

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.

Nationalities Contribute to Building a Democracy-Based Federal State

All stakeholders should cooperate and work together to reduce armed conflicts and violent disturbances across various regions, including Kayin State.

ACTING President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing sends a message to the ceremony to mark the Kayin National New Year Day on 19 December 2025. The full text of the translated message is as follows: - **Esteemed people and Kayin ethnic brethren,** Today, 19 December 2025, the year 2765 of the Kayin Era and the first waxing day of Pyatho 1387 Myanmar Era, is the auspicious and significant Kayin National New Year Day, cherished by all Kayin brethren. On this occasion of the Kayin National **SEE PAGE 3**

Vice-Senior General Soe Win visits Kaunghmulon Pagoda, local battalions in Machanbaw and PutaO stations

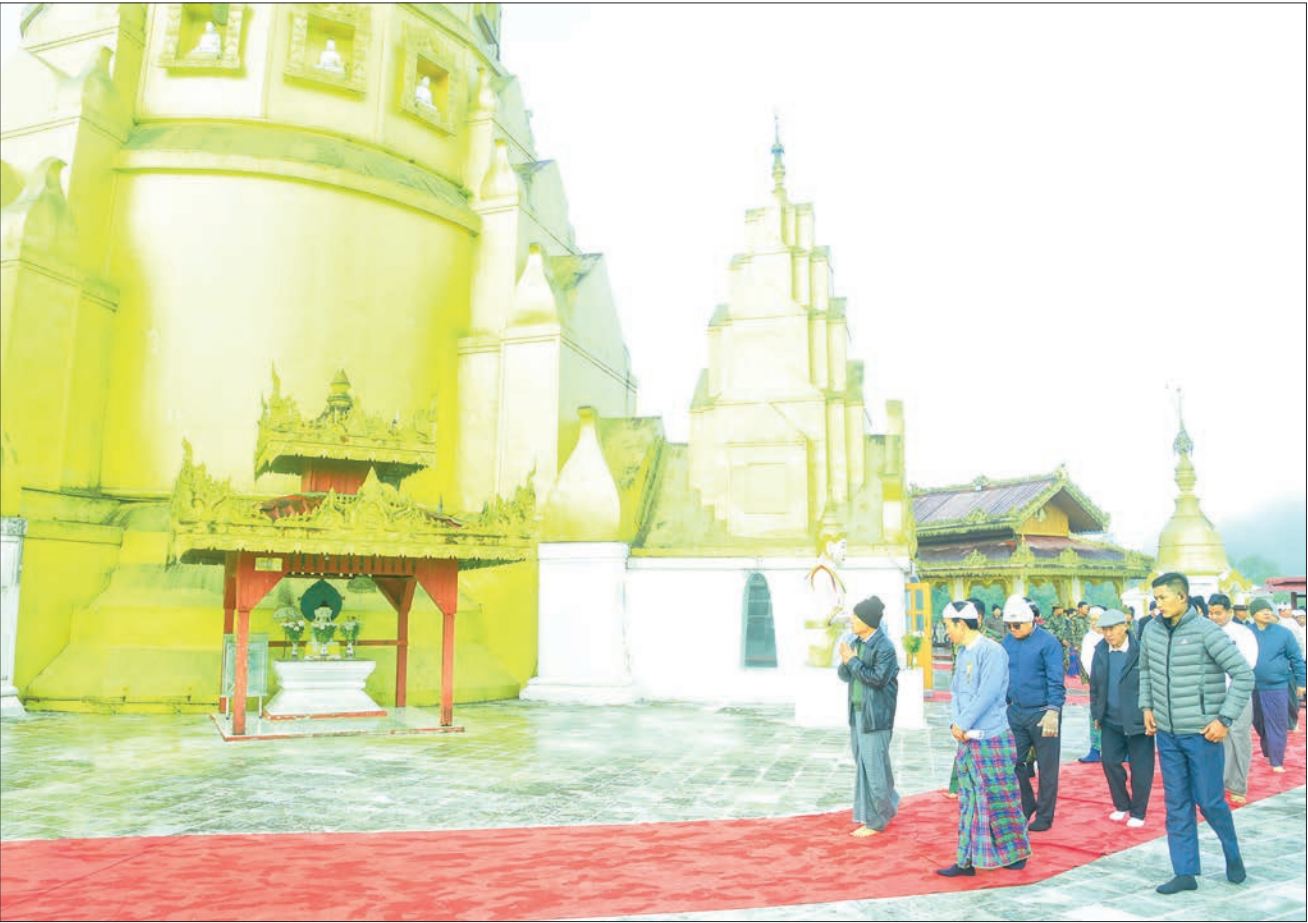
STATE Security and Peace Commission Vice-Chairman, Defence Services Deputy Commander-in-Chief, and Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win paid homage to the Kaunghmulon Pagoda in Machanbaw Township of PutaO District yesterday morning.

Accompanied by Kachin State Chief Minister U Khet Htein Nan, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, the commander of the Northern Command and deputy ministers, the Vice-Senior General offered alms in the alms-bowl, fruits, oil lights, flowers and water to the Buddha Image at the Kaunghmulon Pagoda.

He donated cash to the fund for the overall renovation of the pagoda to the officials.

In the 244 Sasana era during the reign of King Siridhammasoka, the Kaunghmulon Pagoda, enshrined with three sacred hair relics of the Lord Buddha, was built on the eastern bank of the Malikha River near Kaunghmulon Village in Machanbaw Township of PutaO District in Kachin State. It is the largest and tallest pagoda in the PutaO region, showcasing the evidence that Buddhism has been thriving in the northernmost part of Myanmar in successive eras till today.

In the afternoon, the Vice-Senior General inspected local battalions in Machanbaw and PutaO stations, where he cordially greeted wives of Tatmadaw members and coordinated requirements of Tatmadaw families with officials. — MNA/TTA



State Security and Peace Commission Vice-Chairman, Defence Services Deputy Commander-in-Chief, and Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win is pictured during his homage to the Kaunghmulon Pagoda in Machanbaw Township, PutaO District, Kachin State.

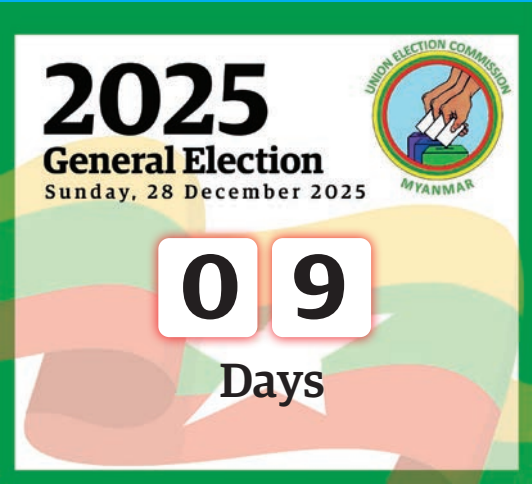
NATIONAL



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

Mandalay Region YMBA donates “Historic Hluttaw and Elections” books

THE Mandalay Region Young Men’s Buddhist Association (YMBA) donated copies of the book “Historic Hluttaw and Elections” to the universities in Mandalay at the meeting hall of Mandalay University yesterday in commemoration of the 2025/2026 multiparty general election.

The event was attended by the region’s YMBA Chairman U Kyi Sein, executive committee members, pro-rectors, librarians and faculty members.

The regional YBMA chairman briefed the donation, and donor U Kyaw Kyaw Wai (Mingala Dhamma Jotikadhaja)

and his wife, and the regional YMBA chairman handed over the books published by Dhamma Than Taw Sint Publication House to Mandalay University Pro-rectors Dr Cho Cho Yi and Dr May Thwe Aye. After the donation, Pro-rector Dr Khin Mar Yi expressed gratitude.

The book features extensive records related to elections, including news articles and documentation on free and fair elections, official announcements released by the Election Commission, verification of voter lists, and the posting of campaign signboards. — Bala/KTZH



The book donation ceremony in progress yesterday in Mandalay.

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

Order 53/2025

14th Waning of Nataw 1387 ME
18 December 2025

Appointment and Duty Assignment for Nay Pyi Taw Council Member

THE National Defence and Security Council has appointed and assigned U Win Moe Khaing to the duties of a member of the Nay Pyi Taw Council under Subsection (b) of Section 427 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

By order,
Aung Lin Dwe
Chief Executive

Yangon Rice Showcase 2025 set on 24 Dec

IN order to help consumers understand rice, the Yangon Rice Showcase 2025 will be jointly organized by the regional Consumer Affairs Department and the Myanmar Rice Federation, commencing at 9 am on 24 December at the Melia Hotel in Yangon.

MRF said rice is a staple food for Myanmar people, and in Yangon, which houses more than 8 million residents, in particular, busy housewives and middle-aged families have faced difficulties in choosing which variety of rice can meet their needs, as there is a wide range of varieties of rice with different brands and prices.

This is a kind of consumer education talk on rice varieties manufactured by local rice mills and their quality, price and nutritional value, and which

cooking method can enhance the rice quality and taste. Additionally, it will improve the transparency between sellers and consumers, share knowledge about Myanmar rice varieties using modern communication methods, and support knowledge about rice varieties for housewives that can bring advantages for the next generations.

At the event, middle-aged women and under 45 people from selected townships will be appointed as rice ambassadors who can share knowledge about rice provided by MRF, through competitions, aiming to help them distribute the right knowledge and experience in rice varieties and prices among residents of their areas and the nearby community, said MRF. — MT/ZS

NATIONAL

Residents Urged to Prioritize Public Safety Amid Armed Terrorist Threats

ARMED terrorists have been launching attacks by using residential homes and administrative buildings in towns and villages as cover, where they have forcibly settled. They aim to shield themselves from Tatmadaw counterattacks while also persuading temporarily displaced persons to return to their native areas and recruiting new members. That enables terrorists to use civilians as human shields. Tatmadaw is committed to safeguarding the sovereignty of the State and will respond to these threats based on intelligence and prevailing conditions. Therefore, residents in areas where terrorists have taken control must prioritize their safety and protect themselves from being exploited by these groups.

