so that they can be entrusted with greater responsibilities in the future. — MNA/TTA

Prime Minister-led Myanmar delegation leaves for Turkmenistan

A Myanmar delegation led by Prime Minister U Nyo Saw left Yangon yesterday morning to attend the ceremonies to commemorate the International Year of Peace and Trust and the 30th Anniversary of the Permanent Neutrality of Turkmenistan to be held in Ashgabat,

Turkmenistan.

The Myanmar delegation led by Prime Minister U Nyo Saw was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Union Minister U Tun Ohn, Yangon Region ministers and departmental officials. — MNA/MKKS



Prime Minister U Nyo Saw is seen at Yangon International Airport before departing for Turkmenistan.

NATIONAL

Graduation dinner hosted in honour of graduate officers from DSMA 26th Intake

The Defence Services Medical Academy hosted a graduation dinner for its 26th Intake at the assembly hall of the convocation hall of the academy in Yangon yesterday evening, attended by State Security and Peace Commission Chairman and Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

The Senior General cordially greeted the graduate officers and then had dinner together with the graduate officers and dignitaries.

After the dinner, the Senior General and party enjoyed the musical entertainment of the military band of the academy and presented cash awards.

At the convocation hall, the Senior General and party, together with the graduate officers, watched the songs and one-act plays presented by the Myawady Entertainment Troupe under the Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare.

Also, present at the dinner were Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, the wife of the Senior General; Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Htein Win and his wife, Com-



SSPC Chairman and Defence Services C-in-C Senior General Min Aung Hlaing enjoys the honouring dinner together with the graduate officers yesterday.

mander-in-Chief (Air) General Tun Aung and his wife, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, Union-level dignitaries, Union ministers and their wives, commanders, the commandant of DSMA, officials from Mingaladon Station, parents and relatives of graduate officers and guests. — MNA/TTA

Regional, human resource development activities in southern Shan State inspected

STATE Security and Peace Commission Member and Union Minister for Border Affairs and for Ethnic Affairs Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, accompanied by Shan State Chief Minister U Aung Aung and relevant officials, inspected the regional development measures and human resource development activities of Taunggyi at the Shan State development supervisory office in Taunggyi yesterday.

He instructed the timely completion of regional development programmes, public participation to ensure the sustainability of the completed projects, and presented cash prizes to the staff, and observed the office compound.

The Union minister and party proceeded to Shan State Ethnic Affairs and Vocational Training Centre, and the Union minister urged the officials to provide the required assistance to conserve the literature, tradi-



Union Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, Shan State Chief Minister U Aung Aung, and other officials are pictured during their inspection tours in Shan State (South) yesterday.

tion and cultures of ethnic people and strengthen the unity of ethnic people. He gave cash prizes and inspected the basic computer course and the motorcycle main-

tenance course.

The Union minister and party paid homage to Sayadaws from the Swaltaw Monastery in Aye-thaya, and donated rice for the

monastery, school uniforms and books for the students who are learning at the monastic school.

The Union minister also inspected the one-mile, one-furlong

tar road paving processes from the branch road of Pindaya township to Kone Lone San Monastery together with Chairman of Danu Self-Administered Zone U Arkar Lin and officials.

The Union minister then met the principal, staff, instructors and students of Training School for Development of Nationalities Youth from Border Areas in Pindaya.

During the meeting, the Union minister highlighted the duties of the ministry, the need to become outstanding and reliable citizens for the country and to avoid drugs. He presented cash prizes and observed the school compound.

On arrival at the Industrial Training School for Ethnic Youths in Aungban, the Union minister heard the reports made by the school officials and presented cash prizes to the staff and trainees. — MNA/KTZH

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
National Defence and Security Council Office

Order 52/2025

6th Waning of Nataw 1387 ME
10 December 2025

Formation of Central Supervisory Committee on
Combatting Telecom Fraud and Online Gambling

1. To ensure that telecom fraud and online gambling can no longer operate within Myanmar, and to cooperate with domestic forces and international governments, the “Central Supervisory Committee on Combatting Telecom Fraud and Online Gambling” is formed with the following persons: -

(a) Union Minister
Ministry of Home Affairs

Chairman

(b) Union Minister
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Vice-Chairman 1

(c) Union Minister
Ministry of Immigration and Population

Vice-Chairman 2

(d) Chairman/Chief Minister
Nay Pyi Taw Council, Region/State governments

Member

(e) Governor
Central Bank of Myanmar

Member

(f) Commander
Relevant Commands

Member

(g) Deputy Minister
Ministry of Transport and Communications

Member

(h) Deputy Minister
Ministry of Defence

Member

(i) Deputy Minister
Ministry of Border Affairs

Member

(j) Deputy Minister and Deputy Attorney-General
Ministry of Legal Affairs

Member

(k) Deputy Minister
Ministry of Information

Member
- (l) Deputy Minister
Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement

Member

(m) Deputy Chief of Military Affairs Security

Member

(n) Deputy Minister
Ministry of Home Affairs

Secretary

(o) Chief of Police
Myanmar Police Force
Ministry of Home Affairs

Joint Secretary 1

(p) Deputy Chief of Police (2)
Myanmar Police Force
Ministry of Home Affairs

Joint Secretary 2

2. The duties of the “Central Supervisory Committee on Combatting Telecom Fraud and Online Gambling” are as follows:

(a) Establishing policies to eradicate telecom fraud and online gambling

(b) Forming the necessary committees and assigning duties to combat telecom fraud and online gambling

