

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.

Energy Museum opens at Thanlyin Refinery to mark Ministry, Refinery anniversaries

The museum was personally inaugurated by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Chairman of the State Administration Council, highlighting its significance in commemorating the anniversaries of the Ministry of Energy and the Thanlyin Oil Refinery.



Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman General Min Aung Hlaing inspects the exhibits at the Energy Museum in the Oil Refinery compound in Thanlyin, Yangon Region, yesterday.

AN Energy Museum was officially opened yesterday morning, in commemoration of the Ruby Jubilee of the Ministry of Energy and the Centenary of the Thanlyin Oil Refinery, at the Thanlyin Oil Refinery compound in Thanlyin Township, Yangon Region. The museum was inaugurated personally by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission.

The museum displays historical records, documents, scale models, utilitarian objects, and other exhibits tracing the development of Myanmar’s energy sector from the pre-colonial era to the present. It showcases the processes of petroleum and natural gas exploration, extraction, and production, including the tools and equipment used, miniature models, offshore facilities, and special exhibition areas commemorating the centenary of the Thanlyin Oil Refinery. Scale models and detailed displays also highlight ongoing and future projects in the energy sector.

The exhibition has been established to provide the public and students with a comprehensive understanding of the history and development of Myanmar’s energy sector, as well as the sector’s future initiatives. It is open from 10 am to 5 pm, every day except Monday, allowing visitors and students to explore the exhibits in one location. Additionally, books, documents, and energy-related publications will be available for sale, including a biweekly energy newsletter. — MNA/MKKS

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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

2025
General Election
Sunday, 28 December 2025



03
Days

- 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

Bagan hotels fully booked for New Year holidays

ACCORDING to the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism (Bagan branch), almost all hotels in the Bagan Ancient Cultural Heritage Zone are fully booked in the last week of December for the upcoming New Year holidays.

The Bagan-NyaungU cultural zone in NyaungU district of Mandalay Region hosted travellers starting the Thadingyut festival, and now the December holidays, and the travellers have now booked at hotels for the 1-4 January New Year holidays.

“During this year’s December school holidays, many young people and families have visited here. As the upcoming new year approaches, a large number of hotel rooms have already been booked in advance, and hotels are now nearly fully occupied. Some hotels are already fully booked, yet people continue to make reservations. There are also people waiting to visit as replacements in case of cancellation. The tourists have also made room reservations to celebrate the New Year with their

families. Compared to last year, visitor arrivals are expected to increase, and this is likely to create more job opportunities for locals. We are also satisfied with the expansion of employment

opportunities,” said Daw San San Myint, assistant director of the department.

The domestic and international tourists usually visit and explore the 18 prominent tem-

ples, pagodas, and stupas in the Bagan Ancient Cultural Heritage Zone, the Bagan Archaeological Museum, the lacquerware industry that began to emerge in the 11th century, well-known local

products including *Poneyaygyi*, regional food products, handicrafts, and the natural beauty of Bagan.

Some hotels in Bagan are making preparations to provide New Year services, including musical performances. As each hotel offers different and unique services, travellers are satisfied and pleased. Hotel operators also estimate that there will be more visitor arrivals this year compared to last year.

Bagan cultural zone is a place where Myanmar’s ancient cultural heritage is concentrated, including temples and pagodas built by 55 successive Bagan dynasties, as well as ancient artworks from the later Bagan period, Pinya, Inwa, Nyaungyan, and successive Konbaung periods. As these heritage sites strongly attract both domestic and foreign travellers, many visitors are expected to arrive during the New Year period, and as a result, hotel rooms are nearly fully booked in advance. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/KTZH



Travellers are pictured in the Bagan Ancient Cultural Heritage Zone. PHOTO: KANU

NATIONAL

For a nation to achieve development and stability, it is essential that every citizen be fully equipped with knowledge, skills and critical thinking. In particular, for a country like Myanmar undergoing a democratic transition, it is crucial for all of our national brethren to think critically, discern right from wrong and work together for the benefit of the nation.

(Excerpt from the speech delivered by Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the opening ceremony of Dawei City Hall held on 18 September 2025)



Setting national goals from energy self-sufficiency to energy independence called for

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attended the Ruby Jubilee of the Ministry of Energy, the Centenary of the Thanlyin Oil Refinery, and the opening ceremony of the Energy Museum, held yesterday morning at No 1 Oil Refinery (Thanlyin) in Thanlyin, Yangon Region.

ACTING President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission Senior General Min Aung Hlaing urged the Ministry of Energy on 24 December to set national goals ranging from energy self-sufficiency to energy independence.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attended the Ruby Jubilee of the Ministry of Energy, the Centenary of the Thanlyin Oil Refinery, and the opening ceremony of the Energy Museum, which were held yesterday morning at the No 1 Oil Refinery (Thanlyin) in Thanlyin, Yangon Region. The ceremony was also attended by the Secretary of the Commission General Ye Win Oo, Union ministers, the chief minister of Yangon Region, officials, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, and the commander of the Yangon Command.

Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar stated that the Ministry of Energy, established in April 1985, has completed its 40th anniversary and celebrated its ruby jubilee, while the Thanlyin Oil Refinery, established in 1925, has reached its centenary, making this a year of pride for the ministry, which



Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission Senior General Min Aung Hlaing poses for the documentary group photo with attendees at the opening ceremony of the Energy Museum in Thanlyin, Yangon, yesterday.

has a long record of achievements and has played a vital role through sustained efforts to meet the nation's energy needs, the lifeblood of national development.

He recounted that although the Ministry of Energy has existed as a separate department for only 40 years, Myanmar's

petroleum industry has a much longer history dating back to the era of the ancient Myanmar kings, with historical records showing that the British began oil refining in 1871 under the name "Rangoon Oil Company", followed by the construction of the Thanlyin Oil Refinery in 1925 using modern methods with a

daily capacity of 800,000 gallons, which was later expanded in stages to produce various petroleum products before its refining operations were suspended in 2017 due to a lack of raw materials and fuel quality issues that failed to meet market demand.

He said that the Ministry of Energy has been making

continuous efforts to meet the country's fuel needs, noting that the new Thanlyin refinery, with a capacity of 500,000 tonnes per year, is expected to become operational under Phase I and that Phase II will further increase capacity to three million tonnes per year,

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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)

Setting national goals from energy self-sufficiency ...