(An excerpt from guidance given by Chairman of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to Shan State cabinet members and state-level departmental officials on 3 September 2024)

Nationalities Contribute to Building a Democracy-Based Federal State

FROM PAGE 1

New Year, I extend my greetings and sincerely wish all our ethnic national brethren, including the Kayin ethnic people and all citizens, physical and mental well-being, prosperity, and all auspicious blessings.

The Kayin people joyfully and delightfully celebrate their auspicious and significant New Year every year on the first waxing day of Pyatho. The State has officially recognized this day as a national public holiday for the entire country of Myanmar. New Year's Day is interpreted as a good and auspicious day. From the moment the old year ends and the Kayin New Year begins, it is believed that Kayin people will enter the New Year with renewed spirit, fresh energy, and enthusiasm.

Esteemed national brethren,

Although the ethnic nationalities living across the Republic of the Union of Myanmar have different customs and traditions, all ethnic groups have long lived together in harmony with a spirit of family and a Union spirit, valuing and respecting one another. Regardless of differences in birthplace, region, language, literature, culture, religion, and traditional customs, all ethnic nationalities have lived together, sharing the same land and water, and have cooperated in unity within the Union.

In accordance with the fact that the Kayin ethnic group is one of the indigenous ethnic groups of Myanmar, they are living not only in Kayin State but also throughout the entire country. They are especially numerous in Mon State, Taninthayi Region, Bago Region, and Ayeyawady Region. Throughout history, the Kayin people have lived in unity and harmony with all other ethnic nationalities. During the period when the country fell under colonial rule, the Kayin people also took part in the struggle for national independence, joining hands with all ethnic groups and sacrificing their lives and blood with a full patriotic spirit. History stands as witness to this.

Kayin State is located in the southeastern part of Myanmar and is endowed with natural resources, teeming with rivers, streams, waterfalls, mountain ranges of scenic beauty, and lush green forests. The beauty of Mount Zwegabin stands as one of the most prominent landmarks in Kayin State. The cultural symbols representing the Kayin people are the frog drum and the buffalo horn. The Kayin don dance is widely admired and is a distinctive cultural dance that is well known not only within the country but also abroad. All Kayin ethnic groups celebrate their traditional religious festivals according to designated seasons and longstanding cultural practices, including the New Year Festival, House Warming Ceremony, Harvest Feast Festival, Butterfly Summoning Festival,

and the White Thread-Tying Ceremony in the month of Wagaung.

The Kayin people are naturally honest, humble, open-hearted, friendly, and peaceful. Likewise, they are courageous, straightforward, and highly faithful to their commitments. I would like to encourage the continued preservation and transmission of the Kayin language, literature, culture and arts, traditional customs, and historical heritage that have been safeguarded by their ancestors through successive generations.

Just as the Kayin people living throughout Myanmar preserve their traditions, all ethnic national brethren across the country should continue to uphold their own noble customs. When everyone joins hands in unity and solidarity, the Union will remain cohesive and firmly established for the long term.

Esteemed ethnic national brethren,

After Myanmar regained independence, misunderstandings among ethnic national brethren — stemming from the divisive legacy left by colonial rule — caused armed conflicts in Kayin State, disrupting stability and peace up to the present day. Although successive governments have worked towards achieving a durable nationwide peace, misguided ideas, narrow self-interests placed above the interests of the nation and all ethnic people, and selfish motivations have prolonged armed conflicts and acts of violence to this day. Regrettably, these circumstances have caused various hardships and suffering for the people and all ethnic nationalities.

The Government and Tatmadaw, giving utmost priority to achieving and maintaining genuine internal peace, which is the true essence of the nation, have carried out efforts in line with the provisions of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA). As a result, several ethnic armed groups participated, signed the agreement, and worked in cooperation. However, some groups, without proper understanding or careful consideration, continue to follow misguided paths. I would like to urge them to prioritize the interests of the nation and the people, and to walk along the path of peace. The Government and Tatmadaw always welcome dialogue for peace and reaffirm that the door remains open at all times.

The State will continue to make greater efforts amid challenges to ensure durable peace, the full rule of law, and sustainable development. In line with the objective of the National Defence and Security Council “To implement a multiparty democratic system, with the participation of the people, to ensure the success of the multiparty democratic general election process and successfully move towards wit the multiparty democratic system aspired by the entire people”, preparations are underway to hold successful

elections. Emphasis will be placed on ensuring free and fair elections, enabling all eligible voters to cast their votes, and conducting elections with dignity. All ethnic national communities are encouraged to actively participate and support the success of the elections.

As the Government continues its efforts to ensure peace and development of the nation, it is also working to improve the basic socioeconomic conditions of citizens, promote good health, provide quality education, create employment opportunities, increase incomes for all, and reduce poverty. Since the development of the nation depends on the socioeconomic progress of each individual, I would like to urge that efforts be made to ensure the advancement of every citizen's socioeconomic well-being, in line with the goals set for the country, including Kayin State, and to implement these efforts successfully.

In efforts to promote national economic development, projects related to education, healthcare, the rule of law, and transportation infrastructure are being implemented. When carrying out production activities, it is essential to focus on the development and success of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), which form the foundation of the economy. If these enterprises are combined with technology to produce high-value products, they will bring greater benefits and further strengthen the national economy. Kayin State is rich in natural resources that provide a strong foundation for economic activities. If production and industrial enterprises can be successfully developed there, the socio-economic conditions of local ethnic communities will improve, regional development will advance, and the nation's economic growth will receive significant support.

Esteemed national brethren,

I extended my best wishes by sending a message to the Kayin National New Year Day celebration that today, all ethnic national communities, including the Kayin people of Kayin State, must work together in unity to achieve the necessary peace, rule of law, and socioeconomic development in the country. Everyone should cooperate and work together to reduce armed conflicts and violent disturbances in various regions, including Kayin State. By doing so, I wish all ethnic nationalities help build the Union as a strong, disciplined, multiparty democratic system and a democracy-based federal state.

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

NATIONAL

Yangon University of Economics (Ywathagyi Campus) celebrates Silver Jubilee

THE 25th Anniversary Silver Jubilee celebration of Yangon University of Economics (Ywathagyi Campus), under the Ministry of Education, was held yesterday morning on the university campus in Yangon, where Prime Minister U Nyo Saw delivered a speech.

The ceremony was attended by Union ministers, Union-level dignitaries, the chief minister of Yangon Region, the commander of the Yangon Command, regional ministers, departmental officials, senior scholars, rectors, professors, teachers, students, and other guests.

The 25th Anniversary Silver Jubilee Celebration of Yangon University of Economics was first opened by Union Ministers U Tin Aung San, Dr Kan Zaw, and Dr Chaw Chaw Sein, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, and the Rector of Yangon University of Economics, Dr Tin Tin Htwe.

Prime Minister U Nyo Saw then unveiled the plaque commemorating the 25th anniversary of Yangon University of Economics. The Prime Minister and officials sprinkled the plaque with fragrant water, and he also planted a Gangaw (Mesua ferrea) tree to mark the occasion.

The Prime Minister also posed for a commemorative group photo with the attendees in front of the university's main



The commemorative group photo session of the Silver Jubilee celebration of Yangon University of Economics (Ywathagyi Campus), attended by Prime Minister U Nyo Saw.

building. The ceremony continued inside the hall, where university students danced to the song “Gonyu Pathi Ngwe Yatu Taing Pyi (Congratulations! It has reached its Silver Jubilee)”.

The Prime Minister spoke on the occasion that the role of economists is crucial for the sustainable economic development of a country, and that this ceremony is being held to celebrate 25 years of success and progress at Yangon University of Economics (Ywathagyi Campus) in producing economists. The university was established in 2000 and now offers undergraduate, honours, and mas-

ter's degree programmes.

In line with the motto, “Let us ensure education sector for the development of the Nation,” the Head of State has consistently guided and emphasized the development of education to produce strong and versatile human resources. The university employs a student-centred approach, case studies, project-based learning, practical methods, and library-centred systems to provide an international-level education and ensure students have excellent learning opportunities. In addition, the State has been awarding business excellence awards and university schol-

arships to enhance students' academic quality.

At today's event, it was reported that university students, businesspeople, and alumni from various regions and states are collaborating to organize job fairs, seminars, research poster competitions, and research readings, all of which contribute significantly to the country's development. It is essential to equip the new generation of university students with appropriate vocational knowledge and skills.

He also said that, in addition, it is important to cultivate good habits in citizens who respect civic and social ethics,

laws, rules, and regulations. He added that people must also actively participate in ensuring the successful conduct of the upcoming free and fair multi-party democratic general election and work towards building a more developed Myanmar.

In accordance with the principle that the country's economic system is a market economy, the government and private sector must work together to develop existing markets, enter new ones, and expand market opportunities. He also expressed his hope that Yangon University of Economics (Ywathagyi Campus) will continue to stand as an institution that contributes to the country's development and produces qualified scholars for many years to come.

Afterwards, a video clip commemorating the 25th anniversary of the university and dance performances by students from Yangon University of Economics and the National University of Arts and Culture to the songs “From Silver Jubilee to Forever” and “Celebrating the Silver Jubilee Together” were presented, and the Prime Minister presented flowers and awards to the dance troupes. Afterwards, the Prime Minister, accompanied by relevant officials, toured the exhibition halls set up to mark the Silver Jubilee and signed the guest book. — MNA/TH

Centenary of Mandalay University honoured with K200 stamp

IN commemoration of the 100th anniversary of Mandalay University, a special postage stamp worth K200 will be sold, according to Myanma Post.

