

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.

Govt stands firm against unlawful demands of armed terrorist groups



It is time for groups opposing the State to renounce armed violence and engage in resolving political issues through peaceful, political means.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing underlined that everyone must remain constantly alert and vigilant regarding military matters to ensure internal stability and peace even during the election period. State Security and Peace Commission Chairman and Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thuddhamma Min Aung Hlaing delivered an address at the passing out parade of the 12th Intake of the Graduate Female Cadet Course at the parade ground of the Defence Services (Army) Officer Training School (Hmawby) in Yangon yesterday morning. The Senior General took the salute of the graduate cadet company and inspected it. The graduate cadet company marched past the Senior General.

SEE PAGE 3



State Security and Peace Commission Chairman and Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thuddhamma Min Aung Hlaing addresses the passing out parade of the 12th Intake of the Graduate Female Cadet Course in Hmawby, Yangon.

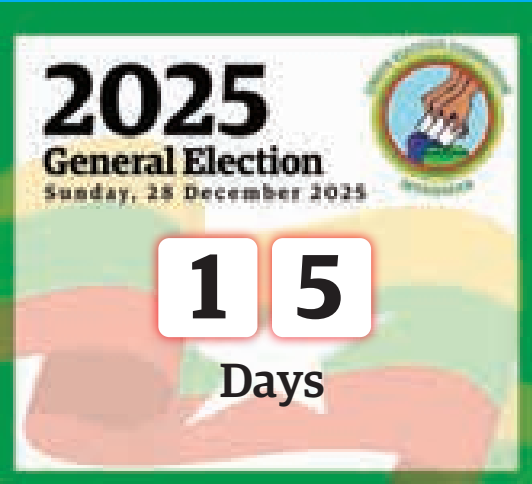
NATIONAL



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

NMA College holds 10th convocation, confers degrees on 635 business and hospitality students

THE NMA College 10th Convocation Ceremony was held yesterday morning at the Novotel Max Hotel in Yangon to confer degrees on 635 students from the Business Administration and Hospitality programmes.

At the ceremony, NMA College Senior Lecturer Dr Nyi Min Htay delivered the opening remarks and handed over the Excellence in Academics Award 2025, presented by the Global Education Award, to the NMA College Academic Department.

NMA College Professor Dr Sandar then presented the Best Corporate Partner Award 2025, and Mr Suran Varma, Southeast Asia and Pacific Regional Director of ABE Global, delivered a felicitation speech to the graduates.

Afterwards, NMA College officials presented awards to outstanding graduates, and faculty members presented certificates to 635 students from the Business Administration and Hospitality majors. — Oktha/MKKS



Pyay polling stations inspected



Officials concerned inspect the polling station in Pyay District.

PYAY District Management and Administration Committee Chairman U Thein Aung, along with the district election subcommission chairman and members, officials of district-level departments, and township-level departments, conducted an inspection tour of the polling stations in Shwetaung Township on 9 and 10 December and in Pyay Township on 11 and 12 December.

He then met polling station supervisors and members, the village election subcommission chairman and members, and village administrators to discuss the necessary measures for the successful holding of the election. — Maung Shwe Win (Pyay)/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)

Govt stands firm against unlawful demands ...

FROM PAGE 1

The Senior General presented the Best Cadet Award to cadet Swe Zin Phyto Wai of the OTS (Hmawby)’s 12th Intake.

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General noted that to build durable and stable peace, the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) was signed on 15 October 2015. In every peace-related meeting and discussion, special emphasis has also been placed on the NCA, highlighting that the NCA serves as a fundamental and essential basis for the peace processes urgently needed for the country and remains a primary point of action.

However, he added that some Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) that have signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) are blatantly violating the commitments outlined in the NCA.

The Senior General continued that some ethnic armed groups have not come onto the path of peace due to external interventions or the influence of external elements.

He highlighted that due to weaknesses that have arisen in the education, health, and economic sectors as a result of armed conflicts, everyone must continue efforts to achieve a durable peace

throughout the entire country.

He emphasized that it is now time for groups opposing the State to abandon the path of armed violence and resolve political issues through political means.

He stressed that because the demands of armed terrorists who act outside the law will not be accommodated, it is urged that everyone must remain constantly alert and vigilant regarding military matters to ensure internal stability and peace, even during the election period.

The Senior General pointed out that as the most crucial force for the country’s defence, female graduate officers must understand that everything carried out by Tatmadaw is in accordance with the Constitution, and there are no actions that exceed or violate the law.

At present, he underscored that it is essential to establish the unity of all citizens living in the country, as well as the unity between Tatmadaw and the entire population.

Therefore, he urged the female graduate officers to continue training and striving in the performance of their duties so that they can become competent female officials trusted by the State and

Tatmadaw.

He said that those officers should strive to strictly follow military discipline and become trusted and reliable individuals at all levels. Living and working in accordance with leadership qualities, they should carry out assigned duties to the best of their abilities and intelligence, and strive to become officials who can uphold the honour of the Tatmadaw.

The Senior General unveiled that the government protects political party members and candidates participating in the election can carry out their activities safely, from the campaign period up to the voting period.

Therefore, he added that in the upcoming election, all eligible voters, including female graduate officers, exercise their voting rights freely and cast their votes in accordance with the law, contributing to the development of a democratic Union of the Republic.

After taking salute of the graduate cadet company, 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) 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 commander of Yangon Command, the OTS (Hmawby) commandant and officials.

After the parade, the Senior General met Best Cadet Award winner cadet Swe Zin Phyto Wai, Excellent Award winner in Shooting cadet Thin Kyu Hlaing, Excellent Award winner in Parade cadet Yin Min Thant, and Excellent Award winner in Physical Fitness cadet Khin Myintmo Tun and their parents and relatives at the school headquarters and spoke words of honour.

He gave guidance that outstanding award-winning cadets should continue to preserve the good qualities they already possess, strive continuously to improve their lives, and ensure that their goals are not lost. In the journey ahead, they should value and care for themselves while living responsibly, and in whatever field they serve, they should work diligently to contribute positively to the well-being of the country. — MNA/TTA

Notice to Mariners

1. The PTTEP International Limited, joint venture of Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise, will perform Side Scan Sonar (SSS) Survey and Associated Studies and MOGE 24” Domestic Pipeline Route Survey in M5 and M6 offshore blocks of the Yadana project and Pipeline Route Survey in M9 block of the Zawtika Project, using MV Hai Duong 86 (Call Sign: XVOH7), from 23 December 2025 to 31 January 2026.
2. The Coordinates for Side Scan Sonar (SSS) Survey and Associated Studies, and MOGE 24” Domestic Pipeline Route Survey and Pipeline Route Survey are as follows:
- (a) Block M5, M6 (Side Scan Sonar Survey Locations)

Well	Latitude	Longitude
Carb-A	15° 23’ 21.42” N	95° 14’ 40.61” E
Carb-F	15° 16’ 50.29” N	95° 09’ 23.36” E
Carb-1	15° 07’ 45.20” N	94° 09’ 48.20” E

(b) Block M9 (Pipeline Route Survey Locations)

Well	Latitude	Longitude
Line 1 (Start)	14° 26’ 26.34” N	95° 35’ 17.87” E

- | | | |
|----------------|------------------|------------------|
| Line 1 (End) | 14° 19’ 55.12” N | 95° 39’ 24.02” E |
| Line 2 (Start) | 14° 23’ 33.07” N | 95° 37’ 48.82” E |
| Line 2 (End) | 14° 21’ 55.69” N | 95° 45’ 24.87” E |
| Line 3 (Start) | 14° 21’ 55.69” N | 95° 45’ 24.87” E |
| Line 3 (End) | 14° 24’ 40.74” N | 95° 52’ 19.16” E |
| Line 4 (Start) | 14° 18’ 06.00” N | 95° 53’ 54.85” E |
| Line 4 (End) | 14° 15’ 24.15” N | 95° 56’ 51.00” E |
3. Therefore, as the Side Scan Sonar (SSS) Survey and Associated Studies and MOGE 24” Domestic Pipeline Route Survey in M5 and M6 offshore blocks of Yadana project and Pipeline Route Survey in M9 block of Zawtika project will be performed using MV Hai Duong 86 (Call Sign: XVOH7), from 23 December 2025 to 31 January 2026, to ensure smooth execution and avoid any delays during the project period, the ships, vessels, fishing boats, and motor boats are not allowed to pass and are also banned from anchoring, fishing and placing fishing devices within four kilometres of these sites.