FROM PAGE 3

while also developing new offshore natural gas projects and oil fields, restoring existing refineries, petrochemical plants, and fertilizer plants to full capacity, and expressing his confidence that the country's energy sector will improve year by year through the use of modern technologies to boost production from existing oil fields, systematic oil-well drilling in cooperation with national oil entrepreneurs, and the upgrading of oil and natural gas pipeline networks.

Senior General recognized that the development of the energy sector's infrastructure is the result of the combined efforts of all experts, professionals, and blue- and white-collar workers who have served in the ministry over the years, and the State expressed its gratitude to all employees of the relevant authorities for the progress and achievements resulting from these efforts.

He said that today, countries around the world are increasingly exploring and combining various energy sources, including oil, natural gas, coal, nuclear, hydro, solar, wind, biomass, and hydrogen, as part of an energy mix, with plans to expand the use of renewable energy in the future, although oil and natural gas remain the primary sources to meet rapidly growing energy demand, and that Myanmar, like other nations, is working to increase renewable energy use through solar and wind power generation, promote electric vehicles to reduce fuel oil consumption, and apply advanced technologies to minimize the environmental impact of oil and natural gas fuels.

He emphasized that, for the country to systematically ex-



Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission Senior General Min Aung Hlaing observes the displayed at the Energy Museum in Thanlyin, Yangon, yesterday.

plore, develop, and utilize its oil and natural gas resources, investment and cooperation with friendly countries as well as local ethnic entrepreneurs are necessary, along with the consistent implementation of technology, research, and human resource development, noting that experience has shown large offshore projects with international oil companies not only meet the country's energy needs but also generate foreign income, urging continued efforts to identify additional large projects that benefit the country and the public, and adding that the ministry is applying AI technology in oil and natural gas exploration, using 3D seismic technology, constructing new oil refineries, producing high-end fuel oil, and accelerating technological advancements, including the construction of additional fertilizer factories,

which should be successfully implemented.

Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission said that relevant departments need to maintain comprehensive records of their development activities, noting that historical records serve as a reference and evidence to sustain long-term work and efforts, allowing future generations to learn about their achievements. He added that by studying the historical records, sculptures, and miniatures displayed in the Energy Museum, the public can understand the developments that have taken place over the years. He urged the officials of the ministry to continue improving and expanding the museum and to successfully implement important projects that will enhance the country's energy security and self-sufficiency, including the upcoming new

Thanlyin Oil Refinery Project.

He continued, saying that, in line with the motto of the Ministry of Energy, "Energy Security is the Benefit of the Nation", the country can achieve energy security and implement energy efficiency programmes to ensure the continuous development of energy and the sustainable use of its valuable natural resources, to advance the interests of the nation and its people. He also wished the country continued success, from the 40th anniversary of the ministry to the centenary of the Thanlyin Oil Refinery.

After the Senior General's speech, the Union Minister of Energy presented the Ministry's achievements and plans, and formally presented a commemorative gift of the 40th anniversary of the Ministry of Energy and the 100th anniversary of the Thanlyin Oil Refinery to

the Acting President and Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission. The Acting President and members then viewed a documentary on the anniversaries. Then, a video clip featuring vocalist Haymar Nay Win singing a poem composed by Union Minister U Ko Ko Lwin to boost morale within the Ministry was played before the ceremony concluded successfully.

At the opening ceremony of the Energy Museum, the Secretary of the Commission General Ye Win Oo, Union Minister for Energy U Ko Ko Lwin, and Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Soe Thein cut the ceremonial ribbon to open the ceremony. The Acting President and Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission inaugurated the Energy Museum's memorial stone by pressing a button and sprinkling fragrant water on it, followed by the Secretary of the Commission and other attendees. The Acting President and members of the delegation then toured the exterior of the museum and posed for a group photo before viewing the exhibits with great interest and providing instructions based on the officials' presentations. The ceremony concluded with the Acting President signing the Energy Museum Visitors' Book.

The second part of the ceremony marked the 40th anniversary of the Ministry of Energy and the 100th anniversary of the Thanlyin Oil Refinery, with the Acting President and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman inaugurating the event using digital technology. Students from the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture and the National University of Arts and Culture, Yangon, then danced to the song "Energy to Power". — MNA/TH

General Aung San Declares Firm Stand Against Election Disruption

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

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



Tatmadaw (Navy) stands tall as a three-dimensional combat-ready force

Tatmadaw (Navy) must have warship readiness, weapons and weapon systems readiness, and individual readiness.

SENIOR General Min Aung Hlaing underlined that Tatmadaw (Navy) must continuously preserve and pass on its existing fine traditions, and uphold the dignity of both Tatmadaw and itself.

Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said so at the ceremony to mark the 78th Anniversary of Tatmadaw (Navy) of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at Thiri Maha Zeya Kyaw Htin Hall of the Naval Training Command Headquarters in Thanlyin Station yesterday morning.

In his address, the Senior General highlighted that Tatmadaw (Navy) has become capable of independently designing, constructing, and operating frigates, and has also strengthened its capabilities with combat submarines as well as amphibious warfare vessels. As a result, Tatmadaw (Navy), which previously could conduct maritime operations only on a limited scale, has now advanced into a force capable of asserting control and operating along the exclusive economic zone and throughout the maritime boundaries.

In the 21st century, he continued that many countries are addressing maritime security challenges such as piracy, human trafficking, drug trafficking, and arms smuggling, in addition to conventional threats. To effectively deal with such threats, they need to have a modern,



Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing return the salute of the Guard of Honour from the aboard the naval vessel Mottama, the Naval Training Command Headquarters, in Thanlyin Station, yesterday.

strong, and capable navy.

In order to enhance maritime capabilities, the Senior General recounted that Tatmadaw (Navy) has not only expanded and strengthened its forces but also established the Myanmar Coast Guard. Led by Tatmadaw (Navy), together with the Myanmar Coast Guard and maritime police force, they must collaboratively work to ensure the security of the nation’s waterways.

He added that only in this way can the nation fully safeguard and protect its territorial

seas, exclusive economic zones, coastal areas, and maritime interests in accordance with international maritime laws.

The Senior General unveiled that the maritime interests of Myanmar extend not only within the territorial seas but also across the offshore waters designated as exclusive economic zones. Therefore, Tatmadaw (Navy) must be capable of protecting and defending them. In addition, to be able to match the naval forces of neighbouring countries along the maritime borders, it is essential to main-

tain a well-organized fleet of various types of highly capable and combat-ready warships.