(c) Drafting SOPs for combating telecom fraud and online gambling

(d) Negotiating with relevant countries to transfer the foreign nationals who are illegally in the country and operating telecom fraud and online gambling

(e) Cooperating with international countries to fight against telecom fraud and online gambling

By Order,

Aung Lin Dwe
Executive Chief

Commissioning ceremony held for
DSMA 26th Intake graduate cadets

THE commissioning ceremony of the 26th Intake of the Defence Services Medical Academy (DSMA) was held yesterday morning at the DSMA convocation hall. It was attended by Lt-Gen Htein Win, Military Appointment-General of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief

(Army), senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, DSMA Commandant Brig-Gen Soe Nyunt, and the graduating cadets. As part of the ceremony, Lt-Gen Htein Win, the senior military officers, and the DSMA Comman-

dant took their places on the stage. Lt-Gen Htein Win then presented the certificate of commissioning to each of the graduating cadets. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Htein Win delivered a speech, closing the ceremony. — MNA/MKKS



The commissioning ceremony for the DSMA 26th Intake graduates is underway.

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NATIONAL

NDSC Office Executive Chief delivers speech at 77th International Human Rights Day ceremony

THE 77th International Human Rights Day ceremony was held yesterday morning at the Myanmar International Convention Centre I in Nay Pyi Taw, where U Aung Lin Dwe, Executive Chief of the Office of the National Defence and Security Council, delivered a speech.

The ceremony was attended by SSPC member and Union Minister Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung, Union-level dignitaries, Union Ministers, the Chairman of the Union Civil Service Board (UCSB), the Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council, the Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar, the Chairman of the Anti-Corruption Commission, the Chairman of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, deputy ministers and departmental officials, officials from the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, representatives of associations, UN agencies, and foreign embassies in Myanmar; as well as students and guests.

First, U Aung Lin Dwe, Executive Chief of the Office of the National Defence and Security Council, delivered a speech stating that 10 December 2025 marks the 77th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations General Assembly and is observed as International Human Rights Day, adding that, as the day is celebrated in many countries around the world, Myanmar is also commemorating the occasion out of respect for human rights.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights consists of 30 articles and sets out the fundamental rights of all human beings, including civil and political rights, as well as economic, social, and cultural rights and responsibilities. The Declaration is the first historical document to recognize the inherent rights of all human beings. When the UN General Assembly voted to adopt the UDHR on 10 December 1948, Myanmar was among the 48 countries that supported the Declaration. The UN General Assembly later designated 10 December – the day the Decla-



The 77th International Human Rights Day event is in progress yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw, addressed by National Defence and Security Council Office Executive Chief U Aung Lin Dwe.

ration was adopted – as International Human Rights Day.

Since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, various international human rights treaties have been developed to implement the rights set out in the declaration in a legally binding manner.

U Aung Lin Dwe highlighted that, for Myanmar to respect human rights and cooperate with the international community, successive governments have signed various international human rights treaties as a signatory state, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and have also acceded to several additional protocols related to these treaties.

The State has enacted and implemented domestic laws to fulfil the obligations contained in the relevant treaties, established national-level committees, and regularly submitted country reports to the respective treaty bodies.

In order to ensure that ethnic peoples living in the country enjoy their fundamental rights, the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar (2008)

sets out the fundamental rights and duties of citizens. Therefore, citizens must not only enjoy the fundamental human rights guaranteed by the constitution but also comply with the duties it prescribes. Furthermore, the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission was established in 2011 to further promote and protect the fundamental rights of citizens.

The Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Law, enacted in 2014, outlines the Commission's duties, including investigating complaints of human rights violations, providing human rights education, and issuing recommendations on human rights matters. Since its establishment in 2011, the commission has been in existence for over 14 years, during which its efforts to promote and protect the human rights of citizens have made significant progress.

The establishment of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission to promote and protect the human rights of citizens living in the country is also evidence of the State's commitment to human rights.

Respecting and practising human rights within a society greatly contributes to its stability and peace. Only when there is stability and peace can the rule of law prevail; only then can all citizens live and work in safety and happiness, and so-

cio-economic development be enhanced.

The Executive Chief also stated that the Government is committed to the rule of law and stability in the country to promote socio-economic development, enable all citizens to live and work in peace, reduce the gap between poverty and wealth, and ensure the successful holding of orderly, free, and fair multi-party democratic general elections to create a Union based on a disciplined democratic system, which is the true desire of the people.

In a democratic system, general elections are vital, so the government is working hard to ensure they are conducted in accordance with the law, all ethnic groups must work together to make the elections fair, successful, and firmly on the path to multiparty democracy, and, recognizing that the people are the greatest force in nation-building, citizens need to participate actively, respect one another, and take responsibility for creating a peaceful society and holding fair elections.

He said that deciding whether to vote or not is a citizen's right, but voting is also a civic duty, and that citizens must fully exercise their rights, fulfill their responsibilities, and express their opinions in the best interests of the country, urging all eligible voters to participate

in the upcoming multi-party democratic general election and fulfill their civic duty, while emphasizing that human rights and civic duties are two fundamental concepts that must be interconnected and balanced to build a democratic system of governance and a just society.

The National Defence and Security Council, which is currently responsible for exercising the three branches of State authority in accordance with the constitution, is also making arrangements to ensure that all eligible voters in the general election can cast their votes freely and fairly, demonstrating that the national government is taking citizens' rights seriously.