The Myanma Post under the Ministry of Transport and Communications will introduce the special postage

stamp on 21 December.

The new special postage stamp will be sold simultaneously at Nay Pyi Taw Central Post Office, Yangon Post Office, Mandalay Post Office and regional and state post offices on 21 December starting from 9:30 am. As the

special programme, first buyers will be rewarded printed date logo on their stamps on the first day at three major post offices. In November, a new block of stamps was released as a collection of six stamps of Myanmar musical instruments for stamp collectors. — MT/ZS

www.gnlm.com.mm

CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION
(+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 255597511
ADVERTISING & MARKETING
(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 251022355
marketing@gnlm.com.mm
subscription@gnlm.com.mm

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

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email aungthuya@gnlm.com.mm with your name and title.

Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish **“Letter to the Editor”** that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Myanmar joins 2nd ASEAN-US Maritime Exercise in Indonesia

THE Tatmadaw naval vessel (Kyansittha) led by Captain Khun Aung Kyaw arrived back in Yangon yesterday after joining the 2nd ASEAN-US Maritime Exercise (2nd AUMX) hosted by Indonesia from 9 to 13 December.

The naval vessel (Kyansittha) left Yangon on 3 December to join the 2nd ASEAN-US Maritime Exercise, and arrived in Batam of Indonesia, on the morning of 9 December.

Between 9 and 11 December, the leader and members attended the opening ceremony, and participated in negotiations for sea drills, table-top exercises, subject matter expert exchange, fun games, dinner event and tour.

The 2nd AUMX features a wide range of activities, including maritime manoeuvring drills, formation sailing exercises, basic communications training using hand signals, flags and light signals, ship damage control exercises, search and rescue



The image shows the Tatmadaw naya vessel “Kyansittha” returning home after participating in the second ASEAN-US Maritime Exercise in Indonesia from 9 to 13 December 2025.

training, and offshore medical first aid drills.

The 2nd AUMX saw participation by eight naval vessels and one helicopter from Myanmar, Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam, Brunei, and the United States, while representatives from four other ASEAN member states attended as observers.

The naval ship (Kyansittha) sailed a total of 2,700 nautical miles during the voyage and successfully participated in the 2nd AUMX. — MNA/KTZH

Notice to Mariners

- 1. The POSCO International Corporation (Myanmar E&P), a joint venture of Myanma Oil and Natural Gas Enterprise, will perform Shwe Project Subsea System Inspection in the Shwe Project area using the vessel MV PTSC Tien Phong (Call Sign: 3WT09) from 27 January 2026 to 31 March 2026.
- 2. The inspection and maintenance of the Shwe Project Subsea System are scheduled to be conducted within the following areas: -

Area 1			Area 3		
Point	Latitude	Longitude	Point	Latitude	Longitude
A	19° 48’ 8.424” N	92° 26’ 48.768” E	C	19° 41’ 35.448” N	92° 33’ 37.692” E
B	19° 49’ 6.204” N	92° 28’ 18.336” E	D	19° 40’ 24.384” N	92° 32’ 19.428” E
C	19° 41’ 35.448” N	92° 33’ 37.692” E	G	19° 26’ 4.344” N	93° 29’ 37.032” E
D	19° 40’ 24.384” N	92° 32’ 19.428” E	H	19° 27’ 37.656” N	93° 30’ 3.456” E

Area 2		
Point	Latitude	Longitude
C	19° 41’ 35.448” N	92° 33’ 37.692” E
D	19° 40’ 24.384” N	92° 32’ 19.428” E
E	19° 34’ 36.804” N	92° 35’ 3.408” E
F	19° 35’ 20.22” N	92° 36’ 44.928” E

- 3. The Shwe Project Subsea System Inspection in the Shwe Project area using the vessel MV PTSC Tien Phong (Call Sign: 3WT09) will be conducted from 27 January 2026 to 31 March 2026, and so to ensure smooth execution and avoid any delays during the project period, 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 radius of these sites.

Low-interest mortgages open for 96 Yoma Yeiktha Housing units

THE Department of Urban and Housing Development (DUHD) under the Ministry of Construction has announced that 96 units from two four-storey buildings, each containing 12 units per floor, at the Yoma Yeiktha Housing in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township will be sold in January 2026 through a low-interest housing loan system.

Those eligible to apply are 2,093 individuals who have saved a minimum of K30 million at the Construction, Housing and Infrastructure Development (CHID) Bank as of 31 October.

Applications must be submitted via Messenger of the DUHD Sale Housing Facebook page from 10 am to 3:30 pm on 5-9 January 2026. Interested applicants should review the location, building type, and area details, then provide their name, NRC number, and CHID Bank down payment serial number. Priority will be given to



Location map and floor plan of the Yoma Yeiktha Housing Project to be sold under the low-interest mortgage system.

those with the earliest serial numbers on the CHID Bank waiting list, based on the number of available units, and a lucky draw will be held on 16 January 2026. The DUHD stated that those who win the right to purchase must take out a housing loan for the purchase.

Prices for all units of 324 square feet are K20 million (corner) and K19 million (middle) on the ground floor; K16.5 million (corner) and K16 million (middle) on the first floor; K13.5 million (corner) and K13 million (middle) on the second floor; and K12.5 million (corner) and K12 million (middle) on the third floor. — MT/ZN

Advertise
with us/ Hotline:



09 454237515
09 255597511

NATIONAL

Anti-scam task force dismantles illegal structures in Shwe Kokko and KK Park

THE Government of Myanmar is conducting large-scale operations through a joint task force, comprising security personnel, administrative bodies, and local authorities, to clear illegal buildings in the Shwe Kokko and KK Park areas. These regions are known to have the highest concentrations of online scams and gambling operations. The mission involves the systematic demolition of illegal structures and the destruction of seized equipment used in these criminal activities.

As part of the ongoing crackdown, further demolitions were carried out yesterday in Section 3 of the Myawady-Maethawtalay (KK Park) area. The task force dismantled 12 additional illegal structures, including two three-storey buildings, nine two-storey buildings, and one single-storey building. To date, 478 out of a total of 635 illegal buildings identified in the KK Park area have been systematically demolished. Since 8 December, joint teams have also been conduct-

ing search and clearance operations in and around Myawady, Kayin State. These efforts aim to prevent illegal foreign nationals from residing in the area and to dismantle the infrastructure required for online scams. Yesterday, inspections were conducted on a further 17 illegal buildings, consisting of two four-storey, three three-storey, five two-storey, and seven single-storey structures. Yesterday, in the Shwe Kokko and KK Park areas of Myawady Township, authorities



This image captures the demolition measures ongoing in the KK Park Section 3.

systematically burned the items used in online scams and gambling to ensure they could not be repurposed or reused. The government has designated the suppression of online scams and gambling as a national duty. Reports indicate that the authorities will continue to coordinate with both domestic forces and the governments of neighbouring countries to ensure that such illegal activities cannot gain a foothold anywhere within Myanmar. — MNA/MKKS

Notice for Industrial Design Rights Registration

- To provide legal protection for the shapes and ornamental designs of products distributed and sold in the market within Myanmar, the Industrial Design Law was enacted in 2019. Applications for industrial design registration have been accepted and processed by the Intellectual Property Department (IPD) under the Ministry of Commerce, commencing on 1 February 2024.
- To be eligible for industrial design protection, a design must be new and original, and must not be an imitation. Upon obtaining an industrial design right, the right holder is entitled to prevent others from creating, selling, or importing the protected industrial design into the country without permission. The right holder also has the right to initiate civil legal action against any person who infringes on industrial design rights. In Myanmar, once an industrial design right is granted, the registration term is five years from the application date, whereas renewable for two additional five-year periods, totalling a maximum total period of fifteen (15) years.
- Applications for industrial design registration can be submitted in person or through a licensed industrial design representative who has completed the industrial design representative training course at Nay Pyi Taw (head office), lower Myanmar (Yangon) and upper Myanmar (Mandalay) under the IPD, or through the WIPO file system set by the department.
- Required application forms, fees, and guidelines for completing applications can be accessed at ipd.gov.mm. For further information regarding industrial design registration, enquiries can be made through the following contact details: the Intellectual Property Department, Nay Pyi Taw (head office) at 067 3430594, Lower Myanmar (Yangon) at 01 8380283, Upper Myanmar (Mandalay) at 09 890615152, and the Industrial Design Rights Division at 067 3430595.

Ministry of Commerce

Notice on Trademark Registration Application

- The Intellectual Property Department under the Ministry of Commerce has already issued Notification 63/2020, informing that business operators investing and conducting business activities in Myanmar, including micro, small and medium enterprises within the country, can apply for intellectual property protection for their trademarks under the Trademark Law, together with the right of priority based on use.
- To enable not only existing trademarks eligible for priority based on use but also new trademarks to obtain intellectual property protection, the acceptance of trademark registration applications officially commenced on 26 April 2023. Applications for trademark registration that included priority claims based on use were accepted from 1 October 2020 to 26 October 2023, and more than 60,000 trademark registration applications were received and are currently under examination.
- These applications are being examined systematically every year, and announcements for objections to trademark registration applications have been released starting 1 May 2024 and on the 1st day of each month. Trademark registration certificates are being granted for applications with no objections, and a total of 11,708 certificates have been issued to date. Announcements of approval for trademark registration have been released up to 12 times starting from 1 December 2024.
- The MSMEs in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar can apply to the Intellectual Property Department under the Ministry of Commerce under the Trademark Law to obtain intellectual property protection for their trademarks used in their products and services.