He stressed that it is impossible to fully protect Myanmar’s vast maritime areas with Tatmadaw (Navy) alone. Only by coordinating with Tatmadaw (Army), Tatmadaw (Air), and the Myanmar Coast Guard can the nation more effectively secure its maritime security sector.

The Senior General revealed that naval operations are inherently multifaceted in nature. To conduct effective and successful modern naval oper-

ations, it is necessary to have a variety of warships, modern weapons and systems, and fully capable naval personnel who can operate in coordinated harmony. In addition, forces must always be trained and organized to carry out marine operations, riverine operations, and land-based combat missions.

To ensure the readiness of warships, he emphasized that vessels are being built and equipped so that they can respond to both conventional and unconventional threats.

NATIONAL

Tatmadaw (Navy) stands tall as a three-dimensional ...



Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing takes the salute of naval vessels led by submarine Minye Kyaw Htin drove in the Single Line Formation and the Line Abreast Formation in Thanlyin yesterday.

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The fleet now includes a full range of ships – from frigates to fast riverine attack boats and auxiliary vessels. Today, Tatmadaw (Navy), possessing not only large warships but also submarines, can operate as a fully three-dimensional combat-ready force.

The Senior General underscored that since large frigates can now be domestically built and deployed, Tatmadaw (Navy) is capable of engaging in all four operational domains: surface warfare, space operations, undersea warfare, and electronic warfare. In the future, this will also enable Tatmadaw (Navy) to more effectively carry out its four main sectors: military, diplomatic, rule of law and humanitarian sectors.

In the diplomatic sector, he explained that Tatmadaw (Navy) has continuously conducted joint exercises and training not only with neighbouring countries' navies and ASEAN navies but also with international naval forces, demonstrating the Tatmadaw's capabilities.

Participation in meetings with ASEAN naval chiefs, discussions with neighbouring and ASEAN navies, and joint exercises with ASEAN and multiple international navies has enabled Tatmadaw (Navy) to successfully and effectively carry out its diplomatic missions.

To make Tatmadaw (Navy) fully combat-ready, he pointed out that continuous efforts must be made to ensure readiness in three areas: warship readiness, weapons and weapon systems readiness, and individual readiness. Each Tatmadaw member must constantly study and train to maintain individual proficiency, and they must be thoroughly trained to become skilled in handling weapons and weapon systems.

In the law enforcement sector, the Senior General underlined that Tatmadaw (Navy) is responsible for preventing and controlling non-traditional threats encountered at sea, such as illegal fishing, human and arms trafficking, illegal logging, unauthorized migration, drug trafficking, piracy, and

armed terrorism. Only by effectively stopping illegal activities and unlawful transport within Myanmar's maritime areas can it contribute meaningfully to maritime security.

In the humanitarian assistance sector, he stated that a policy has been adopted to "act immediately without waiting for any higher orders". This includes helping those in distress at sea, repatriating fellow citizens facing various hardships abroad, carrying out search and rescue operations at sea, providing public health services, and assisting in areas affected by natural disasters or global pandemics. It should be understood that the efforts of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy, and Air) in these areas also play a role in protecting the lives and property of the people.

The Senior General and party watched the screening of the documentary to mark the 78th Anniversary of Tatmadaw (Navy). The Commander-in-Chief (Navy) presented an emblem to mark the 78th Anniversary of Tatmadaw (Navy),

the book on the history of Tatmadaw (Navy), and a photo album to the Senior General.

The Senior General visited the booths of the Tatmadaw (Navy) exhibition.

Also, present at the ceremony were Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of the Senior General; Secretary of the Commission General Ye Win Oo and his wife, retired commanders-in-chief (Navy) and their wives, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Htein Win and his wife, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Tun Aung and his wife, Union-level dignitaries and their wives, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, the commander of Yangon Command, commander of naval commands, commander of naval bases and guests.

The Senior General from the dais aboard the naval vessel Mottama took the salute of the Guard of Honour and inspected it. Meanwhile, naval vessels Yan Taing Aung and Yan Gyi Aung fired 21-gun salutes to the Senior General. Afterwards, naval

vessels led by submarine Minye Kyaw Htin drove in the Single Line Formation and the Line Abreast Formation to salute the SSPC Chairman and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.

The Senior General presented commemorative medals and gifts to officials.

On the occasion, the Senior General said that as long as the world exists, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar will exist; as long as the Union of Myanmar exists, Tatmadaw will exist; and as long as Tatmadaw exists, Tatmadaw (Navy) must also exist. Hence, Tatmadaw (Navy) must continuously preserve and pass on its existing fine traditions, and uphold the dignity of both Tatmadaw and itself.

The Senior General and party left the No 3 Naval Jetty for the Ayeyawady Naval Region Command Headquarters by naval vessel Yadanabon.

Tatmadaw members aboard naval vessels in the rivers saluted the Senior General along his route. — MNA/TTA

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NATIONAL

Students' future relies on teachers' qualifications and commitment

❖ “Since the future of students depends on the teachers’ academic qualifications and their goodwill, it is important for all of you to embody the seven essential virtues of a teacher. These include being worthy of respect, being worthy of affection, being worthy of praise, correcting students firmly when they make mistakes without showing resentment, being able to answer their questions, being able to explain profound principles, and guiding them towards what is beneficial rather than urging them toward what is not.”
(Excerpt from the speech delivered by Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with male and female students from the BEd five-year course No 7 of the University doe Development of National Races of the Union held on 21 October 2025)

Loyalty to oneself is loyalty to the country, says Union Minister for Foreign Affairs

UNION Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe met diplomatic staff assigned to Myanmar embassies, permanent missions, and consulates-general abroad yesterday.

During the session, officials introduced the countries where they had previously served and their upcoming duty locations.

In his guidance, the Union minister said suitable staff are selected to be sent abroad in accordance with the prescribed criteria. As they represent the country, they are required to strictly follow the code of conduct and must respect and give special emphasis to the customs, traditions, and culture of the countries where they will be assigned. They also should strive to improve themselves and carry out their duties with as few mistakes as possible. He emphasized that being loyal to oneself is equivalent to being loyal to



The meeting between Union Minister U Than Swe and diplomatic personnel on overseas assignments is in progress yesterday.

the country, and staff must carefully consider their behaviour and actions, doing only what is appropriate. Challenges they encounter should be transformed

into opportunities and overcome with their best efforts, and they should work together with unity, coordination, and cooperation among colleagues.