NATIONAL

Female graduate officers of 12th Intake of OTS (Hmawby) honoured with graduation dinner

The graduation dinner of the 12th Intake of Graduate Female Cadet Course conducted by the Defence Services (Army) Officer Training School (Hmawby) took place at the Pyidaungsu Hall of the OTS in Yangon yesterday evening, graced by the presence of State Security and Peace Commission Chairman and Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

Also, present at the dinner were his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Htein Win and his wife, Commander-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 and Union ministers and their wives, the commander of Yangon Command, the commandant of OTS (Hmawby), officials of Hmawby Station, and parents and relatives of the female graduate officers.

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

The Senior General and party watched the entertainment of the military band of



SSPC Chairman and Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing warmly greets the female graduate officers at yesterday's graduation dinner.

the OTS (Hmawby) and presented cash awards to them.

The Senior General and party enjoyed

the songs and a one-act play presented by the Myawady Entertainment Troupe under the Directorate of Public Relations

and Psychological Warfare, together with female graduate officers at the Myawady Thabin Hall.— MNA/TTA

Myanmar's PM attends International Peace & Trust Forum in Ashgabat



Prime Minister U Nyo Saw (R) delivers the speech at the International Peace and Trust Forum, and poses for the commemorative group photo alongside forum attendees (L).



THE International Forum commemorating the International Year of Peace and Trust was held yesterday morning at the Turkmenistan Congress Centre in Ashgabat, attended by Prime Minister U Nyo Saw who delivered a speech.

The Prime Minister attended the ceremony marking the 30th anniversary of Turkmenistan's policy of permanent neutrality, together with invited international leaders, heads of delegations from the United Nations and various international organizations, and other distinguished guests. Turkmenistan's President Mr Ser-

dar Berdimuhamedov warmly welcomed the attendees and presented a bouquet in honour of the 30th anniversary of the country's permanent neutrality policy.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister and international leaders attending the ceremony posed for a group photo in the reception hall of the Turkmenistan Congress Centre.

The forum was then convened under the theme "Peace and Trust: Unifying Goals for a Sustainable Future". President Mr Serdar Berdimuhamedov delivered the opening address, followed

by speeches from the Myanmar Prime Minister, participating national leaders, and heads of delegations from international organizations.

In his address, the Prime Minister noted that the commemorative forum was a special occasion as it coincided with the 30th anniversary of Turkmenistan's policy of permanent neutrality. He discussed Myanmar's status as a founding member of the Non-Aligned Movement and its adherence to the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, the international community's assistance to Myanmar during COV-

ID-19 and natural disasters, preparations for a free and fair multiparty democratic general election, and the invitation of international observation missions. In the evening, the Prime Minister attended a dinner hosted by Turkmenistan.

Yesterday, Prime Minister U Nyo Saw also met Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian to discuss further strengthening the friendly and diplomatic relations between the two countries, including cooperation in the energy sector. He later met leaders from other countries to discuss international issues. — MNA/MKKS

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)



Art Centre to help preserve Myanmar’s cinematic, theatrical, and musical arts



Acting President and SSPC Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing hears the report on the background history of implementing the international-level art centres in Yangon and Mandalay.

ACTING President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, accompanied by Commission Secretary and Joint Executive Chief General Ye Win Oo and the Yangon Region Chief Minister, inspected the construction of the Myanmar Art Centre (Yangon), meeting international standards, in Insein Township, Yangon Region, yesterday afternoon.

At the temporary briefing hall of the centre, Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn reported to

the Senior General on the background history of implementing the international-level art centres to accommodate music and theatrical performances in Yangon and Mandalay in accord with the guidance of President U Thein Sein in the first term of the democratic government, suspension of these projects in the second term of the democratic government due to various reasons, plans to implement the project with the designs for the centres to portray Myanmar culture, and further implementation of the projects.

In his response, the Senior General

said that it is necessary to continue developing the Yangon Art Centre in accordance with its original objectives. In doing so, internationally advanced setting-in arrangements, lighting and sound effective facilities should be systematically planned and installed. The Art Centre should be built to a standard capable of hosting and presenting opera performances. The continued development of this Art Centre reflects the State’s emphasis on preserving and further advancing Myanmar’s cinematic, theatrical, and musical arts.

The Senior General inspected the

construction site of the centre and gave guidance on further implementation processes to officials.

As the construction projects for these internationally advanced art centres were halted during the tenure of the second democratic government, artistes were delayed by about ten years in having opportunities to showcase Myanmar’s cinematic, theatrical, musical and other arts. At present, these projects will resume rapidly to preserve and further develop Myanmar’s cinematic, theatrical, musical and other artistic fields. — MNA/TTA



Union Minister Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung meets the Chinese delegation led by Mr Liu Zhongyi, Assistant Minister of Public Security of PRC.

MoHA Union Minister receives Chinese Assistant Minister of Public Security

UNION Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung received a Chinese delegation led by Mr Liu Zhongyi, Assistant Minister of Public Security of the People’s Republic of China, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting, both sides cordially discussed the matters on cooperation in combatting online scams, rejecting foreign interference under the pretext of the online scam issue, China’s support for the activities of the Central Supervisory Committee on Combatting Telecom Fraud and Online Gambling and further cooperation work plans.

The Chinese delegation also discussed with the Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Kyaw Kyaw regarding security and rule of law measures between Myanmar and China, combatting online scams and online gambling in border areas, search and transfer of Chinese nationals in accordance with the procedures and MoU (draft) between Muse-Dehong district level police forces.

The Myanmar and Chinese delegations will make a field trip to Myawady to observe the measures to tackle online scams. — MNA/KTZH

NATIONAL

Central Body on Anti-Money Laundering holds 2nd meeting

THE Central Body on Anti-Money Laundering held its second meeting yesterday.

Speaking at the meeting, State Security and Peace Commission Member Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung, who is also the chairman of the central body, said that the FATF placed Myanmar on the Grey List starting from February 2020, and the country has made efforts to implement the 15 recommendations of the Action Plan. Moreover, the country submitted a progress report and attended the plenary meeting once every four months.

The relevant departments should cooperate to complete the remaining five recommendations out of 15 in the Action Plan, and the law enforcement agencies also need to work to uncover the assets owned by suspects and their associates by



The second meeting of the Central Body on Anti-Money Laundering in progress yesterday, addressed by Union Minister Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung.

requesting and using information from the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) and relevant departments to identify potential money-laundering activities. When conducting investigations into such assets, it is also nec-

essary to impose temporary restrictions, seizures, or confiscations, or to nationalize by requesting the information from domestic organizations and international partner entities.