Ministry of Commerce

Notice on Establishing Collective Management Organizations for Copyright and Related Rights

- To enable the establishment of collective management organizations for Copyright or related rights, the relevant rules were issued under Notification 58/2024 on 6 August 2024, the application forms required for applying to establish collective management organizations for Copyright or related rights were prescribed under Notification 79/2024 on 16 October 2024, and the service fees according to the type of services for applications to establish such collective management organizations were prescribed under Notification 1/2025 on 28 February 2025. Applications to establish collective management organizations for Copyright or related rights can be submitted starting from 16 July 2025.
- Applications can be submitted in person to Office 52, Intellectual Property Department, Ministry of Commerce.
- The application forms can be downloaded at the Intellectual Property Department website: ipd.gov.mm, where information on the fees and notices can also be accessed. For further information, enquiries can be made through the Copyright Division at 067 3430597.

Ministry of Commerce

Nation and people rich in cultural heritage stand tall on world Stage

❖ “National culture refers to the heritage of a country’s ethnic peoples, which is equally important for all to preserve.”
❖ “When national culture is elevated, the status of the country and its people also rises, enabling them to stand firmly and prominently in the global arena.”
(An excerpt from the speech delivered by Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the prize-awarding of the 26th Traditional Myanmar Cultural Performing Arts Competition on 13 October 2025)

CBM urges public vigilance against counterfeit banknotes

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) encourages the public to remain vigilant of counterfeit notes, according to the CBM’s notification dated 17 December 2025.

CBM stated that authorities arrest counterfeiters for forging banknotes on the public tip-off via social media. The CBM described the security features of banknotes to identify fake notes and respond to public concerns.

The recently seized fake notes can be detected easily as they were just copies made of the use of high-quality and durable A4 paper. Nonetheless, the CBM’s banknotes have high security features. The genuine banknotes will give a distinct feel that they are slightly rough, while the counterfeit ones are smooth. Security thread is embedded, and the CBM text appears clearly when the note is held up to light at a 45-degree angle. Yet it cannot be visible on the counterfeits. When you rub the vertically printed K10,000 text and the numeral 10,000, the genuine note feels rough to the touch, unlike the counterfeits. The quick identification can be made as the colour of the security thread changes when tilted against the light. In a genuine note, the security thread is embedded vertically and partially visible in sections, so the visible parts are not perfectly rectangular.

When it is held up to the light, the thread appears as an unbroken line. In contrast, the security thread on a counterfeit is simply neatly printed on the surface and is not embedded.

Those who knowingly use counterfeit banknotes will face imprisonment for up to three years or fines or both under Section 105 of the Central Bank of Myanmar Law. Those who manufacture counterfeit banknotes or import/export them will get a 10 to 20-year sentence under Section 106 of the Law. The forging equipment and the counterfeits will be seized as well. The Central Bank of Myanmar urges the public to comply with the law regarding counterfeit notes. Authorities concerned are also joining hands with the law enforcement organizations to combat the counterfeit notes. — NN/KK

Myanmar to export rice to EU in 2026



This image displays Myanmar’s export rice bags designated for the export market.

THE Myanmar Rice Producers and Planters Association stated that Myanmar and EU trade partners have agreed shipment of Myanmar’s parboiled rice (6.22 mm size) and white rice (five per cent broken) to EU markets, commencing in January 2026.

Furthermore, the Philippines, which cut rice imports, raised the tariff to 20 per cent. The Philippines will bring three million tonnes of rice into the country. Myanmar will endeavour to convey rice to the Philippines as well. Myanmar currently delivers non-premium rice (Thukha and Kayinma rice varieties) to China. Aemahta rice will be sent there in the summer paddy season, making

growers see potential.

Myanmar exported more than 1.5 million tonnes of rice in the past seven months, primarily to China (over 340,000 tonnes). Myanmar shipped 81,441 tonnes of rice and 3,493 tonnes of parboiled rice to China in November, Myanmar Rice Federation’s data showed. — ASH/KK

CBM to inject over US\$32M into markets

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) announced on 17 December that it would sell US\$32 million.

CBM pumped \$30,000 and 3.36 million baht into the market, along with \$650,000, selling to edible oil-importing companies.

CBM sold over \$2 million to edible oil-importing companies on 16 December, in addition to an injection of \$400,000 and 300,000 yuan into the market.

CBM sold over \$3.4 million to edible oil-importing companies on 15 December, after injecting over \$2.43 million into the edible oil import sector on 12 December.

CBM announced on 11 December that it would pump \$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 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

DWIR seeks bids for Thanlwin River bank erosion prevention work

THE Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems under the Ministry of Transport and Communications invited qualified Myanmar citizens to conduct riverbank erosion prevention work along the Thanlwin River near Shwegun village, Hlaingbwe Township, with the Supplementary Capital Fund of the Kayin State government.

Those qualified local business entities can submit a tender by 3 pm on 22 December at Kayin State’s DWIR office in Hpa-an. The tender opening date is 10 am on 23 December at the office. Individuals can enquire about tender rules through the contact number of the DWIR in Kayin State, 09 259144161. — NN/KK

Strive to reduce the poverty rate in rural areas

POVERTY is a condition in which a person cannot meet basic needs such as food, clothing, and healthcare due to insufficient financial resources. When someone is unable to reach the minimum social standard because they lack the means to obtain essential items, they may be marginalized in society. Moreover, people living in poverty often face negative consequences in their socioeconomic lives and have fewer opportunities for the future.

Two types of expressions of poverty can be identified. The first refers to the lack of adequate financial resources to meet basic needs, including drinking water, food, and shelter. The World Bank defines poverty as earning less than US\$2.5 per day. The second type is based on a family's income and resources relative to the

living standards of others in society. In this case, a country or organization is considered to be at a level below the ordinary or average position.

The United Nations' report stated that approximately 46 per cent of Myanmar's population falls below the poverty line. This estimation was primarily based on the economic conditions of rural people. Therefore, rural communities need to improve their economy and increase agricultural production. As a result, their economic situation would improve, leading to a higher standard of living and a more active supply-and-demand process. In this regard, industrial entrepreneurs should support the rural economy to help uplift the socioeconomic life of rural populations.

Seventy per cent of Myanmar's population resides in rural areas. By improving the rural economy and social life, the poverty rate can be reduced. In its efforts to combat rural poverty and to develop rural areas, the governments in successive eras have prioritized eight programmes aimed at lowering the poverty rate from 32 per cent in 2005 to 16 per cent in 2015, reflecting a significant improvement in living standards in rural areas.

Currently, internal armed conflicts and frequent natural disasters cause significant losses to the national economy, contributing to a higher poverty rate. Poverty in rural areas also affects urban communities, creating additional challenges. Therefore, it is essential to restore peace and stability in rural areas to ensure that agricultural and livestock activities continue as usual. It is necessary to double the work for the production of larger agricultural products. Authorities should create opportunities for farmers to increase agricultural production and meet demand. Only when the rural-based economy improves can the poverty rate decline, making concerted efforts to boost agricultural output crucial.

Currently, internal armed conflicts and frequent natural disasters cause significant losses to the national economy, contributing to a higher poverty rate. Poverty in rural areas also affects urban communities, creating additional challenges. Therefore, it is essential to restore peace and stability in rural areas to ensure that agricultural and livestock activities continue as usual. It is necessary to double the work for the production of larger agricultural products. Authorities should create opportunities for farmers to increase agricultural production and meet demand. Only when the rural-based economy improves can the poverty rate decline, making concerted efforts to boost agricultural output crucial.

An Overlooked Truth that Lies behind the Statistics

By Aung Shinn

EVERYONE knows that successive governments of Myanmar have continuously carried out the prevention and control of narcotics as a national responsibility. Even after the political changes in 2021, the Government has been vigorously and resolutely carrying out drug control operations, strictly cracking down in accordance with the law on drug trafficking, including opium poppy cultivation.

Some international organizations deliberately turn a blind eye and a deaf ear to the government's efforts. They tend to exaggerate and allege a drug problem in Myanmar, based on invalid information. Among such accusations, the report released by UNODC on 3 December is a dishonest report that ignores the truth and uses distorted statistics to exert political pressure on Myanmar.

In the report of the Myanmar Opium Survey 2025: Cultivation, Production and Implications, released by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), it is regrettable to find that the report is written in a way that cites unverified information, claiming that Myanmar has become the world's largest opium producer and its opium poppy cultivation has increased.

In the report, Myanmar is portrayed as having an increased drug distribution in the region and beyond. The report also exaggerates the need for urgent action to stop it. However, it seems that the international community has deliberately ignored the underlying causes behind the statistics. Merely looking at figures on paper and pretending not to see the real condition on the ground and perpetrators who drive drug production does not lead to a solution to the problem. Hence, this article aims to shed light on the truth and help the international community understand the correct approach that is not based solely on statistics, but on cooperation in the actual realities on the ground.

Dishonest coincidence among political manoeuvring

In the current global political setting, alongside shifts in the stance of the US administration led by President Donald Trump, perceptions towards Myanmar's political situation have begun to change in ways that support stability and the electoral path. In particular, policy changes by the Trump administration, such as the termination of USAID programmes, shut down important sources of support for the NUG terrorist group. Likewise, revoking Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Myanmar nationals in the United States reflects a more constructive assessment of the Myanmar government's path toward stability, peace, and elections rather than the violent approach of NUG/PDF groups.

Concurrently, at the very moment of such constructive developments, the deliberate release of drug-related reports intended to lose Myanmar's prestige and to mislead perceptions on the current government cannot be a mere coincidence. This may be a political manoeuvre by those who seek to block the avenue of cooperation between the international community and the Government of Myanmar. The report ignores the Myanmar government's intensified efforts to combat drugs and its successes in destroying opium poppy fields, whereas it focuses solely on alleged increases in opium poppy cultivation. So, it can be assumed that the report intends to put political pressure on the government, rather than combating narcotics.