The UN's theme for this year's International Human Rights Day is "Our Everyday Essentials", which emphasizes that human rights are essential and indispensable in everyday life. By upholding the three universal principles of justice, freedom, and equality – the fundamental principles of human rights – in all aspects of our daily lives, a peaceful and prosperous society can emerge, as the State prioritizes domestic peace, stability, and national prosperity and strictly enforces the law to promote and protect the fundamental rights of citizens.

A citizen has both rights and responsibilities as a member of society, including protecting the rights of others and contributing to the public good to ensure that society functions peacefully, respecting the law as the most fundamental duty for maintaining peace and order, engaging in public affairs through fair and responsible voting and participation in social activities, ensuring that one's freedoms do not infringe upon the rights and freedoms of others, and fulfilling one's responsibilities as an investment in respecting the rights of others and ensuring the long-term sustainability of one's own rights.

He stated that the rule of law and good governance guarantee citizens' rights and urged citizens to support good governance

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NATIONAL

Socioeconomic gains for rural communities reflect national progress

- ❖ “As rural residents primarily rely on agriculture and livestock businesses for their livelihoods, improving the socioeconomic life of rural communities would contribute to national economic growth and help reduce poverty.”
- ❖ “We have prioritized the improvement of the rural economy, and we will continue efforts to enhance the socioeconomic life of rural communities.”

(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)

Myanmar holds Central Meeting on Drug Control and Prevention

THE Central Committee on the Prevention and Control of Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances Meeting 1/2025 was held yesterday at the Myanmar Police Headquarters. The meeting was chaired by Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung, with participation from the Anti-Corruption Commission, Myanmar Police, relevant ministries, and regional drug prevention officials via video conference.

Officials discussed global drug threats, citing UNODC data showing 316 million drug users worldwide in 2023, and highlighted how drug production and trafficking fuel cross-border crime, terrorism, and threaten national security. Myanmar faces increased drug



The first meeting of the Central Committee on the Prevention and Control of Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances is underway yesterday, chaired by Union Minister Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung.

production and trafficking by insurgent groups, with chemicals smuggled from abroad.

Authorities reviewed ongoing

eradication efforts, including joint military, police, administrative, and local community operations to destroy poppy

fields and prevent drug-related activities. Development programmes in Shan State villages continue alongside these

efforts.

The meeting also addressed the rising use of e-cigarettes and vaping among youth, which can involve substances like etomidate, a psychoactive drug, requiring stricter monitoring and regulation.

Officials emphasized the need for stricter control of chemical imports, a single-port entry system, and enhanced coordination with neighbouring countries, ASEAN, and international agencies such as UNODC, AFP, DEA, NNCC, and ONCB to strengthen Myanmar’s drug prevention efforts. The committee reviewed ongoing initiatives and outlined future action plans to curb drug production, trafficking, and abuse. — MNA/KZL

NDSC Office Executive Chief delivers speech at 77th International...

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by fulfilling their civic responsibilities.

Then, U Paw Lwin Sein, Chairman of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, explained the implementation of the commission’s work, while Dr Myint Thu Myaing, a member of the commission, read the message sent by the UN Secretary-General on the occasion of International Human Rights Day and presented a video clip commemorating the event.

Afterwards, the Chairman of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission presented a commemorative gift to U Aung Lin Dwe, Executive

Chief of the Office of the National Defence and Security Council. Next, artistes from the Fine Arts Department of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture danced to the song “Human Rights for All”.

Executive Chief U Aung Lin Dwe, along with other attendees, also toured the exhibits on international human rights treaties signed by Myanmar, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in ethnic languages, the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission’s illustrated books in Russian and English, photographs of the commission’s work, and human rights books that are being printed and distributed. — MNA/TH

Combined forces clear poppy plantations in anti-narcotics campaign

MYANMAR is actively conducting the narcotics eradication operations in cooperation with the United Nations, neighbouring countries, ASEAN member states, countries in the Mekong region, member countries of the BIMSTEC, and international drug control organizations. As part of these efforts, Myanmar is carrying out the destruction of poppy fields, which is one component of the broader anti-narcotics campaign.

In this regard, Tatmadaw personnel, Myanmar Police Force members, those from the relevant departments from the combined team, including the General Administration Department, the Forest Department and the Department of Agricultural Land Management and Statistics, local people’s militia troops and resi-



An anti-narcotics campaign in action on 9-10 December in Shan State (South).

dent ethnic people destroyed blooming poppy plantations on 9 and 10 December. They destroyed 35 acres of 2.5 feet high poppy plantations in the field, some two miles southwest of Lonaung Village of Hsinchayphone Village-tract in Loilem Township, Shan State (South), 25 acres of 3.5 feet high poppy plantation, two miles southwest

of Sanphu Village, 30 acres of three feet high plantation, three miles southwest of Taungnauk Village in Taungnauk Village-tract, and 25 acres of three feet high plantation, three miles and four furlongs west of the village, totalling 115 acres. A plan is underway to continue the destruction of the poppy plantations. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

Voting is a part of one’s birthright as a citizen, says MoI Union Minister

THE Ministry of Information initiated a nationwide campaign for the 2025 multiparty democratic election by cooperating with the Nay Pyi Taw Council, the region and state governments.

Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn yesterday attended the campaign held at the Yezin Agricultural University, together with the pro-rector, department heads, faculty members and students of the Yezin Agricultural University, University of Veterinary Science and University of Forestry and Environmental Science (Yezin).