He also urged the banking

and financial organization and non-financial corporations also should watch the financial and transfers to uncover the drug cases, corruption and other suspected reports and submit a report to the FIU, and the rel-

evant officials should supervise such activities.

He continued that the department concerned should make preparations for the needed resources to ensure the Mutual Evaluation (ME) in 2030, and the anti-money laundering inspection teams also need to follow the existing laws while examining the cases, and the officials from different levels need to supervise to ensure the responsibilities and prevent corruption.

He added that the National Strategy for Combatting Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing (2024-2028) was being conducted in five strategic fields starting 21 October 2024, and 47.2 per cent were implemented until the third quarter of 2025.

The attendees coordinated the discussion, and the Union minister concluded the meeting. — MNA/KTZH

Health Ministry assures no shortage of ART

FOR patients who need to take ART, the Ministry of Health has ensured there is no shortage of the drugs, said Dr Sithu Aung, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Public Health under the Ministry of Health, in the opening ceremony of the review meeting on immunodeficiency (HIV/AIDS) programme for 2023, 2024 and 2025 held in Nay Pyi Taw.

He added that the ministry has been working in line with the National Strategic Plan on HIV/AIDS prevention and medication programme, jointly with allied organizations, HIV infected network, target group networks and the community.

He said the ministry thanked all stakeholders in the ART med-

ication programme – health staff, local non-governmental organizations, international non-governmental organizations, community-based networks and patients' access to the medication.

The meeting was held from 10 to 11 December for two days and attended by deputy directors-general of the public health department, regional and state public health department heads, physicians, officials from the National Programme on HIV/AIDS, directors, hospital superintendents, professors and department heads, officials from National Health Laboratory, delegation of UNOPS, WHO, UNAIDS and allied organizations and delegates from local social organizations. — MT/ZS

OTS Hmawby holds commissioning of 12th Intake female graduate cadets



The commissioning event for the female graduate cadets of the 12th Intake underway yesterday in Hmawby.

THE commissioning ceremony for the 12th Intake of female graduate cadets of the Defence Services (Army) Officer Training School (Hmawby) was held yesterday at the school's Myawady Hall.

The ceremony was attended by Military Appointment-General Lt-Gen Htein Win of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Command-

er-in-Chief, Acting commandant Colonel Thet Swe Nyein of the OTS (Hmawby), and the graduating cadets.

Military Appointment-General Lt-Gen Htein Win, together with senior Tatmadaw officers and the acting commandant, took their seats on the stage. Lt-Gen Htein Win presented certificates of commissioning to the graduating cadets, delivered the convocation speech, and concluded

the event.

The ceremony formally appointed the female graduates from the course to the rank of second lieutenant. The female cadet training programme was launched in 2014 to produce qualified staff officers for the Tatmadaw, and female graduates who complete the training are required to serve in the relevant Army, Navy, or Air Force corps. — MNA/MKKS



The 2024-2025 review meeting on the immunodeficiency (HIV/AIDS) programme.

NATIONAL

Nuclear technology seen as key to developing health, agriculture, and industry

- ❖ “As nuclear energy is a form of green energy with low carbon emissions, Myanmar intends to generate stable electricity from nuclear power and use it to support national economic development.”
- ❖ “Myanmar has a high demand for electricity and is striving to supply power to small-scale industries and rural communities.”
- ❖ “In addition, efforts must be made to further develop health, agriculture, and industrial sectors through nuclear technology.”

(Except 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 World Atomic Week Forum 2025 held in Moscow, the Russian Federation, on 25 September 2025)

Steering Committee on Holding Youth Peace Forum holds coord meeting

THE coordination meeting of the Steering Committee on Holding Youth Peace Forum was held yesterday afternoon at the M Gallery Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw, attended by the steering committee chairman Union Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee (NSPNC) Secretary Lt-Gen Min Naing, committee members including deputy ministers, permanent secretaries, and departmental officials, while social affairs ministers from regions and states joined via videoconferencing.

At the meeting, Steering Committee Chairman Lt-Gen Yar Pyae said the Youth Peace Forum is being planned because young people, who make up more than a half of Myanmar’s population, play an essential role in nation building, noting his desire for youth participation



The coordination meeting of the Steering Committee on Holding Youth Peace Forum is underway in Nay Pyi Taw, addressed by Union Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae.

and for passing on a peaceful environment to them, explaining that school-age youth will be gathered to discuss and develop ideas related to peace, and urging the participating ministries to provide suggestions and dis-

cuss issues needed to form a working committee.

Steering Committee Secretary Lt-Gen Min Naing said that the Youth Peace Forum is being organized in line with the recommendations of the 10th Anniver-

sary of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) Workshop and will discuss the vital role of youth in nation-building in relation to peace, identify ways for young people to contribute to the country’s future stability,

and address matters related to the forum’s preparations and coordination.

Deputy ministers, permanent secretaries, directors-general, and regional and state social affairs ministers discussed sectoral tasks, after which attendees offered suggestions and discussed needs, and the chairman of the steering committee delivered a concluding speech and adjourned the meeting.

Young people from diverse ethnic, regional, and socioeconomic backgrounds need to have a meaningful role in shaping Myanmar’s peaceful future, and the Youth Peace Forum 2026 is being prepared to provide them with an opportunity to share their views, build mutual trust, explore their role in promoting social harmony, and create a platform for equal opportunities. — MNA/TH

Myanmar green tea culture poised for UNESCO intangible heritage recognition

MYANMAR’S tea culture will be inscribed on UNESCO’s Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, according to the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture.

Myanmar became a State Party to the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2014. For an intangible cultural heritage element to be inscribed on the Representative List, it must first

be included on the national list. It is also reported that the Myanmar Cultural Heritage Preservation Committee, the Myanmar Tea Association (MTA – Yangon and Mandalay), and experts from the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture are currently discussing the title of the green tea culture heritage element to be submitted for inscription on UNESCO’s Representative List.

The Ministry of Religious

Affairs and Culture and the Myanmar Tea Association (Yangon) are jointly completing the UNESCO-specified ICH-02 form to nominate Myanmar’s tea culture for inscription on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The Myanmar Tea Association will also work to obtain the required consent letters and videos, as well as statement letters and videos.



Discussions between the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, and the Myanmar Tea Association are in progress.

The Myanmar Cultural Heritage Conservation Organization has designated green tea culture as the heritage element to

be nominated for inscription on UNESCO’s Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. — ASH/MKKS

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Strive to successfully hold general elections in phases

IT is necessary for everyone to work together to ensure free and fair elections, as well as elections conducted with integrity. Once the elections are completed, the newly formed government will assume the responsibilities of the State by taking over from the Hluttaw. The Head of the State recently conveyed this when meeting with members of the Yangon Region government and relevant departmental officials.

He further stated that a general multiparty democratic general election will be held in Myanmar on 28 December 2025, and changes in the government are also expected to take place by the end of March 2026.

Efforts are being made to enable voting using Myanmar Electronic Voting Machines (MEVMs), which prevent electoral fraud. According to the democratic system and the 2008 Constitution, elections are an essential process that must be conducted successfully.

Therefore, not only in Yangon Region but across all relevant parts of the country, both officials and citizens must work together to ensure that the elections are held successfully.

Efforts must be made to ensure that all individuals listed on the voter rolls do not lose their right to vote. Whether or not a person chooses to cast their ballot is their own decision, but it is the government's responsibility to make voting possible. Successfully conducting the election is a matter of national prestige, and everyone must work together to ensure that the elections are successfully held in all designated areas. Voters must be provided with knowledge and guidance, as well as encouraged and motivated, so that they are willing to cast their ballots.