The UNODC report and ground realities

The 2025 UNODC report allegedly states that opium poppy cultivation in Myanmar has reached 53,100 hectares, an increase of 17 per cent compared to 2024. However, if one carefully examines the maps showing where this cultivation has increased, the answer becomes quite clear. These increases do not occur in stable and

peaceful areas under the effective administration of the State. Instead, they are primarily concentrated in areas dominated by ethnic armed organizations (EAOs) and terrorist groups such as the NUG/PDF that have emerged since 2021.

In particular, a look at the maps included in the UNODC report shows significant increases in opium poppy cultivation in northern Shan State, Kachin State, and the upper part of Sagaing Region, where opium poppy cultivation had previously been minimal or almost non-existent. This demonstrates that terrorist groups are exploiting political instability and armed conflict, and audaciously carrying out drug trafficking, including opium poppy cultivation, as their major sources of income.

Narco-terrorism by NUG/PDF and EAOs

The NUG/PDF terrorist groups, which the international community labels as "pro-democracy activists", are carrying out the "drug trade" as their major financial lifeline to purchase weapons and operate their terrorist machinery. In the upper part of Sagaing Region, which was once peaceful with agricultural work, NUG/PDF groups are now forcing residents, under the label of "revolutionary funds", to cultivate poppy and cannabis through threats and coercion. Then, they collect taxes and engage in opium smuggling.

Thus, it is no coincidence that the areas stated in the UNODC report as having increased opium poppy cultivation overlap with territories where NUG/PDF groups and certain ethnic armed terrorist organizations are operating. Those groups have already entered the path of narco-terrorism, colluding with cross-border avaricious narco-gangs and converting illicit proceeds into weapons and ammunition. This reality is something the international community cannot afford to ignore.

Some ethnic armed terrorist organizations, including the KIA and the AA, loudly proclaim democracy and ethnic rights, but in reality, it cannot be denied that they are merely narco-terrorists who threaten humanity. The increase in opium poppy cultivation in Kachin State, along the eastern bank of the Ayeyawady River and near the border areas, is the result of the KIA's efforts to raise funds to arm PDF groups. Similarly, the AA controls a major drug trafficking network that transports narcotics through Shan State to Bangladesh and Malaysia, generating billions in profits to sustain terrorist activities. These facts are clearly evidenced by records of seizures of narcotics.

Therefore, instead of issuing politically charged reports while turning a blind eye to how those armed terrorist groups are destroying the country through drugs, the UNODC should expose the terrorists, who are the main perpetrators at the heart of the problem, and work together with the State to effectively combat illegal chemical trafficking, drug trade, money laundering, and arms smuggling.

The Government's efforts as a national responsibility

Astonishingly, the UNODC report ignores the State's anti-narcotics operations, which are being carried out without any foreign assistance amid international pressure and sanctions. The blood and sweat sacrificed since Operation Moe Hein in 1975, and the record-breaking seizure figures since 2021, clearly prove the firm resolve of the State to combat drugs.

In particular, during 2025, the exposure of narco-terrorism activities by certain ethnic armed terrorist groups, including the AA, and the dismantling of massive drug networks worth billions, stand as silent proof to the world that the State has no involvement whatsoever in drug trafficking and is persistently fighting it in defence of national prestige.

The momentum of anti-narcotics operations proven by statistics

Even if the State's commitment to combating drugs is measured

by criticism, actual drug seizure records provide the strongest evidence. In 2024 alone, authorities seized and destroyed more than 1,366 kilograms of opium, over 2,178 kilograms of heroin, nearly 240 million methamphetamine tablets, more than 23 tonnes of Ice (crystal meth), other drugs and related materials with a total value exceeding K1,163 billion (over US\$349 million). This was by no means an ordinary level of enforcement. Moreover, during the 11 months of 2025, more than 1,140 kilograms of opium, over 1,767 kilograms of heroin, more than 290 million methamphetamine tablets, over 31 tonnes of Ice (crystal meth), other drugs and related materials with a total value exceeding K1,259 billion (over US\$378 million) were seized.

These figures highlight that the anti-narcotics operations of Tatmadaw and the Myanmar Police Force are becoming increasingly effective year by year. The public incineration and destruction of seized narcotic drugs, carried out in accordance with international standards in major cities such as Yangon, Mandalay, and Taunggyi on 26 June every year, also serve as visible proof of the State's transparency and its firm commitment to anti-narcotics operations to the world.

Comparison of poppy field eradication during the poppy cultivation season from 2021-2022 to 2024-2025									
No.	Region/ State	2021-2022 28-11-21 to 3-4-22		2022-2023 24-10-22 to 23-3-23		2023-2024 16-11-23 to 26-3-24		2024-2025 24-11-24 to 4-4-25	
		Acre	Hectare	Acre	Hectare	Acre	Hectare	Acre	Hectare
1	Shan(North)	83	33.59	131	53.01				
2	Shan(South)	3,166.80	1,281.58	5,400.5	2,185.55	5,915	2,393.77	4,575.5	1,851.68
3	Shan(East)	134.69	54.51	181.65	73.51	184.5	74.66	159	64.34
4	Kachin	47	19.02	80.5	32.58	45	18.21		
5	Magway	36	14.57	21.25	8.6	36.5	14.77		
6	Sagaing			11	4.45				
Total		3,467.49	1,403.27	5,825.9	2,357.70	6,181	2,501.41	4,734.5	1,916.02
1 Hectare = 2.471 Acres									

The Government and the Myanmar Tatmadaw have been making a strong focus on counter-terrorism operations amid armed conflicts since 2021. Again, they, without any negligence, have been making sustained efforts to destroy opium poppy fields that threaten humanity, assuming it as a 'national responsibility'. During the four years of opium poppy cultivation seasons from 2021-2022 to 2024-2025, statistics firmly show that the State, despite serious security challenges, has destroyed more than 8,000 hectares of poppy fields in Shan, Kachin, Kayah, Sagaing, and Magway regions, at the cost of significant blood, sweat, and sacrifice. Even in highly challenging periods like 2025, regardless of the difficulties faced, the continued and determined eradication of poppy fields demonstrates that the Government is faithfully

fulfilling its responsibility for the future of humanity.

Problem of precursors

Even though the international community points fingers at Myanmar as a hub for the production of synthetic drugs, it often overlooks an essential reality that must be clearly understood. The point is that Myanmar has absolutely no capacity to produce the chemical precursors required to manufacture drugs such as methamphetamine tablets (WY), Ice, and ketamine. On the ground, those chemical substances are illegally smuggled across borders from major neighbouring countries.

These chemical precursors, smuggled from neighbouring countries, reach the areas controlled by ethnic armed terrorist groups involved in drug production. With the assistance of foreign experts, the precursors are converted into synthetic narcotics. Hence, the international community should place greater emphasis on controlling the supply routes through which the raw materials for these drugs enter the country, instead of merely

focusing on the outcome and accusing Myanmar of producing large quantities of synthetic narcotics.

This problem cannot be solved by the State alone, even if it fulfils its national responsibility by strictly monitoring and sealing border areas off. Only when the countries that produce these chemical precursors take responsibility and accountability for ensuring that their exports are not diverted to another channel and cooperate effectively can this drug cycle be broken. Accordingly, the international community should first seek answers to how it will cooperate with the State to prevent chemical precursors from being diverted to ethnic armed terrorist groups involved in drug production.

NATIONAL/ARTICLE

Notice on Copyright Registration

1. The Copyright Law, which provides legal protection for the rights of copyright owners and related rights holders, came into effect on 31 October 2023 under Notification 218/2023. The Copyright Rules relating to the application for registration of literary or artistic work or related rights were issued under Notification 70/2023 on 23 October 2025, whereas the 13 types of forms under 73/2023 on 20 November 2023 and fees for different services under Notification 1/2024 on 13 February 2024. Applications for Copyright registration have been officially accepted on 9 February 2024.
2. Applications can be submitted in person to the Intellectual Property Department or through the electronic filing system (CR file system). Applications can be submitted by the copyright owner themselves or through a licensed copyright agent who has completed the copyright agent training course.
3. Application forms can be downloaded at the Intellectual Property Department website ipd.gov.mm, where information on fees and guidance for filling applications can also be accessed. For further information regarding copyright registration, enquiries can be made through the following contact details: the Intellectual Property Department, Nay Pyi Taw (head office) at 067 3430594, Lower Myanmar Branch (Yangon) at 01 8300283, Upper Myanmar Branch (Mandalay) at 09 890615152, or the Copyright Division at 067 3430597.

Ministry of Commerce

Notice on Patent Registration

1. The Ministry of Commerce enacted the Patent Law on 11 March 2019 with Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law No 7. The necessary rules, application forms, and service fees for patent registration were published to ensure the law came into effect. The Patent Law came into effect on 31 May 2024, and applications for patent and petty patent have been officially accepted by the Intellectual Property Department on 31 October 2024.
2. The Patent Law provides legal protection for new inventions, allowing inventors to safeguard their creations from unauthorized copying. Under the law, protection can be obtained in two categories: patent and petty patent. Patent protection is granted only within the country or region where the application is filed. The term of a patent is 20 years from the filing date, while the term of a petty patent is 10 years from the filing date.
3. Applications for patent and petty patent can be submitted in person to the Intellectual Property Department or via the WIPO file system by WIPO file account owners who have completed the representative training course.
4. Laws, rules, notifications and public announcements related to patents can be accessed at www.ipd.gov.mm. For further information regarding patent registration, enquiries can be made to the Intellectual Property Department through the following contact details: Nay Pyi Taw (head office) at 067 3430594, Lower Myanmar Branch (Yangon) at 01 8300283, Upper Myanmar Branch (Mandalay) at 09 890615152, and the Patent Division at 067 3430595.