He then urged them to upgrade their language proficiency, particularly in widely used languages and those relevant to their assigned countries, includ-

ing diplomatic characteristics, communication skills, language skills and negotiation skills.

He stated the need to know the accurate situation of the politics, economy and geographical issues of the country, and make efforts to promote international communication to be beneficial to the country, and added that self-improvement and unity among colleagues contribute to enhancing national characteristics.

He continued that as staff are carrying out duties abroad on behalf of the country, they must show strong loyalty to both themselves and the nation, live without errors to uphold dignity, learn lessons from challenges and apply their experiences beneficially, pursue continuous learning, maintain unity among staff, and pay special attention to both physical and mental health.

— MNA/KTZH

Yangon Region CM inspects 3rd voter list posting, advance voting process

YANGON Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, together with regional ministers, conducted a field study yesterday afternoon to inspect the third posting of voter lists, public viewing of voter lists, and advance voting activities for the multiparty democratic general election scheduled in December 2025.

The region chief minister inspected the display of voter lists at 1 and 2 Ward administrative offices in Kamayut Township, another display of voter lists and advance voting activities at Phaya Joti religious hall of Mayangon Township and at Pauk Kone ward administrative office in Min-

galadon Township, and a voter lists display at Ward Ka administrative office in Thingangyun Township.

He also met voters and urged them to cooperate with the relevant officials of the township subcommissions, the administrative department and the Ministry of Immigration and Population to be able to know their voter list serial numbers in advance.

The third round of voter lists will be displayed in townships across Yangon Region until 25 December 2025, allowing residents to verify their registration details. — Zwe Htet Ko (IPRD)/KTZH



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein observes the posting of voter lists. PHOTO: ZWE HTET KO (IPRD)

Enjoy Xmas happily to shape safe communities

CHRISTMAS Day is celebrated as the day to mark the birth of Jesus Christ, and the Christmas season is regarded as a time that brings joy, smiles, and peace to many people. It is believed that the Christmas season, which falls in the cold season of Myanmar, will bring peace and tranquillity to the society of Myanmar.

Regarding religion, every person has the right to freely believe and practice the faith or religion they follow. In Myanmar, the 2008 Constitution sets out provisions related to religion and provides legal guarantees. The Constitution also affirms that all citizens are entitled to equal rights to freely believe and practice their religion.

Religion is regarded as one of the essential foundations for peace within human society. It is also a form of knowledge that should guide people toward peace and harmony. Only when individuals possess inner calm and stability can the wider community experience true tranquillity. Although people may follow different religions, the fundamental values of tolerance and forgiveness, which are at the core of all religions, must be upheld to ensure that compassion prevails among all. Extremism and fanaticism should likewise be avoided.

Myanmar is home to people of diverse ethnicities, religions, and beliefs who have long lived together in harmony. Despite these differences, unity has been built through mutual tolerance, understanding, and broad-mindedness. This harmony must continue to be safeguarded, and religious leaders, in particular, are encouraged to guide their followers with proper knowledge, education, and moral discipline.

Christian religious organizations and their followers play an important role in contributing to national stability and prosperity. Beginning from this Christmas season, it is necessary for everyone – both in Myanmar and around the world – to work toward building a peaceful, stable, and harmonious society by following God’s guidance and by fostering mutual understanding and tolerance among all people.

Not only Buddhists but also followers of other major religions in Myanmar, such as Christianity, Islam, and Hinduism, must live together in accordance with the principles of peaceful coexistence. They should also join hands to address challenges within their respective communities. Although their religions differ, they are all citizens of Myanmar and must not allow themselves to be divided by any attempts at instigation. Only when they remain united and live in harmony will national consolidation be strengthened. Such unity will help ensure safer and more secure and safe communities for everyone.

Embracing Tomorrow: Myanmar’s Journey of Innovation and Unity

By Min Min Zan



IN every nation, newspapers serve as mirrors of society, reflecting both the challenges and aspirations of the people. In Myanmar, one of the longest-running English-language newspapers is The Global New Light of Myanmar. Its history stretches back more than a century, and its continued presence highlights the enduring importance of state-owned media in shaping national identity, informing citizens, and connecting Myanmar to the wider world. This article is going to discuss the historical journey of the newspaper and examine the positive roles that state-owned media can play in a developing society.

A Century of History

The origins of The Global New Light of Myanmar can be traced to 1914, when it was first published under the title The New Light of Burma. Founded in Yangon, the newspaper quickly became a platform for English-language readers in the country, offering perspectives on local and international affairs. Over time, it evolved in response to political and social changes, reflecting the shifting landscape of Myanmar’s history.

In 1964, the newspaper was reintroduced as The Working People’s Daily, marking its transformation into a state-owned publication. This change aligned the paper with national priorities, ensuring that it could serve as a channel for communicating government policies and social initiatives to the public. By 1993, the newspaper adopted the name The New Light of Myanmar, continuing its mission as the country’s leading English-language daily.

A major milestone came in 2014, when the publication was rebranded as The Global New Light of Myanmar. This rebranding signalled a renewed commitment to presenting Myanmar’s voice on the international stage. With modern printing technolo-

gy, full-colour editions, and expanded coverage, the newspaper positioned itself as a bridge between Myanmar and the global community. Today, it remains a symbol of continuity, resilience, and adaptation in the face of changing times.

Preserving National Identity

State-owned media plays a vital role in preserving and promoting national identity. In Myanmar, The Global New Light of Myanmar has consistently highlighted the country’s cultural heritage, traditions, and values. By publishing stories about festivals, literature, and historical landmarks, the newspaper helps ensure that younger generations remain connected to their roots. For international readers, it provides a window into Myanmar’s rich cultural tapestry, fostering appreciation and respect for the nation’s identity.

Promoting Education and Knowledge

One of the most positive contributions of state-owned

media is its role in education. Newspapers like The Global New Light of Myanmar serve as accessible sources of information for students, teachers, and lifelong learners. Articles on science, technology, health, and environmental issues broaden public understanding and encourage informed decision-making. In a country where access to resources can be uneven, the newspaper acts as a reliable tool for spreading knowledge across diverse communities.

Supporting National Development

State-owned media often functions as a partner in national development. By reporting on infrastructure projects, healthcare initiatives, and agricultural programs, The Global New Light of Myanmar helps citizens stay informed about progress in their communities. This coverage not only builds public confidence but also encourages participation in national development efforts. Highlighting success stories in-

spires individuals and organizations to contribute to the country’s growth.