Speaking at the event, the Union minister highlighted the intention of the campaign for all eligible voters to cast their votes in the forthcoming multiparty democratic general election on 28 December. He continued that every citizen loves their nation, ward and region, and every citizen who is already 18 is responsible for



A nationwide campaign for the 2025 multiparty democratic election kicks off yesterday, attended by Union Info Minister U Maung Maung Ohn.

casting a vote for the representatives who can develop the nation, ward and region. Voting is a part of one’s birthright as a citizen. Election is the affairs of the country rather than party politics. He then urged all the attendees to cast a vote, serving the duties of a citizen.

The Union minister and officials drew lots for 30 MRTV DTH receivers and 20 DVB-T2 set-top boxes and presented them to the winners.

They also distributed election pamphlets to the attendees. — MNA/KTZH

MRJCTC 3rd meeting enters 2nd day



The agreements signing ceremony in progress during the second-day session yesterday.

THE second day of the third meeting of the Myanmar-Russia Joint Counter-Terrorism Committee was held yesterday at the Jasmine Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

Present at the meeting were Lt-Gen Than Htike from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) and senior Tatmadaw officers, who are committee members, Colonel-General Aleksandr Anatolyevich Matovnikov, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Ground Forces of the Russian Federation and committee members.

The two parties exchanged views on Myanmar-Russia cooperation in counter-terrorism, and Co-chairs Lt-Gen Than Htike and Colonel-General Aleksandr Anatolyevich Matovnikov reviewed the discussion and concluded the meeting.

The co-chairs signed the agreements, exchanged gifts, and had a documentary photo taken together with the attendees. — MNA/KTZH

NDCG pays over K4B in taxes to State

AT the 27th general meeting of the National Development Company Group, held at 10 am yesterday at the office of the Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Federation in Thimgangyun Township, Yangon, Chairman U Shwe Kyaing stated that the company has paid over K4 billion in taxes to the government.

“Currently, it is difficult to conduct business because it is the election period. I believe that the incoming government will support us, as ours is a public company. Construction is our main business, while livestock and agriculture are fundamental industries essential to the State. These sectors are crucial for the country. Livestock and agriculture are indispensable, so we must also engage in these areas, even if they do not yield the highest profit,” said U Shwe Kyaing.

The meeting then approved the Board of Directors’ report, the financial statements, and the audit report for the 2024–2025 financial year. Shareholders’ questions and suggestions were also discussed. — Bala/MKKS



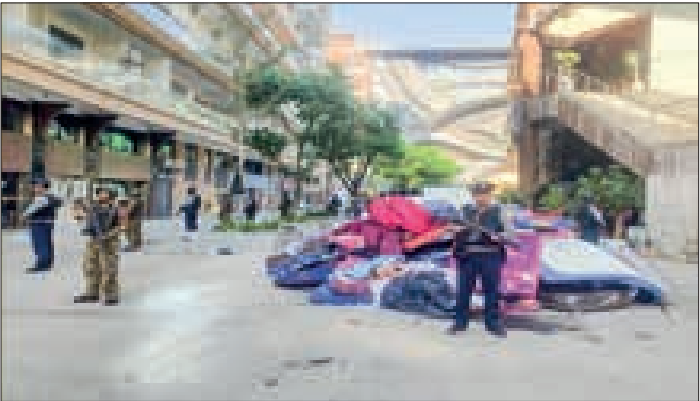
The 27th general meeting of the National Development Company Group is underway in Yangon.

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NATIONAL

Govt intensifies crackdown on telecom fraud, demolishing 10 illegal gambling sites



The images show the burning of materials used by undocumented foreign entrants in Shwe Kokko, Myawaddy, Kayin State.

THE Myanmar government has intensified efforts to combat online gambling in the KK Park and Shwe Kokko areas. Yesterday, authorities demolished ten additional illegal buildings used for on-line gambling operations in Myawaddy-Maethawtalay (KK Park), including one four-storey building, one three-storey building, and eight two-storey structures. These demolitions are part of a larger crackdown, which has already seen 361 out of 635 illegal buildings systematically

destroyed within KK Park. Confiscated materials and equipment used for online gambling were also burned to prevent further misuse.

In addition, four Thai nationals detained for involvement in illegal gambling activities were repatriated through the Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge No. 2 in accordance with legal procedures, while efforts continue to return the remaining foreign detainees to their respective countries. Security forces, ad-

ministrative bodies, and local authorities have collaborated to ensure that these illegal operations do not resume.

Since 8 December, joint teams have also inspected 132 further buildings in Myawaddy and the surrounding areas, confirming that no illegal foreign residents or online gambling activities were found. The government has emphasised that combating online gambling is a national duty, and Myanmar will continue to coordinate with neighbouring countries to

The images show demolished three-storey buildings in KK Park Section 3, as part of ongoing demolition measures in KK Park, Myawaddy, Kayin State.

ensure such operations cannot take root within the country. These measures underscore the authorities' commitment to upholding law and order and safeguarding public safety. — MNA/KZL

Chongqing-Yangon direct service takes off



The Chongqing-Yangon Aviation and Cultural Tourism Promotion Conference held at the Lotte Hotel in Yangon on 9 December.

CHINA'S Chongqing Airlines launched its direct Chongqing-Yangon and Yangon-Chongqing flights on 8 December.

According to Mr Kyauk Kyant Hoon, Chairman of the Chongqing-Myanmar Group, the airline has introduced these flights, intending to encourage businesspeople from Chongqing to invest in Myanmar and to attract more Chinese tourists to visit the country. He made the remarks on 9 December at the Chongqing-Yangon Aviation and Cultural Tourism Promotion

Conference held at the Lotte Hotel in Yangon.