Ministry of Commerce

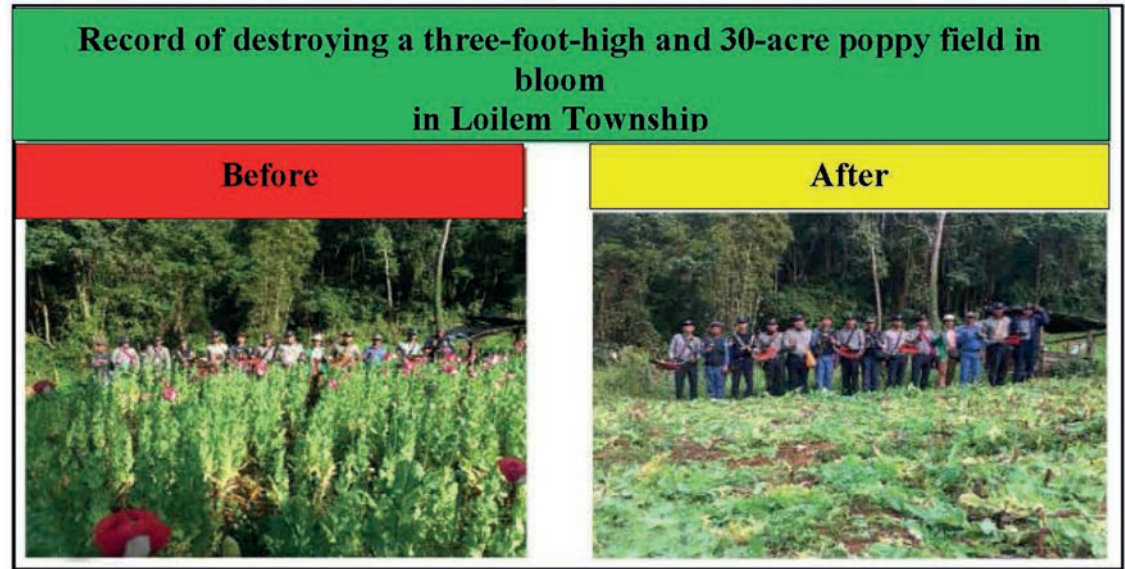
An Overlooked Truth that Lies behind the Statistics

FROM PAGE 9

Ignorance of finger pointers and the consequences of sanctions

It is a bitter truth that the “economic sanctions” imposed on Myanmar by the international community, especially by the Western bloc, have, in practice, become fuel that intensifies the drug problem rather than extinguishing it. Economic hardship and poverty have inevitably driven honest farmers towards poppy cultivation as a means of livelihood. Moreover, the termination of alternative development assistance by the international community has effectively pushed farmers into becoming victims of armed terrorist insurgent groups.

Therefore, merely recording concerns on paper and pointing fingers in blame by organizations like the UNODC will achieve nothing. Encircling and blocking a country with sanctions and then accusing it of an increase in drug trafficking is fundamentally unjust. It should be aware that the international community must recognize that only by providing genuinely needed technical and financial assistance can the drug problem be resolved, if the international



community is truly concerned. Towards practical humanitarian action rather than putting the blame

While the international community expresses concern over the drug problem, the government has not limited itself to the forceful eradication of poppy fields alone. It has also been implementing alternative development and human resource rehabilitation through the action plans of 2021-2026. In regions such as Shan, Kachin, Kayah, and Chin States, as well as Sagaing and Magway Regions, perennial substitute crops, solar energy solutions, and livestock-breeding technologies are being introduced to replace poppy cultivation and

improve farmers' livelihoods.

In addition, more than 29 major treatment centres, 56 smaller facilities, and over 170 methadone clinics have been opened nationwide for those who have been led astray, providing healthcare services almost free of charge. Rehabilitation centres have also been established, offering vocational skills training and helping individuals reintegrate into society. These efforts demonstrate the State's firm resolve. Hence, international organizations are urged to cooperate practically and concretely in the areas of technology as well as development, and to work more closely together in assisting, instead of criticizing from afar.

A call for action to the interna-

tional community

To resolve Myanmar's drug problem, the international community, United Nations agencies, and neighbouring countries cannot achieve this through blame and criticism alone. Solutions can only be found through 'an objective assessment of the truth'. In particular, the narco-terrorism activities of the NUG/PDF and EAOs that have emerged alongside political instability must not be ignored, and it should be noted that the support for the said groups indirectly encourages drug production.

In addition, economic sanctions that tighten people's livelihoods and push them towards

opium poppy cultivation should be eased. Rather than prioritizing the release of reports, greater emphasis should be placed on practical cooperation, such as technical collaboration and information sharing. Neighbouring countries are also earnestly requested to strictly control chemical substances used in drug production from the point of export onward, and to work in balanced cooperation with the State to combat the perils of narcotics, which is 'a common enemy' of human society.

The State regards the perils of narcotics as a major enemy that undermines national security, stability, peace, and the rule of law. Whether international assistance is provided or not, the Government will continue to shoulder its national responsibility to effectively deter terrorist acts through drug money by terrorist insurgent groups, and to protect the global population from the dangers of narcotics. However, if the international community cooperates with the government with understanding and trust, this global menace can be confronted more swiftly and effectively. This article conveys the message as an overlooked truth that lies behind the statistics.

NATIONAL

Heritage plaques planned for century-old colonial-era buildings in Mon State



This photo captures colonial-era historic buildings in Mon State that are more than 100 years old.

THE Mon State government has announced that heritage plaques and archival brass plates will be installed on colonial-era historic buildings in Mon State that are more than 100 years old.

According to U Tin Zaw Tun, Mon State Minister for Social Affairs, 12 colonial-era buildings in Mon State are over 100 years old and have been officially designated as historic buildings by order of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture. Among these, suitable buildings will be se-

lected for the installation of heritage plaques and archival brass plates recording their historical significance.

The Yadana Bonmyint Monastery, also known as the Fourth Princess Hall, is located within the compound of Basic Education Middle School No 8, and the Sayadaw Sankyaung (Padanikayon Monastery) were designated as a historic building by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture under Notification 31/2022 dated 8 April 2022.

Similarly, the Norman

Hall at Basic Education High School No 1, the office building at Basic Education High School No 2, the main building at Basic Education High School No 3, the main building at Basic Education High School No 4, the main building (Centenary Hall) at Basic Education High School No 5, and the Myasein Hall, Nila Hall, Padamyia Hall and Theingi Hall at Basic Education High School No 6 were designated as historic buildings under Notification 20/2024 dated 6 November 2024. — ASH/KNN

Comedian-cum-actor Nyaung Nyaung dies; Cremation set for 19 December

VETERAN comedian and film actor Nyaung Nyaung passed away at the OSC Hospital in North Okkalapa Township, Yangon Region, at 7:10 pm on 17 December, according to Vice-Chair U Aye Kyu Lay of the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization.

The performer, whose real name was U Nyi Nyi Hlaing, was 62 at the time of his death. He had been undergoing long-term treatment for liver disease and had shown signs of recovery. Earlier this year, he resumed his artistic career, but ultimately succumbed to the same illness.

as a member of the once-renowned Ta Khaing Lone Shwe anyeint troupe, where he established himself as a comedian. He subsequently moved into the film industry, sustaining a career of more than three dec-



Late comedian-cum-actor Nyaung Nyaung.

“Film actor Nyaung Nyaung passed away at OSC Hospital in North Okkalapa Township on the evening of 17 December. He had only recently returned to artistic work, which brought us great joy, so his passing has deeply saddened the family. I would like to extend my condolences and pray that he may attain a good and peaceful existence,” said U Aye Kyu Lay.

Nyaung Nyaung began his artistic journey as a university student, performing comedy in anyeint troupes before entering the wider entertainment industry. He later rose to prominence

ades and appearing in numerous films, video productions, and television dramas.

On 18 December, his remains were transferred from OSC Hospital to the mortuary at Yayway Cemetery by the Free Funeral Service Society (Yangon), with assistance from actor Tun Ko Ko and members of the association. His cremation is scheduled to take place at Yayway Cemetery at 11 am on 19 December. — ASH/KZL

YUPT posts K8.879B profit in 2024-2025FY, pledges safer travel and better bus services

YANGON Urban Public Transport Co Ltd (YUPT Public Co Ltd) earned more than K8.879 billion in the 2024-2025 financial year and will return K3 billion from the Yangon Region government’s share capital of K31 billion, according to YUPT Chairman U Aung Win.

Although YUPT recorded losses for seven years following its establishment, it began generating profits in the 2023-2024 financial year. The company’s report for 2024-2025 shows total revenue of K29.315 billion. Profit before depreciation amounted to K8.879 billion, while depreciation and deferred expenses totalled K1.092 billion, resulting



This photo shows the special general meeting and sixth annual general meeting of the Yangon Urban Public Transport (YUPT).



in a net profit of K7.265 billion.

U Aung Win said the company’s current bank balance

stands at K5.31 billion and that, during his four-year tenure as chairman, YUPT’s overall finan-

repaid K7.733 billion in principal and K3.533 billion in interest on the loan for 200 Foton buses to AYA Bank, bringing total repayments to K11.266 billion.

YUPT remains committed to ensuring that passengers in Yangon can travel safely and securely. The company aims to improve passenger services by adopting modern and advanced technologies, implementing a more efficient bus system and safeguarding the interests of its shareholders.

Yangon Urban Public Transport (YUPT) was established as a public company on 10 February 2017. — ASH/MKKS

ECONOMY

WORLD

Trump touts economic achievements in national address despite weak data, polls

This occurred while polls indicated a 39 per cent job approval rating amidst public concerns about the cost of living.