Connecting Myanmar to the World

As an English-language newspaper, The Global New Light of Myanmar plays a unique role in connecting Myanmar to the international community. It provides foreign diplomats, investors, and visitors with insights into the country’s policies, culture, and achievements. In doing so, it strengthens Myanmar’s global presence and fosters mutual understanding. For Myanmar citizens, the newspaper offers perspectives on international affairs, helping them engage with global issues and opportunities.

5. Encouraging Unity and Social Cohesion

State-owned media can serve as a unifying force in society. By covering national events, commemorations, and public celebrations, The Global New Light of Myanmar reinforces a sense

of shared identity and collective purpose. In times of challenge, the newspaper provides reassurance and continuity, reminding citizens that they are part of a larger community. This role is particularly important in diverse societies where unity is essential for stability and progress.

Documenting History for Future Generations

Another positive aspect of state-owned media is its function as a historical record. Newspapers capture the daily life of a nation, preserving events, policies, and cultural milestones for future generations. The Global New Light of Myanmar has chronicled more than a century of Myanmar’s journey, offering invaluable resources for historians, researchers, and students. Its archives serve as a living memory of the nation’s evolution, ensuring that the past remains accessible and instructive.

The current sections of The Global New Light of Myanmar include National, Business, Local News, Opinion, Articles, World, Sports, Feature, and Announcement. Before the COVID-19 era, The Global New Light of Myanmar delighted its readers with the vibrant Sunday Special Section, a space dedicated to essays that blended culture, literature, and thoughtful reflections. These essays were not merely articles; they were crafted pieces of art that illuminated the richness of Myanmar’s traditions while embracing modern perspectives. Each Sunday felt like entering a colourful garden of ideas, where writers explored themes of heritage, education, and community life. The section became a cherished highlight of the week, offering readers both intellectual nourishment and aesthetic pleasure. Its pages carried the elegance of storytelling and the dignity of national pride, making the Sunday edition a treasured companion for families, students, and professionals alike.

The Sunday Special Section stood out as one of the most beautiful achievements in the newspaper’s long history. With essays that sparkled like blossoms in a radiant garden, the section embodied creativity, diversity, and harmony. Writers contributed pieces that celebrated Myanmar’s cultural festivals, artistic traditions, and the wisdom of teachers and elders, weaving together narratives that inspired reflection and joy. The layout itself conveyed grandeur, with thoughtful design and engaging presentation that elevated the reading experience. For many, these Sunday pages represented the pinnacle of the newspaper’s charm, a moment when journalism met artistry. It was a time when the paper shone brightest, offering readers not only information but also a sense of wonder and pride in their shared heritage.

The story of The Global New Light of Myanmar is more than the history of a newspaper; it is the story of a nation’s voice expressed through print. From its beginnings in 1914 to its modern incarnation today, the newspaper has adapted to changing times while remaining a steadfast presence in Myanmar’s media landscape. Its role as a state-owned publication highlights the many positive contributions that such media can make: preserving identity, promoting education, supporting development, connecting with the world, encouraging unity, and documenting history.

In a rapidly changing era, the continued relevance of The Global New Light of Myanmar demonstrates the enduring importance of newspapers as instruments of knowledge, culture, and national pride. Far from being merely a source of daily news, it stands as a beacon of continuity and progress, reminding readers both at home and abroad of Myanmar’s resilience and aspirations.

I Say What I See: Enpeace and Depeace – Naming the Fragile Balance

This essay explores how the universal definitions of peace collide with Myanmar’s lived reality, and how the coined terms “enpeace” and “depeace” reveal the processes of building or dismantling reconciliation on the ground.

By @Editor

PEACE, as a word and as an aspiration, carries both universal resonance and local urgency. According to *the Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary*, peace is defined as “a situation or a period of time in which there is no war or violence in a country or an area”, extending further to treaties, negotiations, and fragile accords that attempt to keep societies from collapsing into conflict. *MerriamWebster* broadens this scope, describing peace as “a state of tranquillity or quiet”, encompassing not only freedom from civil disturbance but also inner calm, security, and order within a community. In the Myanmar context, the EnglishMyanmar dictionary translates peace as “ငြိမ်းချမ်းရေး” (*Nyainchamyay*), a term that conveys tranquillity, harmony, and the absence of violence. Yet, in practice, this local rendering often feels aspirational rather than descriptive, as the lived reality remains fractured by political turmoil, ethnic divisions, and the absence of reconciliation. It is precisely this gap between definition and lived experience that compels me, under the pen name *@Editor*, to coin new expressions – “enpeace” to signify the active process of embedding peace into our structures and relationships, and “depeace” to mark the erosion or dismantling of peace when compromise collapses. These neologisms, much like journalese, are not mere linguistic play but deliberate interventions to highlight the paradox of Myanmar’s present: a nation where the dictionary meaning of peace exists in theory, but where the ground reality resists its embodiment. In this essay, part of my series *I Say What I See*, I will explore how these layered definitions – global, local, and coined – intersect with the ongoing struggle to imagine, construct, and preserve peace in a land still searching for reconciliation.

Peace, in its dictionary sense, is deceptively simple: the absence of war; the presence of tranquillity, the assurance of order. Yet when observed on the ground, peace is rarely so straightforward. In Myanmar, the word feels suspended between aspiration and impossibility. Streets may appear calm at times, but beneath the surface lies a constant hum of tension, mistrust, and unresolved grievances. The dictionary’s promise of “tranquillity” becomes a fragile veneer, easily cracked by the weight of history and the persistence of division. It is here that the need for new language arises, for words that capture not only the absence of violence but also the processes that either nurture or dismantle peace. “Enpeace” and “depeace” are my attempts to coin such terms, to give shape to realities that the traditional lexicon cannot fully contain.

“Enpeace” suggests the deliberate act of embedding peace into the structures of daily life. It is not merely the signing of agreements or the silencing of weapons, but the cultivation of trust, compromise, and reconciliation. To enpeace is to plant seeds of dialogue in fractured soil, to build bridges across divides that have long seemed unbridgeable. It is a verb of construction, of effort, of intentionality.

SEE PAGE 13

NATIONAL

Tatmadaw (Navy) marks 78th anniversary with ceremonial parade, merit-making rites



The 78th Anniversary of Tatmadaw (Navy) celebrated yesterday, attended by Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Htein Win.