The flights will operate twice weekly, on Mondays and Fridays. The aircraft departing Chongqing at 9 am will arrive in Yangon at 11:20 am. Likewise, the aircraft leaving Yangon at 12:15 pm will reach Chongqing at 3:45 pm.

In addition, it is learnt that Chongqing Airlines will also operate cargo flights on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. — ASH/KNN

Emerald Green Project funds handed over to Zadetgyi Village

THE Department of Rural Development in Kawthoung Township, Kawthoung District, Taninthayi Region, held a ceremony on the morning of 9 December to hand over funds for the Emerald Green Project in the meeting hall of the department.

To provide capital to rural residents so that they may run small-scale businesses and improve their household income, a sum of 30 million kyats in project funds was transferred to the Emerald Green Project working group of Zadetgyi Village, which will implement the Emerald Green Village Project in the 2025-2026 financial year.

At the event, Daw Soe Soe Thi, Deputy Director (Technical) of the

Taninthayi Region Department of Rural Development, explained the objectives and benefits of the Emerald Green Village Project. Township Officer Daw Mya Yamon Phu briefed attendees on the rules and regulations to be followed by members, as well as the Rural Development Law, related bylaws, and the responsibilities of rural residents outlined in the project manual.

According to the Kawthoung Township Department of Rural Development, officials from the region, district and township levels, along with members of the Emerald Green Project working group from Zadetgyi Village, attended the ceremony. — Htun Htun/KZL



This photo captures attendees at the ceremony for the handover of Emerald Green Project funds in Kawthoung Township.

NATIONAL BUSINESS

CBM injects US\$500K into edible oil import sector

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold US\$500,000 purchased from CMP companies to edible oil-importing companies on 9 December.

CBM sold \$1.185 million to edible oil-importing companies and over \$481,400 to fuel oil-importing companies on 8 December, along with an injection of \$120,000 into the market.

CBM sold \$1.69 million to edible oil-importing companies on 5 December.

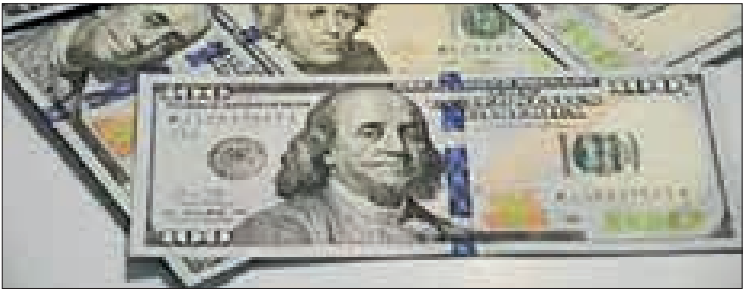
CBM sold over \$902,900, purchased from CMP businesses, to edible oil-importing companies on 4 December.

CBM announced on 3 December that it would sell \$30 million to those engaged in fuel oil businesses. Furthermore, CBM sold over \$1.736 million to edible oil-importing companies on the same day.

CBM made an injection of over \$21 million, 2.4 million yuan and 1.5 million baht in November.

CBM injected over \$2.48 million, 5.75 million yuan and 4.98 million baht in October, along with sales of over \$54 million bought from CMP companies.

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



Myanmar's rice export exceeds 1.7M tonnes in Apr-Nov



Export rice bags are seen being loaded onto the overseas-bound merchant vessel.

MYANMAR'S rice export in the past eight months of the current financial year 2025-2026, beginning 1 April, reached over 1.78 million tonnes worth US\$575 million, according to the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

Myanmar conveyed over 142,000 tonnes (\$52M) in April, over 250,000 tonnes (\$90M) in May, 210,000 tonnes (\$71M) in June, over 230,000 tonnes (\$77M) in July, over 190,000 tonnes (\$65M) in August and 160,000 tonnes (\$52M) in September and 310,000 tonnes (\$92M) in October and 263,815 tonnes (\$76M) in November, totaling 1.787 million tonnes worth around \$575 million, said a representative of the Myanmar Rice Federation.

Myanmar mostly relies on sea trade for rice export.

The federation aims to achieve three million tonnes of rice exports in the current FY.

Myanmar bagged over \$1.129 billion from 2.48 million tonnes of rice and broken rice exports in the financial year 2024-2025 (1 April-31 March).

Ministry of Commerce is working together with the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Myanmar Rice Federation, Myanmar Rice Federation, Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association, Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association, Myanmar Industries Association, Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Association, Myanmar Fisheries Products Processors and Exporters Association to meet monthly export targets and facilitate exports. – NN/KK

Saltwater marine product arrivals decline

DURING the early winter season, strong winds and storms at sea have disrupted normal fishing activities, causing a decline in saltwater marine products at the fish wholesale centre of Yangon port.

"The fish capture during early this month declines as there are not enough fish to catch. In previous months, it was not convenient to catch fish due to heavy storms, and we could catch when the wind and waves died down. We distributed to the ports when we captured them fish. In November, it was obvious that we could not catch well. As the number of captured fish declined, we sent them to the ports when we had enough products for a vessel. Therefore, the entry to the ports declined. Last year at this time, the fish capture was better," said U Kyaw Naing, secretary of the Fishing Vessel Association.

Last month, all the fishing vessels could not go out to sea, and the number of vessels at the port became higher early this month. Although the number of vessels arriving at the port could be estimated previously, it is not easy to estimate, and the marine product distribution system has changed in the saltwater marine product market and the domestic market.