Efforts are being made to enable voting using Myanmar Electronic Voting Machines (MEVMs), which prevent electoral fraud. According to the democratic system and the 2008 Constitution, elections are an essential process that must be conducted successfully. Therefore, not only in Yangon Region but across all relevant parts of the country, both officials and citizens must work together to ensure that the elections are held successfully.

Regarding the election, it will be held in three phases. The first phase will take place on 28 December 2025, the second phase on 11 January and the third phase two weeks after the second phase. Hence, efforts must be made to ensure full voter turnout in Yangon Region and to successfully conduct a free and fair election. Just as in the 2020 election, measures must be taken to prevent any voting fraud and ensure that all eligible voters are able to cast their ballots.

The occurrence of voting irregularities is a serious problem for the country. Since the government has previously been held accountable for errors in voter lists, it is essential for the elections to be free from such mistakes. While full accuracy may not be entirely achievable, every effort must be made to ensure the process is as correct and precise as possible.

Studying the Greater Mekong Subregion Tourism Strategy 2030

By Si Thu Kyaw (MoHT)

RECENTLY had the opportunity to read the draft of the **Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Tourism Strategy 2030**, which was shared by a colleague. As Myanmar is both a member of the GMS and ASEAN, it is important to examine how the country's tourism sector is positioned and projected in regional tourism reports. ASEAN itself has already published the **ASEAN Tourism Strategic Plan (ATSP) 2016-2025**.

These reports generally include:

- **Situational Analysis** of global tourism trends and transformations,
- An overview of the tourism sector within the GMS,
- **SWOT Analysis** (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats).

In the GMS Tourism Strategy 2030, the SWOT framework is presented as **Strengths and Opportunities, Constraints and Threats**. The report also outlines **Strategic Directions, Implementation mechanisms, Financing, and Monitoring and Evaluation**.

The GMS Tourism Strategy 2030 is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

2030, and sets out projections for tourism growth in each member country. The priority areas identified are:

- **Economic Growth**
- **Job Creation**
- **Regional Cooperation**
- **Heritage Protection**
- **Improving Service Quality**

The GMS comprises Cambodia, China (Yunnan and Guangxi provinces), Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam. These countries are actively leveraging tourism to drive national economic growth. Hence, economic growth is listed as the foremost priority, followed by employment generation and stronger regional cooperation. Given the richness of cultural heritage across the region, heritage protection is also emphasized. Since tourism is a service-based industry, improving service quality is considered a critical priority.

When comparing tourism conditions across member states, Thailand and Yunnan (China) are destinations with very high tourist arrivals, while Cambodia and Lao PDR are emerging markets with growing momentum. Service quality tends to vary: in high-volume destinations, inconsistencies in service standards often occur, while in countries with lower arrivals, achieving international service benchmarks remains challenging. Thus, service quality enhancement is rightly prioritized.

Interestingly, while global tourism strategies highlight **digital technology** as a transformative factor, the GMS Tourism Strategy 2030 does not list technology as a priority area. Only Cambodia explicitly mentions **Digital Transformation** in its national projections, while other member states do not.

Tourist arrival projections for 2030 include:

- Cambodia: 11 million
- Lao PDR: 6.2 million
- Myanmar: 5 million
- Vietnam: 35 million

According to the **Vietnam National Authority of Tourism (VNAT)**, Vietnam welcomed 17.5 million international visitors in 2024, and aims to double this figure by 2030. To achieve this, Vietnam has introduced visa exemptions (2025–2028) for travellers from 12 countries, including major European markets (Germany, UK, France, Italy, Spain, Russia, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland) and Asian markets (Japan, South Korea). Vietnam also plans to position tourism as a leading economic sector, aspiring to become a globally recognized destination by 2045 and a **tourism hub in the Asia-Pacific region**.

Thailand, which received over 35 million international visitors in 2024, does not specify arrival targets in the GMS Strategy 2030. Instead, it focuses on maintaining its long-term reputation as a leading tourism destination.

For Myanmar, the projection is a minimum of **5 million international arrivals by 2030**. However, the strategy emphasizes niche tourism rather than mass tourism. Niche tourism refers to specialized segments of travellers who visit destinations based on specific interests. These tourists are fewer in number but often higher in quality, spending more and travelling responsibly. Myanmar also aims to promote **cross-border tourism** and establish **sister city partnerships** within the GMS. This reflects a broader goal of

strengthening **intra-regional tourism promotion** and cooperation with fellow member states.

The GMS also envisions the concept of **“Six Countries, One Destination”**, positioning the subregion as a unified tourism area. Similarly, ASEAN promotes **“ASEAN as a Single Destination”**, encouraging collective tourism promotion and seamless connectivity among member states.

The GMS Tourism Strategy 2030 identifies four **Strategic Directions**:

1. Establishing sustainable tourism destinations
2. Developing human resources
3. Strengthening cooperation
4. Enhancing destination marketing

Overall, the GMS Tourism Strategy 2030 is a collaborative framework designed to foster tourism growth across member countries. It aims to build a strong regional tourism market by 2030, while enhancing global competitiveness. Tourism is expected to contribute significantly to regional economic development



For Myanmar, the projection is a minimum of five million international arrivals by 2030.

PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ YOUNGPIONEERTOURS

and support the achievement of the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.

Conclusion

The GMS Tourism Strategy

2030 envisions a sustainable tourism sector that protects natural and cultural heritage, promotes socioeconomic development, and strengthens regional coop-

eration. It is a long-term roadmap for building a resilient and competitive tourism industry in the Greater Mekong Subregion.

■

WHAT is a story? This question is so easy to answer all at once because the story is just a description of events, mostly presented in chronological order. But do we notice that not all events contribute to a story? In other words, only some events lead to a good story, as always. Thus, as regards the events of a story, the term ‘narration’ comes out in the story. Why in the world do some events only give rise to a nice story? Of course, narration generally refers to how a story is arranged and communicated to the reader and the listener, or more specifically, the narration relates to three key points: reversing a purpose, meeting one's doom, and/or getting to know anything, as Saya Aung Thin stated.

For example, he added that all the above-mentioned three points can be seen in a Jataka Tale involving King Elephant Sadan and Hunter Thawnotetaya.

The Ingyin flower with an ant given by Sadan to his second wife, Sulathubada, became a purpose for the Elephant. Thawnotetaya turning up before Queen Sulathubada was converted into Sadan, meeting His doom. And the Queen's grief after her acceptance of a couple of the Elephant's tusks from Thawnotetaya turned into her getting to know His love. Hence, every narration of a story may be considered events only, but all events of a situation can hardly be said to have narration. Also, every event retold by anyone cannot always be written as a story by an author for sure.

After all, narration means the process of telling a story. Here, analysing narrative features in texts, we can ask ourselves three major questions _ From what point of view is a story



After all, narration means the process of telling a story.

ILLUSTRATION: FREEPIK

told? Are there any limitations to this viewpoint? Who is telling the story and why? As usual, a story is told objectively or subjectively. Consequently, the person telling

a story may or may not be credible because we can believe or not everything he tells us and the narrator or even the writer may be influencing us readers to

Narration and Narrative Features

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

adopt a particular position, agree or sympathize with him and his cause, with our eyes shut. Not only that, a narrator can have a motive for telling the story, particularly if it is told in the first person. At last, we may or may not be getting the full picture of events in a story, for the reason that some of the information is deliberately withheld so that we need to make our own inferences.