A ceremony to mark the 78th anniversary of Tatmadaw (Navy) took place yesterday morning at the parade ground of the Naval Training Command Headquarters in the Thanlyin Station, with Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Htein Win in attendance. Also, present were Chief of Staff (Navy) Vice-Admiral Aye

Min Htwe, retired Commanders-in-Chief (Navy), commanders of Naval Commands, naval base commanders, responsible officials from the Thanlyin Station, officers, other ranks, family members, and guests. During the ceremony, proceedings followed the prescribed programme, saluting the nation-

al flag and fallen members of the Tatmadaw, the recitation of the Four Oaths of Allegiance, and an inspection of the parade units by the Commander-in-Chief (Navy). Admiral Htein Win then delivered an address marking the 78th anniversary of the Tatmadaw (Navy), took the salute from the marching parade col-

umns, and departed the parade ground. Besides, a ceremony for listening to Paritta sermons and offering alms to monks to commemorate the 78th anniversary of the Tatmadaw (Navy) took place at the Maha Nawanikazaya Mingala Hall within the Thanlyin Station. The ceremony was at-

tended by the senior members of the Sangha led by the Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, the Principal Patron of the Minkyaung First Buddhist Learning Monastery in Thanlyin, Agga Maha Pandita, Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Dr Bhaddanta Candima Bhivamsa, along with the Ovadacariya of the Board of Trustees of the historic Kyaikkhauk Pagoda, the Ovadacariya of the Thanlyin Township Sangha Nayaka Committee, the Chairman of the Suddhamma Vinaya Dora Pawaranagon Association, and the Principal Patron of MyoU Setpyitkwin Monastery Bhaddanta Teja, accompanied by venerable monks. Those attending the religious ceremony included Admiral Htein Win and his wife, Vice-Admiral Aye Min Htwe and his wife, senior naval officers, officers, other ranks, family members, and guests. — MNA/KZL

Govt declares online scam, gambling eradication a national duty; vows sustained nationwide crackdown

THE Myanmar Government is carrying out clearance operations inside illegal buildings located in the Shwe Kokko area and the KK Park area, where online scam and gambling activities have been most heavily concentrated. These operations include the systematic demolition and destruction of illegal structures, as well as the disposal of seized items that were used in online scams and gambling operations. The work is being undertaken by a joint task force comprising security

personnel, administrative bodies and relevant local authorities. As part of ongoing efforts to combat online scams and gambling, further demolitions were carried out yesterday in the Myawaddy-Maethawtalay (KK Park) area. Three illegal four-storey buildings located in Section 3, which had been used to conduct online scams and gambling activities, were demolished. As a result, out of a total of 635 illegal buildings in the KK Park area, 494 have now been systematically de-

molished. Among the remaining buildings, those whose demolition had already been completed using machinery have also been subjected to additional destruction using fire barrels to ensure complete eradication. Such operations have been conducted since 14 December, and as of yesterday, a further five two-storey buildings have been destroyed, bringing the total number of fully demolished two-storey buildings to 46. Similarly, inspections of buildings used in online fraud



This map shows ongoing demolition measures in the KK Park Section 3.



These photos reveal the illegally built two-storey flats destroyed in the KK Park Section 3, Myawady Township, Kayin State.

activities in the Shwe Kokko area have been conducted since 18 November. To date, 169 illegal buildings have been identified. Measures to seal and confiscate these structures to prevent any further use have been ongoing, and yesterday, an additional two illegal seven-storey buildings were sealed and confiscated, bringing the total number of sealed illegal buildings to 163, it is reported. In addition, items used in online scams and gambling ac-

tivities in the KK Park and Shwe Kokko areas were systematically destroyed by fire yesterday to prevent any further use. The government regards the eradication of online scams and gambling as a national duty and will continue its efforts to ensure that such activities cannot take root anywhere in Myanmar. These efforts will be carried out in coordination not only with domestic forces but also with the governments of the neighbouring countries. — MNA/KZL

NATIONAL

Mohinga earns spot on global top 20 soup list

COUNTRIES around the world gain international recognition and enhance their national prestige through their ancient cultures, traditional heritage, cuisine, technology, and industrial sectors. In this regard, it has been learned that Myanmar’s traditional dish, Mohinga, has been included among the world’s 20 best soups.

Along with Myanmar’s Mohinga, soups from China, Japan, France, Spain, Turkiye, Portugal, Nigeria, Ukraine, Peru, Algeria, Libya, Tunisia, West Africa, Morocco, Georgia, Brazil, Mexico, Indonesia, Vietnam, and Thailand have been designated as some of the world’s best soups.

“Mohinga is one of the most well-known traditional foods of Myanmar. In hotels in Bagan,



A dish of Mohinga (rice vermicelli in fish soup) a traditional Myanmar dish, served with an assortment of vegetable.

Mohinga is often served as breakfast, and not only local people but also foreign visitors have come to enjoy it. We are also happy as we have seen foreign tourists specifically asking

about Mohinga at hotel reception counters and requesting it to eat. We feel happy and proud that Myanmar’s Mohinga is being recognized as one of the world’s 20 best soups. I also be-

lieve that other Myanmar traditional dishes will be able to reach and be showcased to the world,” said Daw San San Myint, assistant director of the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism (Bagan Branch).

Mohinga, which is part of Myanmar’s traditional cuisine, is especially favoured by the people of Myanmar. Mohinga soup made with catfish and chitala chitala is considered the most delicious, and due to its rich aroma and taste, foreigners have also come to enjoy it. As it is available everywhere across the country, regardless of region, Mohinga is eaten not only as breakfast but also in the evening.

“Our shop has been open for 50 years. In addition to artists, foreign customers also come to

eat here. In the past, we opened in the evening, so there were even more customers. The key to Mohinga is the taste of the soup. Because we cook it with catfish to ensure good flavour, we have maintained our customers to the present day. Knowing that Myanmar’s Mohinga has been included among the world’s best soups makes me feel happy and proud as a seller,” said Daw Nwe Nwe, Mohinga shop owner from 46th street in Yangon.