"No fishing vessels have arrived for two days to Sanpya fish market. When the fish catches are low, each boat only delivers to port once it is full, so arrivals are fewer than usual. Boats may arrive tomorrow, but the next days are uncertain. Normally, at this time of year, fish arrivals are higher. We will have to wait and watch the situation in the second week of December," said Daw Tin Nwe from the Kyimyindine Sanpya Fish Market.

The marine products are captured from onshore and offshore areas of Mon State and Ayeyawady Region for local consumption and export. Over 8,000 fishing vessels and fishing trawlers in Yangon Region are allowed to leave for the sea this year, and over 400 are currently in operation, whereas over 1,300 for offshore and 6,300 for onshore are allowed in Taninthayi Region. — Ottha/KTZH



Images show fishery products and fishing vessels.

South Korea chip giant SK hynix mulls US stock market listing

SOUTH Korean chip giant SK hynix said on Wednesday it was considering a US stock market listing using treasury shares as part of efforts to boost shareholder value.

SK hynix is one of the world's leading memo-

ry chip makers — along with Samsung Electronics — manufacturing chips essential for artificial intelligence products and the data centres that the fast-evolving industry relies on.

In a regulatory filing,

SK hynix said it was “considering various measures to enhance shareholder value, including listing on the US stock market using treasury shares, but no decisions have been finalized yet”.

The company said it

was considering listing its treasury shares as American Depositary Receipts (ADRs), instruments representing a foreign stock that is traded on a US exchange. SK hynix shares were up 4.6 per cent in early trading in Seoul. — AFP



South Korean chip giant SK hynix said on Wednesday it was considering a US stock market listing using its treasury shares. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

ExxonMobil slows low-carbon investment push through 2030

EXXONMOBIL is slowing medium-term investments in low-carbon ventures by some \$10 billion compared with its outlook a year ago, the oil giant announced Tuesday.

The US petroleum company expects to spend about \$20 billion in low-emission investments between 2025 and 2030, according to its annual corporate plan.

The equivalent forecast last December estimated \$30 billion in spending over the same period.

Investments in



Oil giant ExxonMobil is dialing back low-carbon investments. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

low-carbon solutions “will continue to be con-

tingent on the development of supportive policy

and broader market formation, balancing risks and opportunities to ensure strong returns and delivery of shareholder value,” the company said in a press release.

Under either investment scenario, the low-carbon ventures represent a small percentage in the company’s overall capital budget, which is still heavily tilted towards conventional fossil fuels. ExxonMobil’s capital budget will range between \$27 and \$32 billion annually over that stretch. — AFP

Colombian cocoa producers celebrate upcoming entry into Chinese market

COLOMBIAN cocoa producers are celebrating the upcoming entry of their product into the Chinese market after successful negotiations at the 8th China International Import Expo (CIIE), held in early November in Shanghai.

Agreements reached

during the event, where Colombia was the guest country of honor, include the annual export of 10,000 tonnes of Colombian cocoa from 26 rural producer associations, according to the state-run Rural Development Agency.

For Colombian cocoa, to reach Chinese consum-

ers is a “dream” that could “change the lives of farmers, allow them to live better and bring generational renewal,” said Esperanza Garcia, legal representative of the Association of Cocoa Producers, in an interview with Xinhua.

The news has generated strong expecta-

tions among members of her organization, which comprises 155 families and businesses from the municipality of Policarpa in Narino Department. They are hopeful that their products will soon be available in China, said Garcia. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Agricultural machinery exhibition launched in Afghanistan

A three-day exhibition aimed at promoting modern farming technologies has opened in eastern Afghanistan's Ghazni province, local media outlet TOLONews reported Wednesday.

According to the report, the exhibition features a broad range of modern agricultural equipment, including compact tractors, seeders, harvesters, and advanced irrigation systems. The machinery on display is designed to suit Afghanistan's varied terrain and support the needs of small-scale farmers. — Xinhua

Hokkaido governor OKs restart of nuclear reactor

HOKKAIDO'S governor approved restarting Japan's newest reactor at the Tomari nuclear power plant on Wednesday, marking a major step for the operator towards its goal of resuming operations in early 2027.

The No 3 unit at the Tomari plant, operated by Hokkaido Electric Power Co, has cleared safety screenings by the nuclear regulator. Its operations have been suspended since 2012, a year after the Fukushima nuclear disaster. Gov. Naomichi Suzuki confirmed during a budget committee session of the Hokkaido assembly that he intends to approve the reactor restart, reiterating a stance he expressed in November. The unit began operating in 2009. — Kyodo

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BEYPORE SULTAN VOY.NO. (25042)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BEYPORE SULTAN VOY.NO. (25042)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **11-12-2025** 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.

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Philippines' unemployment rate rises to 5%

THE Philippines' unemployment rate climbed to five per cent in October 2025, up from 3.8 per cent in September, according to the Philippine Statis-

tics Authority (PSA) data released on Wednesday.

PSA Chief Claire Dennis Mapa said in a press conference that about 2.54 million Filipi-

nos were out of work in October, a sharp increase from 1.96 million in the previous month.

The October unemployment rate figure also

exceeded the 1.97 million unemployed recorded in October 2024, when the jobless rate stood at 3.9 per cent. — Xinhua

SPORTS/NATIONAL

Myanmar shines at SEA Games with Chinlone golds and seven-medal haul

MYANMAR athletes delivered historic performances at the XXXIII South-East Asian (SEA) Games in Bangkok, Thailand, securing multiple medals across Chinlone, sepak takraw, Petanque, canoe sprint, Taekwondo, and cricket events.