A point of view in the story is termed the perspective from which a story is told. The two most common forms of perspective are first-person narration and second-person narration. First-person narration is the way that the character who tells a story is involved in the story. In

most cases, this is indicated by the use of the personal subject pronoun ‘I’. As often as possible, the first-person narrator plays the central role in short stories. Nevertheless, there may be times when he plays a more minor role as an observer. On the other hand, third-person narration is defined as the way that events and characters are told by an implied narrator who is outside a story but who appears to know about the events and characters in the story. Additionally, the amount of information provided to the reader depends on whether the narrator is omniscient or not. An omniscient narrator is all-knowing as well as can read the minds of all the other characters in the story, enabling them to relate an event and describe how the other characters feel about it.

A partially omniscient narrator only sees things through the eyes of a single character, mostly the main character of a story. Second-person narration is found to be a little-used technique of narrative in which the action is driven by a character ascribed to the reader, one known as you. Finally, the narrator of a story is limited since the story is told only from the main character's point of view.

All stories are seen in some sense as ‘manipulative’. That is to say, all texts attempt to persuade the reader to feel a certain way or to understand the cause the narrator is trying to promote. When starting to consider the character of a narrator and his motives, as well as the writer's in telling a story, we are essentially stepping outside of the story and thinking about how it has been written to beckon us to see things from a specific perspective. If we want to analyse the characteris-

tics of a narrator, the following questions should be asked:

- Who is the narrator, and what is his background? For instance, we trust the elder's words more than the younger's.
- To what extent of knowledge depth does the narrator possess? For instance, a child does not like to know all about anything like an adult.
- How mature is the narrator? For instance, most people tend to believe a doctor's advice more than that of a nurse.
- How does the narrator get personally involved in an issue? For instance, a teacher is fully responsible for the safety of their pupils.
- What state of mind does the narrator have? For instance, many readers will not accept a girl's sudden death due to feeling blue for her newly loved boy.

NATIONAL

Online scam hub buildings destroyed, 516 undocumented foreign entrants arrested in Myawady

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.

Yesterday, the authorities demolished 17 illegal buildings in Section 3, and a total of 398 buildings out of 635 illegal buildings have so far been demolished in the KK Park area.

Moreover, authorities deported 54 Indonesians and two Kazakhstanis, totalling 56, through the Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge II yesterday.

The combined team started searching operations in Myawady and its vicinity area



(L & R): Photos show scam-related materials being burned and undocumented immigrants detained in Myawady, Kayin State.



A four-storey flat is seen before demolition and after demolition.

starting 8 December, and found further 15 illegal buildings used for online gambling in No 5 Ward of Myawady yesterday, and arrested 225 Chinese nationals, 83 Vietnamese, nine Malaysians, 39 Kenyans, 11 Ethiopians, 12 Indonesians, 20 Ugandans, 17 Nepalis, four

Indians, 77 Filipinos, three Sierra Leoneans, 10 Thais, two from Chinese Taipei, one from Malagasy, one Togolese and two Equatorial Guineans, totalling 516 individuals, together with 550 computers from one four-storey building and one six-storey building out of these 15 buildings.

To prevent future reuse of the materials in online scams and gambling activities in KK Park and Shwe Kokko areas, the seized materials were incinerated systematically. 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

ME moves against fake compensation claims in Thailand



The Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok is assisting four injured Myanmar workers in a building collapse due to an earthquake in Chatuchak on 1 April 2025.

THE Myanmar Embassy to Thailand has announced that necessary action will be taken against the submission of fraudulent documents for recommendation letters to claim compensation for deceased Myanmar workers in Thailand.

It issued a notice stating that when any Myanmar workers in Thailand pass away due to various reasons, including workplace accidents, the embassy scrutinizes the documents submitted by their family members and issues a recommendation letter for claiming the compensation.

It has been found that some individuals are submitting fraudulent documents to receive compensation, it stated. For example, Ma Hnin Cho, the self-proclaimed wife of deceased Myanmar worker Maung Aung Myint Oo, who passed away due to a road accident on 3 November in Thailand, applied for a recommendation letter using inconsistent data. So, the embassy invited her to clarify the matter, but she has not appeared yet, and contacted her again to come by 19 December.

Furthermore, the embassy stated that it will collaborate with the relevant authorities to take necessary action against those found to be holding or producing fake documents. — MT/ZN

Kayin State ICRC provides food and basic needs for 42 displaced families

KAYIN State-based International Committee of the Red Cross distributed food and basic needs on 11 December to 192 displaced people from 42 families who had taken refuge at Zathapyin in Hpa-an Township.

This included food such as rice, cooking oil, salt, sugar and beans, as well as basic household items such as blankets, mosquito nets, mats, cleaning supplies, women's sanitary pads, solar lights, tarpaulins, baskets, mugs and household solar products.

ICRC said that this initial support aims to fulfil their daily needs and also strengthen their resilience after they fled from recent conflicts. — Htun Htun/ZS



This image displays ICRC distributing food and basic needs to 42 displaced families. PHOTO: ICRC

NATIONAL

Statement on MraukU case

ON 11 December 2025, false information spread on social media claiming that Tatmadaw attacked the general hospital in MraukU of Rakhine State, killing innocent civilians who were receiving medical treatment.

The true situation is that since November 2023, the fighting between Tatmadaw and AA terrorists has resumed in Rakhine State. In some areas, Tat-

madaw temporarily retreated. Similarly, the heavy clashes occurred in the vicinity of MraukU, and in July 2024, AA terrorists temporarily took control of the area. Therefore, the departmental staff, doctors and nurses who were officially appointed by the government were evacuated in advance to a safe place not to be trapped in the clash, and the hospital was officially closed by

the government. The AA terrorists took shelter in that hospital and established their camp, taking advantage of the hospital's appearance for cover.

Terrorists, such as AA, local PDF, BPLA and Asho Chin armed terrorists used the hospital building as their base, and operated their administrative measures, according to the local Rakhine people. Based on ac-

curate information provided by local civilians who did not accept the AA's actions at all, Tatmadaw carried out necessary security measures and launched a Counter-Terrorism Operation on 10 December against the buildings being used as a base by AA and PDF terrorists.

According to the photos shared by these terrorists groups on social media, they

show their own injured members being moved and messages of condolences for their deceased members. Those killed or injured were not civilians, but terrorists and their supporters. It is understood that those terrorists such as AA, BPLA, local PDF and Asho Chin assign their trusted family members of local AA terrorists to carry out the necessary administrative tasks in the area being used as a military base. Tatmadaw will continue security measures in accordance with the Rules of Engagement (ROE).

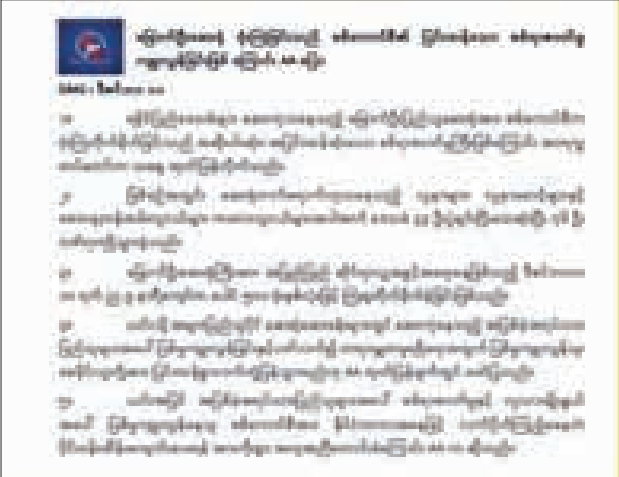
Tatmadaw Information Team



The MraukU hospital was bombed, and many of our brothers were gone.



Evidence on social media shows AA and PDF terrorists moving their injured members to safe places. (They wear terrorists' uniforms, boots, and equipment.)