IN a prime-time national address Wednesday night, US President Donald Trump highlighted the economic achieve-



Amid sinking polls, US President Donald Trump told Americans the economy will improve in an address from the White House. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

ments of the first year of his second term even as economic data and polls painted a less rosy picture.

In the roughly 20-minute speech, Trump lashed out at the previous administration's policies and claimed that his leadership has restored US strength and revitalized the economy. "We are bringing our economy back from the brink of ruin," Trump said, claiming that he is bringing high prices down "very fast".

"There are more people working today than at any time in American history, and 100 per cent of all jobs created since I took office have been in the private sector," said Trump. — Xinhua



Vietnam remains among the world's 10 fastest-growing e-commerce markets and ranks third among ASEAN countries. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/PIXABAY**

Vietnam's e-commerce market size estimated at US\$31B in 2025

VIETNAM'S e-commerce market size is estimated at around US\$31 billion in 2025, accounting for nearly 10 per cent of total retail sales of goods and consumer services, local daily Hanoi Moi reported on Thursday, citing the Ministry of Industry and Trade. Vietnam remains among the world's 10 fastest-growing e-commerce markets and ranks third among ASEAN countries, the report said.

The country's export turnover through e-commerce channels is estimated to increase by about 78 per cent to nearly US\$2 billion in 2025. Deputy Director of the Vietnam E-commerce and Digital Economy Agency Lai Viet Anh said the ministry has finalized the master plan for e-commerce development for the 2026-2030 period as well as the Law on E-commerce. — Xinhua

India poised for next phase of multi-trillion-dollar wealth creation: MoSL

INDIA is entering a decisive phase of economic expansion that could redefine wealth creation over the next two decades, according to the 30th Wealth Creation Study by Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

Drawing inspiration from the past 17 years, during which India's economy expanded fourfold from US\$1 trillion in 2008 to US\$4 trillion in 2025, the study envisions a similar quadrupling of GDP to US\$16 trillion over the next 17 years, from 2025 to 2042.

The study highlights a sharp acceleration in absolute wealth creation. While the previous 17-year period added US\$3 trillion to India's GDP, the upcoming phase is expected to add US\$12 trillion, repre-

senting a fourfold increase in absolute value creation. This scale of expansion is expected to generate a powerful "wealth effect", significantly boosting consumption, investment, and

corporate profitability across sectors.

A key beneficiary of this transformation is expected to be the financial services ecosystem. — ANI



Strong demand for premium and luxury housing, driven by rising household wealth and preference for quality housing, is likely to support sustained growth in this sector. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ SUNTECK REALTY**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Indonesia to end incentives for imported CBU EVs

INDONESIA will not extend incentives for completely built-up (CBU) electric vehicle (EV) imports beyond 2025, as the government plans to redirect budgetary support toward the development of a national car programme, a senior minister said. Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs Airlangga Hartarto said on Tuesday that the incentive scheme will expire on 31 December 2025, and will not be renewed, as the government shifts its focus to revitalizing the domestic automotive industry and attracting long-term investment. — Xinhua

Kazakhstan's economy grows 6.4% in Jan-Nov

KAZAKHSTAN'S economy grew by 6.4 per cent in the first 11 months of the year, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Economy Serik Zhumangarin said Wednesday.

The real sector expanded by 8.3 per cent, surpassing the 5.3 per cent growth in the services sector. Transport, construction and mining remained the main drivers of economic expansion, he said. Trade turnover increased by 8.8 per cent, agriculture grew by 6.1 per cent, and manufacturing rose by 5.9 per cent. — Xinhua

British luxury hotel operator to open hotel near Universal Studios Japan

A British luxury hotel operator said Thursday it plans to open a large-scale hotel near Universal Studios Japan in Osaka, western Japan, in 2029, as demand for accommodation is expected to grow in the bay area aided by the opening of a casino.

The 817-room hotel will consist of two buildings and operate under three brands — InterContinental, Kimpton and Holiday Inn Resorts,

according to InterContinental Hotels Group plc. The new hotel will be a 10-minute boat ride or drive from a new integrated resort with a casino that is expected to open on the nearby artificial island of Yumeshima in the fall of 2030, the operator said.

The resort will also have conference and exhibition facilities, which are expected to boost demand for places to stay. — Kyodo



A rendered image shows the hotel InterContinental Hotels Group plc plans to open near Universal Studios Japan in Osaka. **PHOTO: SAKURAJIMA KAIHATSU LLC/KYODO**

Panama’s Copa Airlines to launch flights between Panama City, Venezuela’s Maracaibo

PANAMANIAN carrier Copa Airlines said Wednesday it will begin daily flights between Panama City and the Venezuelan city of Maracaibo starting Saturday.

The airline said the route was approved after a successful test flight to Maracaibo’s La Chinita International Airport.

The service comes as the airline has extended its suspension of flights to and from Caracas, capital of Venezuela, until 15 January 2026, amid heightened tensions between Venezuela and the United States.

US President Donald Trump said late last month that the airspace above and surrounding Venezuela should be considered closed “in its entirety”. — Xinhua



The airline said the route was approved after a successful test flight to Maracaibo’s La Chinita International Airport. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ISTOCK**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC FUJIAN VOY.NO. (2526S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC FUJIAN VOY.NO. (2526S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **19-12-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

Advertise with us/

Hotline: 09255597511

Transfer of Distributorship of Registered Pesticides

Manufacturer by Shanghai Yuelian Chemical Industry Co., Ltd and distribute by Gold Medal Crop Science Co., Ltd of the following pesticides will be transferred from Gold Medal Crop Science Co., Ltd (Address: No-17, Block-37, Nawaday Garden Housing, Hlaing Thar Yar Township, Yangon, Myanmar to ONCE MORE AGRO Co., Ltd., (Address: No.908, Sein Pann Myaing Street, 41 Ward, North Dagon Township, Yangon, Myanmar). Any objections regarding this transfer can be filled with the Co-Secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Borad, Plant Protection Division, Bayintnaung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon within 14 days.

Sr.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Type of Permit	Reg; No.
1	Fighting King	Azoxystrobin 20% + Flutriafol 20% SC	Provisional	P2022-4816

Transfer of Distributorship of Registered Pesticides

Distributor of the following pesticides, registered by Corteva Agriscience (Myanmar) Co., Ltd will be transferred from Corteva Agriscience (Myanmar) Co., Ltd. Junction City Tower, #13-03, No.3/A, Corner of Bogyoke Aung San Road and 27th St, Pabedan Township, Yangon, Myanmar. to ONCE MORE AGRO Co., Ltd, No.908, Sein Pann Myaing Street, 41 Ward, North Dagon Township, Yangon, Myanmar. Any objections regarding this transfer can be filled with the Co-Secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayintnaung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon within 14 days.

Sr.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Type of Permit	Reg.No.
1	Clincher	Cyhalofop-butyl 10% EC	Full	FF2025-674
2	Curzate M®8	Cymoxanil 80g/kg + Mancozeb 640g/kg WP	Full	F2022-3340
3	Ricer™ 60 OD	Penoxsulam 1.03%w/w+ Cyhalofop-butyl 5.13%w/w	Provisional	P2022-5666

Notice for Change of Registration Trade Name

Notice is hereby given that official registration trade name has been changed for the following pesticides manufactured by Hebei Veyong Bio-chemical Co.Ltd, China and distributed by Heyoza Company Limited.It invites objections to Co-secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon from all parties within a period of fourteen (14) days form the publication of this notice.

No	Trade Name		Active Ingredient	Registration Type	Registration No.
	Old	New			
1	Benzo AL	Swal Sone Star	Emamectin Benzoate 5.7% SG	Provisional	P2024-6441

Heyoza Co. Ltd. Phone: 09-955006789

Notice for Change of Registration Trade Name

Notice is hereby given that official registration trade name has been changed for the following pesticides manufactured by Hefei Xingyu Chemical Co.,Ltd, China and distributed by Heyoza Company Limited. It invites objections to Co-secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon from all parties within a period of fourteen (14) days form the publication of this notice.

No	Trade Name		Active Ingredient	Registration Type	Registration No.
	Old	New			
1	Cylo Bisso	Halo Plus	Cyhalofop butyl 12% + Bispyribac sodium 4% OD	Provisional	P2023-5392
2	Fop Fop	He Halo King	Cyhalofop butyl 30% OD	Provisional	P2025-6655
3	AL 2,4 D	D Gold Super	2,4-D Dimethylamine salt 720 g/l SL	Provisional	P2025-6656

Heyoza Co. Ltd. Phone: 09-955006789

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

Indian education in Oman completes 50 years, PM Modi says, “a major milestone in our relations”

The Prime Minister noted the 50th anniversary of Indian education in Oman as a significant milestone, with approximately 46,000 students currently enrolled in Indian schools there.



The visit also marked the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Oman. **PHOTO: ANI**

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday highlighted the growing role of education and space cooperation in deepening India-Oman relations, marking the 50th anniversary of Indian education in Oman as a “major milestone” in both countries’ relations.

Speaking to the Indian community and students in Muscat, PM Modi said, “The relations between India and Oman that started with trade are being empowered by education today.”

He noted the presence of Indian schools in Oman, adding, “I have been told that about 46,000 students study in the Indian schools here. Thousands of children from several communities living in Oman are also

included in this. Indian education in Oman is completing 50 years. This is a major milestone in our relations.”