The women's Chinlone team made history by winning Myanmar's first-ever gold medal in the sport, defeating host Thailand with a total score of 502-446. Team members Ma Aye Aye Thant, Ma Thae Thae, Ma Su Twel Tar, Ma Mhone Nant Thar, Ma May Oo Khin, Ma Yin Min Thwe, Ma Hnin Eain Si, and Ma Khine Thazin Phyto delivered an outstanding performance, while Thailand and Laos claimed silver and bronze with scores of 446 and 315 points, respectively.

The men's Chinlone team followed with another gold medal for Myanmar, overcoming Thailand 574-501. Athletes Maung Min Thit-



Myanma Chinlone players are seen receiving gold medals.

sa Aung, Maung Aung Myint Myat, Maung Khant Win Hein, Maung Wai Yan Phyto, Maung Yawai Aung, Maung Zaw Lin Maung, Maung Duwun Kyaw, and Maung Aung Pyae Phyto

Oo contributed to the victory. The strong performances in Chinlone were complemented by silver and bronze medals in Sepak Takraw for both the men's and women's teams, as

well as medals in Petanque, canoe sprint, and the free-style mixed team events.

In the women's Petanque shooting final, Myanmar took silver behind Thailand, while

Myo Hlaing Win earned a silver medal in the canoe sprint 500-metre individual race, finishing just behind Thailand.

Following their victories, Myanmar athletes were honoured with cash prizes and awards from the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs, Myanmar Olympic Committee officials, the Myanmar Wushu and Chinlone federations, and regional government representatives. The sepak takraw men's and women's teams earned silver and bronze, while mixed events also brought further recognition. By the conclusion of the competitions on 10 December, Myanmar had collected a total of seven medals, including two gold, four silver, and one bronze, ranking fifth overall among participating nations. These outstanding results highlighted Myanmar's growing presence and competitiveness in South-East Asian regional sports. — MNA/KZL

Hotel bookings soar in Dec as tourism expects higher arrivals



Visitors throng Pwelkaut waterfall in PyinOoLwin on 6 December 2025.

FOR December holidays, Kayin New Year Day and Christmas, and New Year, bookings for hotel rooms have surged, and local visitor arrivals are expected to be high, an official from the Union of Myanmar Travel Association (UMTA) told The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

Domestic visitors have made preparations for their December vacation either via tour packages by travel companies or by express buses on their own plan, and hotel rooms located at popular tourist destinations have already been fully booked, he said.

"We have reports that

hotel rooms have been fully booked for the December holidays. The visitor arrival is predicted to mount," he said.

In this year's peak season, local tourist arrivals are expected to be large in local destinations such as Bagan-NyaungU-Popa, Kyauktiyo, Bago, Taunggyi, Kalaw, Inlay, PyinOoLwin, Mandalay, Chaungtha and Ngwehsaung. Local tourist arrivals have been large in this year's Thadingyut compared to the same period last year, especially since it is generally larger on prominent religious holidays and festive periods.

The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism has also emphasized the development of the local travel industry by exploring new destinations. —MT/ZS

SEA Games women's football Group B match to air live on MRTV

THE Myanmar women's football team will face the Vietnamese women's football team in Group B of the 33rd Southeast Asian Games, at 3:30 pm on 11 December.

The match will be broadcast live on MRTV HD Channel, MRTV Entertainment Channel, MRTV Sports Channel, and Myanma Radio, starting at 3:15 pm on the same day. — MNA/TH

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Union Minister attends opening of XXXIII South-East Asian Games

UNION Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs and for Hotels and Tourism Jeng Phang Naw Taung, who is also the Chairman of the Myanmar Olympic Committee, attended the opening ceremony of the XXXIII South-East Asian Games hosted by Thailand, which was held at the Rajamangala National Stadium in Bangkok on 9 December.

Together with the Union minister at the opening ceremony were Deputy Minister for Information U Ye Tint, Yangon Region Minister for Social Affairs U Htay Aung, leaders and officials of the Myanmar sports delegation, team managers, coaches, and athletes.

NOC Thailand (SEAGF)



The Myanmar sports contingent marched through the venue during opening ceremony of the XXXIII SEA Games, attended by Union Minister Jeng Phang Naw Taung, Deputy Minister U Ye Tint, and other officials.



President and Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul delivered the opening speech, followed by a greeting message from King Vajiralongkorn of Thailand.

Afterwards, the XXXIII South-East Asian Games were officially declared open, with Thai athletes, who had previously won national honorary gold

medals, carrying and lighting the torch to inaugurate the Games.

The XXXIII South-East Asian Games are currently being held in Bangkok, Chonburi and

Chiang Mai in Thailand from 9 to 20 December, featuring 54 sporting events. It has been learned that Myanmar will compete in 38 of these events. — MNA/KZL

Myanmar, Vietnam clash in Group B decider for semifinal spot



Myanmar women's football players celebrate victory in the previous match.

THE final matches of SEA Games Women's Football Group B will take place at 3:30 pm (MST) on 11 December, and the Myanmar women's team will face Vietnam, whereas the Philippines meets Malaysia.

Although the Myanmar women's football team won two matches, leading Group B, their qualification is not yet guaranteed for the semi-final, as the Philippines won against Vietnam. After two matches, Myanmar leads with six points, while Vietnam and the Philippines both have three points, and Malaysia

remains without a point.