The fake news on the MraukU incident is viral on the social network pages.

AA says Bombing MraukU Hospital shows the violent military crime of the military council

1. Arakkha Army today stated that the act of the military council bombing MraukU Hospital, where residents of Rakhine State are receiving medical treatment, was the worst and most violent military crime.
2. In the incident, a total of 33 residents, including the hospitalized patients, their companions, volunteer youths and children died on the spot, and 76 individuals were injured.
3. Two 500-pound bombs were dropped on MraukU Hospital at about 9 pm on 10 December, which is the International Human Rights Day.
4. The press release issued by AA stated that it will retaliate against the offender and the manipulator violently to ensure fair justice for the incident against the innocent people who were receiving medical treatment at the publicly owned hospitals and clinics.
5. Moreover, AA said that it trustfully requests the international community to control the military council, which commits military crimes against innocent people and crimes against humanity.

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CBM to inject US\$28M into fuel oil sector



Fleet of bowzers rolls out from fuel terminal for nationwide distribution.

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) announced on 11 December that it would pump US\$28 million into the fuel oil import sector:

CBM sold over \$836,900 to edible oil-importing companies and over \$587,700 to fuel oil-importing companies on that day.

CBM sold over \$152,700 to edible oil-importing companies on 10 December.

CBM sold \$500,000 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 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 purchased 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

Ranong Port Multimodal Transport Project moves forward

THE Port Authority of Thailand officially launched the Multimodal Transport Project at Ranong Port, connecting five regional economic routes, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

This initiative connects China, Laos, Thailand, Myanmar and the BIMSTEC region to boost trade and logistic connectivity.

The first ship of this project heads to Yangon, Myanmar. This project makes a remarkable step in transforming Ranong Port into a strategic trade and key logistics hub connecting the Andaman Sea.

The objective of this project is to facilitate seamless connections of multiple transport modes (road, railway, maritime logistic services) and enhance trade and investment opportunities in Southeast Asian and South Asian regions. Furthermore, it aims to build a transparent, modern and sustainable infrastructure to support economic integration and boost confidence among logistics service providers, shipping lines and investors.

It is the only public Port of Thailand on the Andaman Sea, serving as a gateway to BIMSTEC member countries. This initiative will create new economic opportunities. The Port Authority of Thailand aims to develop Ranong Port into a modern, sustainable logistics hub that supports regional and global economic connectivity.

Furthermore, this new multimodal route will significantly slash shipping time to ports such as Yangon (Myanmar), Chittagong (Bangladesh), Chennai (India) and Colombo (Sri Lanka). Earlier, shipment to these destinations took about 14 to 21 days. This new route will reduce costs and improve efficiency and market competitiveness between Thailand and international businesses.

This project is supported by Thai Transport Centre Co Ltd, with SCG JWD Logistics Public Co Ltd, Myanmar's Ever Flow River Group Public Co Ltd and SPT Smart Creation Co Ltd acting as the main partners. The launch of this new route represents strengthening the public-private collaboration in order to establish Thailand as a leading trade hub in the Andaman Sea and among BIMSTEC member countries. — NN/KK

Yangon palm oil reference price persists downtick

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil set for the Yangon market decreased to K6,115 per viss again for the week ending 18 December, down from K6,140 per viss recorded last week.

The price was set at K6,565 per viss this week ending 30 October, thereafter, the price kept sliding.

The Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has been closely observing the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia, adding transport costs, tariffs and banking services to decide the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil weekly.

Despite the reference price, the market price is still high.

To control overcharging, the Consumer Affairs Department under the Ministry of Commerce informed consumers of lodging complaints for overcharging through the call centre hotline in late August. The department urges consumers not to buy palm oil at high



Imported palm oil jerry cans are seen in stacks.

prices.

The committee notified that any person who is involved in price gouging and oil storage to attempt market manipulation will face legal action under the Essential Goods and Services Law. The department is working together with the Myanmar Oil Dealers' Association and the cooking oil importing companies to offer affordable rates of imported palm oil for consumers. The complaints for overcharging can

be lodged over hotline 1535 of the call centre of the Consumers Affairs Department or sent to the Facebook page of the department and the region and state departments concerned. The domestic palm oil consumption is estimated at one million tonnes per year. The local palm oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. About 700,000 tonnes of palm oil are imported annually through Malaysia and Indonesia to meet domestic demands. — NN/KK

Branded room demand in India to rise 10.4% CAGR

DEMAND for branded hotel rooms in India is set to grow faster than supply over the next five years, according to a report by YES Securities.

The report said that overall branded room demand has grown at a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of 7.6 per cent in the past decade. This pace grew to 21.4 per cent CAGR between FY22 and FY25. The momentum is expected to continue, with demand likely to rise at 10.4 per cent CAGR during FY25-30, outpacing supply growth projected between eight per cent and nine per cent.

Mid-premium and economy hotels are expected to see the most expansion, with supply likely to grow between nine per cent and 11 per cent CAGR across various sub-segments. Cities such as Amritsar, Chandigarh, Dehradun, Lucknow, Navi Mumbai, Noida, and Udaipur are among the key growth centers.

However, the report warned that some of these markets may experience temporary oversupply, leading to increased competition and pressure on revenue per available room (RevPAR). — ANI



Mid-premium and economy hotels are expected to see the most expansion, with supply likely to grow between nine per cent and 11 per cent CAGR across various sub-segments. PHOTO: ANI

Japan chip venture Rapidus secures 130 bln yen in private investment

JAPANESE chip venture Rapidus Corp has reached its target of securing around 130 billion yen (\$830 million) in private sector investment for fiscal 2025, sources close to the matter said Friday, bringing it closer to its plan of mass producing next-generation semiconductors from the second half of 2027.

With Kyocera Corp. also considering taking an equity stake and Canon Inc making final arrangements, corporate investors in the government-backed venture are now expected to exceed 20.

Eight major Japanese companies that invested a total of 7.3 billion yen when Rapidus was established in 2022, including SoftBank Group Corp and Sony Group Corp, also plan to in-



Photo taken from a Kyodo News helicopter on 24 March 2025 shows a Rapidus Corp plant under construction in Chitose, Hokkaido, northern Japan. PHOTO: KYODO/FILE

crease their contributions. Investing companies are expected to reach agreements with Rapidus within the year at the earliest. The investment from Canon is expected to be

several billion yen, with Fujifilm Holdings Corp and other firms also interested in joining.

Japan's three megabanks — MUFG Bank, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp

and Mizuho Bank — plan to invest up to five billion yen each, while also indicating they are prepared to lend up to roughly a combined two trillion yen from fiscal 2027. — Kyodo

Stocks rally in wake of Fed rate cut

EUROPEAN and Asian stock markets rose Friday as investors tracked a record session on Wall Street in the wake of the Federal Reserve's latest interest rate cut.

The gains came despite renewed concerns about tech valuations after disappointing earnings from sector giants Oracle and Broadcom.

"The US tech sell-off was short-lived as Wall Street narrowed losses towards the end of yesterday's session, helping to lift the broader market mood," said Dan Coatsworth, head of markets at AJ Bell.

London added 0.3 per

cent in late morning deals, despite official data showing that the UK economy unexpectedly contracted in October in the run-up to Britain's tax-raising budget. Focus for global investors switches to next week's release of US jobs data, which could provide an insight into the Federal Reserve's plans for next year. Partial data released Thursday showed US jobless claims rose more than expected in the week ended 6 December, marking their biggest increase for five and a half years and reinforcing the view of a softening labour market. — AFP

China's yuan loans grow 15.36 tln yuan in first 11 months

CHINA'S yuan-denominated loans rose 15.36 trillion yuan (about US\$2.17 trillion) in the first 11 months of the year, according to central bank data released on Friday.