PM Modi also spoke about expanding cooperation in space science, emphasizing that India’s space programme benefits not only India but also its partners. “India’s Space programme is not restricted to just itself. We are also supporting Oman’s space aspirations. 6-7 years ago, we signed an Agreement on space cooperation. I am delighted to tell you that ISRO has developed the India-Oman Space Portal. It is now our effort that the youth of Oman too benefit from this Space partnership,” he said. — ANI

NEWS IN BRIEF

US House rejects bid to block military action against Venezuela

THE US House of Representatives has voted down the Venezuela War Powers Resolution by 211-213, with nine lawmakers not voting. The measure would have required congressional authorization for US military actions against Venezuela, amid recent escalatory steps such as a “total and complete blockade” announcement by President Donald Trump. Representative Thomas Massie, who supported the resolution, said it was intended to reaffirm Congress’s constitutional role in deciding questions of war, warning that military action should not proceed without legislative approval. With the resolution’s failure, no new restrictions were placed on the executive branch regarding potential military actions against Venezuela. — SPUTNIK

Spain to buy 100 military helicopters from Airbus

SPAIN’S defence ministry has ordered 100 helicopters from Airbus destined for deployment in various parts of its armed forces, the European aeronautics company said Thursday. The order, involving different helicopter types, is the biggest such purchase by the Spanish military procurement authority to date, Airbus said, without giving financial details. Split into four contracts, the purchase aims “to boost the modernization of Spain’s defence and security assets”, the Airbus statement said. It includes 13 helicopters of the H135 type, 50 H145M helicopters, six H175Ms and 31 NH 90s. — AFP

Not enough evidence against Swedish PM murder suspect: prosecutor

SWEDEN’S top prosecutor on Thursday said there was not enough evidence against a man the authorities had named as the chief suspect in the 1986 killing of prime minister Olof Palme. Palme was gunned down on 28 February 1986, after leav-

ing a Stockholm cinema with his wife and despite a years-long investigation nobody has been charged with the crime. Chief prosecutor Krister Petersson closed the case in 2020 after naming the chief suspect as Stig Engstrom, a former advertising consultant who had

died in 2000. But Director of Prosecution Lennart Gune poured cold water over that assertion on Thursday, saying the evidence was “not sufficient to form the basis for identifying him as the designated perpetrator”. — AFP



Olof Palme was gunned down on 28 February 1986 after leaving a Stockholm cinema with his wife. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**



THAILAND 2025

XXXIII SEAGAMES 2025
9th - 20th December 2025

SPORTS

Myanmar's medal haul reaches 64 after adding 17 at SEA Games

MYANMAR'S medal haul at the XXXIII South-East Asia Games in Thailand has increased by 17, following a series of successful performances in Bangkok and Chonburi.

The latest tally includes one silver and one bronze in Sepak Takraw, nine bronze medals in Muay Thai, three in wrestling, two in traditional boat racing, and one in sailing.

Throughout the competitions, Myanmar's athletes have been supported by a high-level delegation, including the Secretary-General of the Myanmar Olympic Committee and Deputy Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs U Htein Lin, alongside

Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Aung Kyaw Tun, and Myanmar Ambassador U Zaw Zaw Soe.

The delegation maintained a busy schedule of attendance at various sporting venues. On the morning of 18 December, U Htein Lin and team officials visited the Royal Thai Navy Rowing and Canoeing Training Centre in Rayong to observe the dragon boat racing events. They watched Myanmar compete in the 200-metre races for the Men's Small Boat, Women's Small Boat, and Mixed Standard Boat categories, with the team ultimately securing two bronze medals in the Men's Small Boat



Myanmar's triumphant athletes receive the winning medals.

and Mixed Standard Boat events.

Simultaneously, Deputy Minister U Aung Kyaw Tun and other team leaders attended the Nakhon Pathom Sports Centre to support the Sepak Takraw teams. Myanmar's athletes performed strongly against Laos and Vietnam, ultimately securing a silver medal in the men's quadrant event and a bronze in the women's quadrant team event.

Further success was found across a variety of other disciplines. In the sailing competition, the mixed SSL47 team captured a bronze medal, while the wrestling contingent earned three bronze medals in the women's freestyle under 50-kilogramme, under 53-kilogramme, and under 57-kilogramme categories. The Muay Thai team contrib-

uted significantly to the total, adding nine bronze medals across multiple weight classes for both men and women, ranging from 45 kilogrammes to 71 kilogrammes. Following these results on 18 December, Myanmar occupies seventh place in the overall standings with a total of 64 medals — three golds, 20 silvers, and 41 bronzes. — MNA/KZL

Myanmar athletes return home with 11 bronze medals from SEA Games



A group photo session of winning athletes during the welcoming event.

ATHLETES from billiards and snooker, chess, and Muay who won a total of 11 bronze medals at the XXXIII South-East Asia Games returned to Yangon yesterday. The Games, held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 9 to 20 December 2025, saw Myanmar athletes compete across several disciplines. In billiards and snooker, Phone Myint Kyaw secured a bronze medal in the men's individual snooker event. In chess, the women's team – Su Su Hlaing, Soe Moe Khaing, Myo Myo

Thu, May Su Lwin, and May Set Lwin — won bronze in the team competition.

In Muay, Myanmar achieved further success with bronze medals won by Saw Khine Ye Lin in the men's 54-kilogramme category, Saw A Tit in the men's 57-kilogramme category, Thang Kwee Shein in the men's 51-kilogramme category, Tun Min Aung in the men's 71-kilogramme category, Yay Chan in the men's 63.5-kilogramme category, Saw Myat Moe in the men's 45-kilo-

gramme category, Marlar Win in the women's 54-kilogramme category, Ohnma Soe in the women's 57-kilogramme category, and Elizabeth Kyein Zahwe in the women's 60-kilogramme category.

The athletes and officials arrived in Yangon aboard Myanmar Airways International, where they were warmly welcomed and honoured by officials from the Department of Sports and Physical Education, together with parents and relatives. — MNA/KZL

Myanmar billiards, snooker team given hero's welcome after gold medal triumph



This image shows SEA Games medallists welcomed home at the Yangon International Airport yesterday.

THE Myanmar billiards and snooker team, who secured gold and silver medals at the XXXI-II South-East Asian Games in Bangkok, Thailand (held from 9 to 20 December 2025), returned to Yangon by air yesterday morning.

A celebratory crowd gathered at Yangon International Airport to offer a warm and enthusiastic welcome. The returning athletes were greeted with floral garlands by U Htay Aung, the Yangon Region Minister for Social Affairs, alongside the Principal of the Institute of Sports and Physical Education (Yangon) and other officials. Students from the Institute, as well

as the athletes' friends and relatives, were also in attendance to honour their achievements.

The returning delegation included the gold-medal-winning men's billiards team — Pauk Sa, Aung Htay, and Nay Thway Oo — as well as Pauk Sa, who also claimed a silver medal in the men's individual billiards event.

During the welcoming ceremony, Yangon Region Minister U Htay Aung officially commended the athletes for their success. He presented a cash reward of 5,000 Thai baht each to the gold medallists – Pauk Sa, Aung Htay, and Nay Thway Oo — amounting to a total honorary award of 15,000 Thai baht. — MNA/KZL

Indian education in Oman
completes 50 years, PM Modi says,
“a major milestone in our relations”

PAGE 14



WORLD

Rasht-Astara railway opens new trade artery to Global South

From both an economic and geostrategic perspective, Iran remains a key hub for Global South nations, ensuring connectivity through the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC).

RUSSIA-IRAN cooperation is vital to ensuring regional security and connectivity, Tehran University associate professor Foad Izadi tells Sputnik.

The West is seeking to Balkanize Iran to exert additional pressure on Russia’s southern frontier in the Caspian region and the Caucasus, according to Foad Izadi.

From both an economic and geostrategic perspective, Iran remains a key hub for Global South nations, ensuring connectivity through the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC).

“The corridor is important not only for Iran and Russia. It’s also important for the other countries in the South. This is the best way to reach Russia. The other way would be the Suez Canal, which is much longer and much more expensive,” Izadi notes.

It also enables the movement of goods beyond Western influence and control, the pundit says, highlighting the importance of the segment. “This is why both sides are interested in finishing this Rasht-Astara railway to make sure that they find another route to go around Western-imposed illegal sanctions against both countries,” he says. — SPUTNIK



Train operation starting on the Yandyki-Olya railroad stretch, crossing the Astrakhan Region on 30 September 2025. It is part of the North-South transnational transport corridor, which will link Russia with Iran, India and Southeast Asia. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

China’s 1st underground natural gas storage facility up and running for 50 years



Workers conduct an airtight check at a natural gas company of Daqing Oilfield in northeast China’s Heilongjiang Province, 3 January 2025. **PHOTO: MA KE/XINHUA**

CHINA’S longest-serving underground natural gas storage facility, located in Daqing Oilfield in the northeastern province of Heilongjiang, has seen injection and extraction of over five billion cubic metres of natural gas over its 50 years of operation.

The Lamadian natural gas storage facility of Daqing Oilfield has operated continuously for over 18,000 days, surpassing the commonly recognized lifespan of 30 to 50 years for gas storage facilities.

In addition, it has maintained a record of zero safety or environmentally hazardous incidents since its establishment 50 years ago.

Recently, the storage facility launched a new round of gas extraction, targeting the withdrawal of 84 million cubic metres of natural gas to support the winter energy supply in Heilongjiang — a region known for severe winter cold.

To address the challenges of storing significant volumes of gas byproducts, Daqing Oilfield built China’s first underground natural gas storage facility in 1975. — Xinhua

Thai queen wins SEA Games gold in sailing

THE queen of Thailand on Thursday won a gold medal in sailing at the South-East Asia Games, a regional competition being held in her country this month.

Queen Suthida, the wife of King Maha Vajiralongkorn, competed in the mixed keelboat SSL47 category, on a 47-foot (14-metre) sailboat with nine other crew members. The queen, 47, served as tactician and helmswoman to lead the Thai team to victory in the waters off Pattaya, ahead of Malaysia and Myanmar. Her gold medal is to be presented to her Thursday by King Vajiralongkorn, 73, whom she married in 2019. — AFP