The inclusion of Myanmar’s traditional food, Mohinga, among the world’s 20 best soups is expected to support the country’s tourism sector. It will also help introduce Myanmar’s traditional cuisine to the world and raise awareness of other Myanmar traditional dishes. — Thitsa (MNA)/KTZH

Myanmar, India hold 1st coord meeting to boost tourism cooperation

DISCUSSIONS are currently underway between Myanmar and India to promote tourism cooperation between the two countries, and the first Myanmar-India Tourism Promotion Coordination Meeting was held on 23 December at the meeting hall of the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization, using a hybrid format, according to the organization.

At the meeting, participants discussed drafting forward-looking plans to create a more pleasant, relaxing and culturally enriched environment to facilitate tourist travel between Myanmar and

southern India. They also discussed the formation of a working group to promote tourism cooperation between the two countries.

In addition, discussions covered the drafting of a Plan of Action (PoA) for tourism cooperation between Myanmar and India, the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote tourism between the two countries, preparations to draft MoUs by both sides, the submission of tourism programmes by India’s tourism company Aerionyx Global Representative to the Myanmar side, and the provi-

sion of video clips showcasing Myanmar’s potential tourism programmes to the Indian side. In addition, the coordination measures required to hold the second coordination meeting were also discussed.

The meeting was attended by responsible officials from the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization, the Myanmar Economic Counsellor based in Kolkata, officials from the Myanmar Tourism Federation and relevant associations, as well as representatives from India’s tourism company Aerionyx Global Representative. — ASH/MKKS



This image shows the first Myanmar-India Tourism Promotion Coordination Meeting held in a hybrid format on 23 December 2025.

Academy star set to light up Amarapura Icon New Year Concert

A live music concert titled “Mandala Pwekhin Amarapura Icon New Year Event”, featuring singers Academy Tun Tun and Zaw Shine Htet, will be held at Amarapura Icon in Amarapura Township, Mandalay Region, on the evening of 31 December, starting at 5 pm, according to Academy singer Tun Tun, who will be performing at the event.

“On New Year’s Eve, I will be at Amarapura Icon in Mandalay. Many young singers will also be taking part. I would like to invite everyone to come and enjoy New Year’s Eve at Amarapura Icon with live music and songs,” said Academy singer Tun Tun.

Po Sein Entertainment organizes the Mandala Pwekhin Amarapura Icon New Year Event. In addition to Academy singer Tun Tun and singer Zaw Shine Htet, the concert will feature performances by singers Paing Thit, Khant Oak Soe, Kaday Bhone Myat, Aye Thandar Bo, July Wint Hte, guest singer Tin Myo Oo, and DJ LiAM. — ASH/KZL



Singers who will be performing at the Mandalay Fairground music concert.

The Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

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Ayeyawady eggplants supplied to Yangon, other towns

EGGPLANT cultivation in Danubyu Township, Ayeyawady Region, is thriving, distributing them to Yangon and other townships, according to the Department of Consumer Affairs.

Seedlings are raised in nursery beds and later transplanted into dug holes. Farmers apply natural fertilizers and pesticides during cultivation to protect them from pest infestations. Eggplants can be harvested 60 days after cultivation.

Cultivation cost is estimated at one million Kyat per acre, with a yield of up to 650 viss per acre. They can earn a porfit of about K170,000 per acre.

Danubyu Township in Ay-



eyawady Region is an agriculture-based town with good soil and water resources (rainwater, river water and underground water). Local farmers grow a variety of seasonal vegetables such as cucumber, chilli pepper, gourd, roselle, long bean, radish, lettuce, and cauliflower throughout the whole year. Residents in Danubyu Township engage in upland farming and gardening year-round. — NN/KK

This photo shows a pile of eggplant and vegetables in a market in Yangon.

Rice education campaign to guide consumers' choices

PRESIDENT U Ye Min Aung of the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF), announced that an educational programme will be implemented to ensure consumers can make informed choices regarding the quality, taste, and fair pricing of rice at the Rice Knowledge Briefing 2025, held on 24 December, at the Melia Hotel in Yangon.

“Myanmar has a variety of rice types. Many new brands and packaging styles have also emerged with various prices. This event is designed to educate consumers – particularly

housewives – so they can select the right product at the correct price and quality. We have also invited celebrities to help disseminate this information and raise awareness about quality, taste, and fair market rates,” he said.

It aims to deepen consumer understanding of rice varieties, enabling them to recognize the specific quality and market value of the rice of their choice.

“In Myanmar, the Pawsan variety is cultivated in various regions, including Shwebo,

Myaungmya, Pathein and Yekyi. They are of good quality. We must ensure that traders and millers do not engage in dishonest blending. We want to foster market transparency. By empowering consumers with knowledge, they cannot be misled by inaccurate information,” he added.

Furthermore, he stated that specialized training sessions for housewives will be included in the programme, and these educational efforts will be carried out as a continuous process. — MT/ZN



CBM sells over US\$700K to importers



The facade of the Central Bank of Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw.

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold over US\$358,000 to edible oil-importing companies and \$349,000 to fuel oil-importing companies on 23 December.

CBM sold over \$1 million to edible oil-importing companies and over \$653,000 to fuel oil-importing companies on 22 December, in addition to an injection of \$30,000 from CMP companies into the market.

CBM sold eight million baht to business entities on 18 December.

CBM announced on 17 December that it would sell \$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 the edible oil-importing companies on 16 December, in addition to an injection of \$400,000 and

300,000 yuan into the market.

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

I Say What I See: Enpeace and DePeace – Naming the Fragile Balance

FROM PAGE 9

In Myanmar’s current circumstances, enpeace would mean more than a political settlement; it would mean the weaving of a social fabric strong enough to withstand differences, the nurturing of empathy where suspicion has taken root, and the recognition of shared humanity in the face of fragmentation. Without enpeace, peace remains a hollow word, a definition trapped in dictionaries but absent from lived experience.

By contrast, “de-peace” marks the erosion of that fragile state. It is the undoing of tranquility, the dismantling of compromise, the return to hostility. Depeace is not always loud or sudden; sometimes it creeps in quietly, through broken promises, neglected grievances, or the slow hardening of hearts. In Myanmar, depeace manifests in the widening of divides, the silencing of dialogue, and the normalization of mis-

trust. It is the opposite of reconciliation, the unravelling of fragile bonds before they can take root. To depeace is to strip away the possibility of harmony, leaving only the residue of conflict and the shadow of what might have been. In this sense, depeace is not just the absence of peace but its active dismantling, a regression into cycles that perpetuate instability.