According to SEA Games regulations, the goal difference in all matches within the group takes precedence over the same points, and the Myanmar team has fewer goals than Vietnam and so it needs to get at least one point in the final match and cannot lose it. The Vietnamese women's team, which is the current champion, can reach another stage only when they win Myanmar. So, one of them will have to be eliminated from the group stage. If the Philippines wins against Malaysia with at least 4 goals or above, they

can reach the semifinal, and Myanmar and Vietnam will have to fight for first place.

Although a draw against Vietnam can ensure Myanmar's safe passage to the semifinal, all the players need to concentrate throughout the playing time. They need to use the chance to score, and it is important to prevent the opposing side from scoring. The Myanmar fans residing in Thailand will watch the match, and the Myanmar women's team must do their utmost to ensure first place in the semifinal. As a draw against Vietnam can make the Myanmar team reach first place in the group, it can avoid Thailand, which is first in another group. Therefore, the Myanmar team will have to meet with Indonesia, and it is almost certain to reach the final. Thus, getting points in a touch game against Vietnam can create an opportunity to the final, and so the Myanmar women's team needs to play against Vietnam like a final match, feeling a "must win" game during 90 minutes. — Ko Nyi Lay/KTZH

SEA Games: Myanmar's Pauk Sa reaches semifinals in Single-Player Billiards

THE first day of the SEA Games' Billiards and Snooker Championship began yesterday, with Myanmar's two-time gold medallist Pauk Sa competing in the singles billiards event. Pauk Sa and fellow Myanmar player Aung Thet both started from the quarterfinals.

In the quarter-finals, Pauk Sa (Myanmar) defeated Ramawami (Singapore) 3-2, while Yuta Poh (Thailand) beat Toni (Indonesia) 3-0. Aung Htay (Myanmar) lost 1-3 to Praput (Thailand), and Peter Gail Christ (Singapore) beat Marlando (Indonesia) 3-0. Pauk Sa advanced

to the semi-finals despite losing the first frame 84-101. He then won the next two frames 100-86 and 100-39, lost the fourth 86-100, but recovered to take the deciding frame 100-38, securing his place in the next round. The semifinal matches continued today, featuring Yuta Poh (Thailand), Peter Gail Christ (Singapore), and Praput (Thailand).

In the Snooker 6-Red singles event, Myanmar's Aung Phyو defeated Surira of Laos 5-4, and Myanmar's Nay Min Htun beat Putra of Indonesia 5-3. The quarter-finals continue today. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



Myanmar's Billiard star player Pauk Sa. PHOTO: IBSF



PM Modi welcomes Microsoft's US\$17.5 billion AI investment in India

Nadella called it Microsoft's "largest investment in Asia".

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday welcomed Microsoft's significant investment in India's artificial intelligence (AI) sector.

Microsoft Chairman and CEO Satya Nadella announced that the company will invest \$17.5 billion in India to boost the country's AI ecosystem, making it Microsoft's largest investment in Asia.

In a post on X, PM Modi said the world is "optimistic about India" in the AI era and hailed Microsoft's plan — its largest-ever investment in Asia — as a major opportunity for India's youth to drive innovation and build a more sustainable future.

"When it comes to AI, the world is optimistic about India! Had a very productive discussion with Mr Satya Nadella. Happy to see India being the place where Microsoft will make its largest-ever investment in Asia. The youth of India will harness this opportunity to innovate and leverage the power of AI for a better planet," PM added in his X post.

Microsoft announced US\$ 17.5 billion investment in India to support the country's rapidly expanding artificial intelligence ecosystem. — ANI



In this handout photo provided by Microsoft, Chief Executive Officer Satya Nadella, left, shakes hands with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi during their meeting in New Delhi, India, Tuesday, 9 December 2025. **PHOTO: MICROSOFT VIA ANI**

Hanoi proposes financial aid to encourage shift to electric vehicles

VIETNAM'S capital Hanoi has proposed a range of financial support schemes to encourage residents and businesses to shift from gasoline-powered to electric vehicles, local daily VnEconomy reported Wednesday.

Dao Viet Long, deputy director of the municipal Department of Construction, noted that owners of gasoline-powered motorbikes who switch to electric models would receive support covering 20 percent of the vehicle's value, capped at five million Vietnamese dong (about US\$192).

Low-income households could receive support covering up to 100 per cent of the vehicle's value, with a maximum of 20 million dong (about \$768), while near-poor households may be eligible for 80 per cent support, up to 15 million dong (about \$576).

The city would also cover 50 per cent of the registration fee for converted motorbikes. Low-income and near-poor households would receive full support, the report said. — Xinhua



A worker assembles electric motorbikes at the Selex factory in Hanoi. **PHOTO: NHAC NGUYEN / AFP / FILE**

Canada launches new initiative to recruit world-leading researchers

THE Canadian government on Tuesday pledged to invest \$1.7 billion Canadian (US\$1.23 billion) over the next 12 years to attract more than 1,000 of the world's top researchers to the country.

According to a press release from the federal government, the Canada Global Impact+ Research Talent Initiative will focus on research areas critical to Canada's sovereignty, resilience and long-term prosperity.

It will cover advanced digital technologies, such as artificial intelligence, quantum and cybersecurity, and biotechnology and life sciences in the health sector.

The priorities will also include clean technologies, environment and climate resilience, food and water security, manufacturing and advanced materials, and defence and dual-use technologies. — Xinhua