Of the total, household loans grew 533.3

billion yuan, while loans to enterprises and public institutions increased by 14.4 trillion yuan, according to the People's Bank of China.

Outstanding yuan loans stood at 274.84 trillion yuan at the end of

November, up 6.3 per cent year on year, according to the central bank.

The M2, a broad measure of money supply that covers cash in circulation and all deposits, increased eight per cent year on year to 336.99 trillion yuan at the

end of November. The M1, which covers cash in circulation, demand deposits and client reserves of non-bank payment institutions, stood at 112.89 trillion yuan at the end of last month, up 4.9 per cent year on year. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SHANG YUAN MEN VOY.NO. (2510)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SHANG YUAN MEN VOY.NO. (2510)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **13-12-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **TMIT** 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 ELDER TRIUMPHANT SHIPPING LINES PTE LTD.

SPORTS



Myanmar secures 5 more medals at SEA Games, raising total tally to 16



MYANMAR added five more medals at the XXXIII South-East Asia Games, including one silver and one bronze in billiards and snooker, one silver in karate, one bronze in canoe sprint, and one bronze in judo.

The Games are being held across Bangkok, Chonburi and Chiang Mai in Thailand. Myanmar teams have participated in a wide range of sports, including athletics, volleyball, shooting, billiards and snooker, judo, swimming, cricket, judo, Sepak Takraw, karate, pétanque, badminton, table tennis, taekwondo, gymnastics, kabaddi, skating, golf, canoe/kayak, rowing, teqball, and hockey.

Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs and for Hotels and Tourism Jeng Phang Naw Taung, Deputy Minister for Information U Ye Tint, Yangon Region Social Affairs Minister U Htay



(Top & Above): Photos show winning athletes posing with Union Minister Jeng Phang Naw Taung and Deputy Minister U Ye Tint, a rowing event in action, and Myanmar's U Pauk Sa facing Singapore's Peter Gilchrist.

Aung, leaders of Myanmar sports federations, and other officials attended the events yesterday to support the national athletes.

The delegation first watched the women's hammer throw event at the Suphachalasai National Stadium in Bangkok, where Thwe Thwe Moe was competing, before proceeding to the Indoor Stadium Huamark at the Sports Authority of Thailand to watch Myanmar face Malaysia in the

women's volleyball competition.

At Thunder Dome Muang Thong Thani in Nonthaburi, Myanmar's U Pauk Sa competed against Singapore's Peter Gilchrist in the men's singles billiards final. Peter Gilchrist won three frames to nil, awarding U Pauk Sa the silver medal.

Later in the afternoon, in the snooker six-red singles semifinal, Myanmar's Nay Min Tun lost to Malaysia's Thor Chaung Leong

by five frames to two, earning the bronze medal.

Union Minister Jeng Phang Naw Taung, the Yangon Region Social Affairs Minister, leaders of the Myanmar sports federations, senior officials from the Department of Sports and Physical Education, members of the Yangon Region Sports and Youth Affairs Support Committee, and officials from the Billiards and Snooker Federation presented

cash rewards to silver medallist U Pauk Sa and bronze medallist Nay Min Tun.

At Rajamangala Auditorium, Rajamangala University of Technology Thanyaburi in Bangkok, Myanmar's Htike Htike Kyaw won the bronze medal in the men's under-55-kilogramme judo event after defeating a competitor from the Philippines in the third-place contest.

On 12 December, Myanmar won additional medals. Florence Naychi Tun secured the silver medal in the women's under-50-kilogramme kata event in karate, while the men's 200-metre canoe sprint team, comprising Myo Hlaing Win, Thant Zin Oo, Kyaw Zeya, Htut Khaung Zaw, Thet Paing Phyo, and Aung Phyo Hein, also claimed silver. Deputy Minister U Ye Tint presented the medals, and the Canoeing Federation President awarded cash prizes to the athletes.

In the men's under-55-kilogramme judo event, Myanmar's Htike Htike Kyaw and the Filipino competitor were jointly awarded bronze medals.

After all events on 11 December, Myanmar stood seventh in the overall medal standings, with two gold medals, nine silver medals, and five bronze medals, totalling sixteen medals. — MNA/KZL

Indonesia hands Myanmar 3-1 exit at SEA Games

MYANMAR lost 3-1 to Indonesia in the final Group C match of the men's football tournament at the 2025 SEA Games, held on 12 December at the 700th Anniversary Stadium in Chiang Mai.

Both teams needed a convincing win to keep their hopes of claiming the best runners-up spot alive, but Indonesia's narrow victory meant they finished their campaign at the group stage, while Myanmar exited the tournament after two consecutive defeats, having earned no points. Under the current head coach, Kenji Kurosaki, Myanmar also extended their winless run in international competitions.

Myanmar made chang-

es to the starting line-up and produced a strong first-half performance. Min Maw Oo opened the scoring with a fine strike in 29 minutes, but Tony equalized for Indonesia shortly before half-time following a defensive error. In the second half, Myanmar missed a chance to retake the lead when Zaw Win Thein failed to convert a key opportunity. Indonesia capitalized late, with Jan Raving scoring in 89 and 90+6 minutes to secure the win.

In the group standings, Thailand topped Group A with six points, Vietnam led Group B with six points, and the Philippines finished first in Group C with six points. All three group winners advanced



This image captures a tackle between Myanmar and Indonesian players. PHOTO: MFF

to the semifinals. Malaysia claimed the final semifinal spot as the best runners-up, finishing ahead of Indonesia and Timor-Leste on goal difference.

The semifinals are scheduled for 15 December, with Vietnam facing the Philippines and Thailand taking on Malaysia. — Maung San Gyi/KZL

Myanmar women's football coach quits after SEA Games ouster

MYANMAR national women's football team head coach Yuki Tatsuro has resigned following the team's elimination in the group stage of the women's football tournament at the 2025 Thailand SEA Games.

The Japanese coach joined Myanmar football in 2023 as Director of Women's Football Development and later took on the role of head coach for the 2023 Cambodia SEA Games. He steps down nearly two and a half years after assuming the position. Under his leadership, Myanmar won a silver medal at the XXXII SEA Games, marking the team's most significant international achievement during his tenure. His time in charge included both notable successes and disappointing setbacks.

This year, Myanmar competed in four international tournaments. The team claimed the title at the Nepal Four-Nation Invitational but failed to advance in the AFC qualifying round. Myanmar also finished as runners-up at the 2025 ASEAN Women's Championship. However, at the 2025 SEA Games, the team exited at the group stage after a 2-0 defeat to Vietnam.

Myanmar finished the group stage level on six points with Vietnam and the Philippines, but were eliminated on goal difference. Following the loss, Yuki Tatsuro resigned from his post later that evening. — Chit Ko Ko/KZL



PHOTO: MFF



Determined Myanmar athletes ready as additional teams head to SEA Games 2025

The XXXIII South-East Asia Games are progressing in Thailand, featuring competitions in 50 disciplines. The opening ceremony took place on 9 December with a magnificent display. Myanmar is competing in 38 sports events, and on 11 December, national teams, who had won gold, silver and bronze medals, returned home, where they were greeted enthusiastically by crowds. The SEA Games are being held in Bangkok, Chiang Mai and Chonburi. Additional national teams from the marathon, race walking, bowling, and squash events departed for Thailand yesterday. The athletes expressed strong determination to elevate the country's prestige, and their comments are presented below.

Walking coach U Aung Naing Win

"For the South-East Asia Games, the athletics team will compete in the walking events. Some of our athletes travelled ahead on 9 December, and on 11 December we took part in the 1,500-metre race. The walking events will be held at 5 pm on 14 December and will continue until 16 December. The State is supporting the team, and I understand that the federation plans to give substantial rewards to gold medallists this year. This has made the athletes very motivated. We have prepared thoroughly, and as a team we are aiming for two gold medals."

Marathon coach U Augustin

"Only athletes who met the qualifying time standards were selected. As the marathon is a 26-mile event, athletes must be fully prepared both mental-

ly and physically. Two coaches and eight athletes will take part. Representing Myanmar will be Maung Moe Oo and Maung Soe Paing. We have been training since the 2023-2024 financial year, and the athletes have improved their timings. We must not underestimate any opponents, so we expect fierce competition. The marathon will start at 5.30 pm on 14 December. We have trained extensively to win medals for the nation, and we hope to achieve strong timings and bring home medals, especially gold. Support is crucial in competitions, so I respectfully ask all Myanmar people to cheer for us."

Squash Federation President Daw Swe Zin Htike

"Myanmar is competing in squash for the first time at the South-East Asia Games. The sport has long been played in

Europe and Asia. We have introduced squash to Myanmar now so that in two years, when the Olympic Committee selects fourteen sports for the Los Angeles Games, Myanmar will be ready to participate. We have fifteen members. The events will begin on 14 December, and we will compete in singles and doubles. We selected tennis athletes with strong discipline and technical ability, and four athletes trained with local coaches in the Republic of Korea for over two months. Singapore and Malaysia have long experience in the sport, so we will be facing very strong opponents. We will also send athletes to the pre-Olympic qualifying event in Korea next year, aiming to reach the Los Angeles Olympics. Squash requires considerable technical skill and solid support. As this is a new sport for Myanmar and our first

appearance, we have prepared as thoroughly as possible to win at least one medal. I would like to request everyone's support."

Bowling Federation President U Myo Aung

"We will compete in singles, doubles and team events. Since 2023, the bowling team has trained with eight male and eight female players, and for the Games, we have selected four men and four women. We are fully prepared and aim to win at least one medal. Bowling is one of the sports Myanmar relies on for success, so we have chosen only athletes with gold-medal potential. The events will be held from 14 to 17 December."

Bowling athlete Maung Htay Win Aung

"In bowling at the South-East Asia Games, we aim to win a gold, silver or bronze medal. I have heard that the competi-

tion format has changed from previous editions, so we may face difficulties. There will also be world champions from other countries. Whatever obstacles we encounter, I will not lose sight of my main objective. I am determined to bring home a medal for the nation."

Marathon athlete Maung Moe Oo

"I will compete in the 42.195-kilometre marathon. I have trained for three years and gained experience in domestic and international competitions. There will be strong competitors, but I will do my best. Although this is my first South-East Asia Games appearance, I believe I can return with medals for the nation because of my thorough preparation and solid competitive experience." — Thitsa (MNA)/KZL

PHOTOS: ZWE MARN



U Aung Naing Win



U Augustin



Daw Swe Zin Htike



U Myo Aung



Maung Htay Win Aung



Maung Moe Oo

Myanmar canoe/kayak team returns home after winning bronze

MYANMAR'S canoeing and kayak team, along with their management staff, returned to Yangon at 6:35 pm yesterday on a Myanmar Airways International flight after competing in the XXXIII South-East Asia Games, held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 9 to 20 December 2025. Officials from the Department of Sports and Physical Education, as well as the athletes' families, welcomed back the team upon arrival.

The returning group in-



SEA Games winning athletes are seen being welcomed back at the Yangon International Airport. Included women's kayak single bronze medallist Po Po Aung, accompanied by three athletes, one coach, and five man-

agement personnel, bringing the total number of members to ten. — MNA/KZL

Myanmar to face Indonesia at SEA Games futsal group stage today

THE women's futsal tournament at the XXXIII South-East Asia Games began its group-stage matches on 12 December, with hosts Thailand and Vietnam claiming victories on the opening day.

In Group A, Thailand defeated the Philippines by seven goals to one, while in Group B, Vietnam beat Indonesia by three goals to one. The women's futsal

competition features six teams divided into two groups: Thailand, the Philippines and Malaysia in Group A, and Vietnam, Indonesia and Myanmar in Group B.

The second day of group-stage matches continues today, with Myanmar facing Indonesia at 1:30 pm Myanmar Standard Time, followed by the Philippines against Malaysia at 4:30 pm. — Tun Thway Eain/KZL



Putin praises ‘very positive’ momentum in Russia-Iran ties

Putin highlighted cooperation in areas such as gas, electricity, Iran’s nuclear programme, the Bushehr nuclear power plant, and infrastructure projects like the North-South corridor.

RELATIONS between Russia and Iran are progressing very positively, Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Friday.

“I would like to note that relations between our countries are developing very positively,” Putin said at a meeting with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian.

Moscow and Tehran are discussing cooperation in the gas and electricity sectors and are working closely together on issues related to Iran’s nuclear programme at the UN, the president said.

Additionally, Russia and Iran are co-operating in various areas, including the Bushehr nuclear power plant and infrastructure development projects, such as the North-South corridor, Putin said.

Trade between both nations rose 13 per cent last year, and by another eight per cent this year, Putin noted.



“Last year, trade increased by 13 per cent, and this year, over the first three quarters, it has increased by eight per cent,” Putin said.

Tehran is committed to implementing the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Agreement with Russia, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said.

“According to the comprehensive strategic agreement, we are determined to implement all agreements,” the Iranian leader said at his meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Pezeshkian also thanked Russia for supporting Iran on the international stage.

— SPUTNIK

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and Russian President Vladimir Putin shake hands as they pose for photos before a meeting in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan on 12 December. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

2026 APEC meeting to be held on 18-19 Nov in China’s Shenzhen

THE 33rd Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders’ Meeting will be held in China’s Shenzhen on 18 and 19 November next year, accompanied by the APEC CEO Summit and the joint ministerial meeting of foreign and trade ministers, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun announced on Friday.

In response to a relevant query, Guo told a daily press briefing that during the 2026 APEC “China Year”, approximately 300 events are expected to take place across multiple cities in China.

According to Guo, Senior Officials’ Meetings will be held in Guangzhou, Shanghai and Dalian in February, May and August next year, respectively.

Starting from May next year, about 10 sectoral ministerial meetings or high-level events will take place in different locations, covering areas such as trade, digital economy, transport, tourism, human resources, small and medium-sized enterprises, energy, food security, finance and women’s affairs.

— Xinhua



A view of Shenzhen Bay Culture Square in Shenzhen, south China’s Guangdong Province, 1 November 2025. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Hamas accepts international force for Gaza ceasefire monitoring only

A senior Hamas official said Thursday that Palestinian factions in Gaza have given initial approval for a potential international force in the territory, provided its mandate is limited to “monitoring the ceasefire and maintaining a presence along the borders to separate the two sides”.

Husam Badran, a member of Hamas’ political bureau, told Xinhua that the force’s role should remain “limited, clear, and agreed upon”, and must not undermine Palestinian national decision-making. He noted that most countries discussing the idea stressed the need for Palestinian consent before deployment.

Badran is referring to the International Stabilization Force, a proposed multinational force endorsed as part of a broader peace plan and a UN Security Council resolution in November.

Badran stressed that the implementation of the current agreement should not contradict Palestinian interests and reaffirmed that “any talk about disarming the resistance is rejected”. — Xinhua