The interplay between enpeace and depeace reflects the paradox of Myanmar’s present. On one hand, there are moments of quiet, gestures of dialogue, and aspirations for reconciliation. On the other, there are fractures that deepen, silences that grow heavier, and compromises that collapse before they can be realized. The ground reality is neither fully peaceful nor fully violent, but suspended in a liminal space where definitions falter. Dictionaries tell us what peace should mean, but the lived experience demands new words to capture its frag-



To enpeace is to breathe life into the word, to make it tangible through compromise, dialogue, and the slow weaving of trust. **ILLUSTRATION: CONCEPT ART**

ile, contested nature. Enpeace and depeace are not just linguistic inventions; they are mirrors held up to reality, reflecting both the possibilities and the failures of our collective journey.

In observing this landscape, one sees how peace is not a static condition but a process, constantly negotiated and renegotiated. It is built in

conversations, in compromises, in the willingness to see beyond one’s own perspective. It is lost in silence, in stubbornness, in the refusal to acknowledge the other. The act of enpeace requires courage, patience, and imagination; the act of depeace requires only neglect, indifference, or hostility. The challenge, then, is to recognize these processes as

they unfold, to name them, and to confront them. Language becomes a tool not only for description but for intervention, a way of making visible what is otherwise hidden in the daily rhythms of life.

This essay, part of my series *I Say What I See*, is not an attempt to prescribe solutions but to observe, to coin, to articulate. By naming enpeace and depeace, I seek to highlight the fragile balance on which Myanmar’s future rests. Peace is not yet here, but neither is it entirely absent. It hovers, elusive, waiting to be enpeaceed into existence or depeaceed into oblivion. The choice lies not in definitions but in actions, in the willingness to move beyond words into the difficult work of reconciliation. Until then, peace remains both a promise and a paradox, a word defined in dictionaries but contested in reality, a vision glimpsed but not yet grasped.

Peace, then, is not

a static noun but a verb in motion, a fragile balance between enpeace and depeace. To enpeace is to breathe life into the word, to make it tangible through compromise, dialogue, and the slow weaving of trust. To depeace is to strip it bare, to reduce it to a hollow sound that no longer shelters hope. Myanmar today stands at this crossroads, where the dictionary’s promise collides with the ground’s reality, and where language itself becomes a mirror of our struggle. By naming these processes, by saying what I see, I hope to remind us that peace is not given but made, not permanent but fragile, not abstract but lived. It is a choice renewed each day, a path that must be walked even when the terrain is uncertain. And until we learn to enpeace more than we depeace, the word will remain suspended between aspiration and absence – a reminder of what we long for, and of what we must still build together.

Italy fines Ryanair \$300 mn for abuse of dominant position

ITALY’S competition authority said on Tuesday it had fined low-cost airline Ryanair more than 255 million euros (\$300 million) for allegedly abusing its dominant position to block travel agencies’ access to its services.

Ryanair said in a statement that it would appeal the decision, calling it “bizarre” and “unsound”.

The move comes a day after the antitrust body fined US tech giant Apple 98 million euros, accusing it of abusing its dominant position in the mobile app market.

– AFP

Cambodia earns US\$9.71 bln from exports to ASEAN, EU in first 11 months of 2025

CAMBODIA made US\$9.71 billion from the exports of products to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the European Union (EU) in the first 11 months of 2025, said a Ministry of Commerce’s report on Wednesday. The report showed that the

kingdom shipped goods worth \$5.13 billion to its fellow ASEAN member states, a year-on-year increase of 8.9 per cent.

Meanwhile, it exported products worth \$4.58 billion to the EU market during the January-November period this year,

up 13.6 per cent year-on-year. The ASEAN market represented 18.1 per cent and the EU market accounted for 16.1 per cent of Cambodia’s total export volume of 28.3 billion dollars in the first 11 months this year, the report said. — Xinhua

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
HOLIDAY NOTICE

AS the wharves, warehouses and chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 1st JANUARY 2026 (International New Year Day) and 4th JANUARY 2026 (Independence Day), Loading, Unloading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V CHANA BHUM VOY.NO. (912W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CHANA BHUM VOY.NO. (912W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **25-12-2025** 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.

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Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

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We, **Ningbo Cycle Chemical Co., Ltd** would like to change the Distributor of the following products, from **Golden Wish Agribusiness Co., Ltd** to **Thu Thu Hein Co., Ltd**. If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, Yangon, from here to next (2) weeks.

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ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD



French farmers have been fuming over a litany of issues, including a trade deal under negotiation between the European Union and South American bloc Mercosur. **PHOTO: AFP**

Macron meets French farmers in bid to defuse anger over trade deal

FRENCH President Emmanuel Macron on Tuesday met farmers’ unions to discuss a controversial free trade deal and the government’s handling of a cow disease that has led to protests and roadblocks.

It was the first meeting between Macron and union leaders since the start of a protest movement against a mass cull of cows to contain the spread of nodular dermatitis, widely known as lumpy skin disease.

French farmers have been fuming over a litany of issues, including a

French farmers launched intense nationwide protests, utilizing tractor blockades and dumping agricultural waste to oppose the proposed EU-Mercosur free trade agreement.

trade deal under negotiation between the European Union and South American bloc Mercosur, with any further decisions postponed to January.

“The purpose of the meeting was to try to put out the fire that is raging across the countryside,”

Stephane Galais of the Confederation Paysanne union told journalists after the meeting, calling for “strong structural measures”. “We’ve passed the ball to them. It’s in their court,” said Pierrick Horel, head of the Young Farmers union. — AFP

Black box recovered from Libyan general’s crashed plane

TURKISH authorities found the cockpit voice recorder and black box from a private jet that crashed Wednesday killing the head of Libya’s armed forces and his four aides.

The Falcon 50 aircraft requested an emergency landing because of electrical failure minutes after it took off from the Turkish capital Ankara, but contact was lost, Turkish officials said. The plane was returning to Tripoli.

The wreckage was located by Turkish security personnel in the Haymana district near Ankara.

Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya told reporters at the crash site that the plane’s voice recorder and the flight



The last photo of Libya’s army chief Lieutenant-General Mohammed al-Haddad, hours before his death. **PHOTO: TURKISH DEFENCE MINISTRY/AFP**

data recorder (black box) had been recovered.

“The examination and evaluation processes of these devices have been initiated,” he said. — AFP

Thailand, Cambodia start General Border Committee secretariat meeting

MILITARY delegates from Thailand and Cambodia convened a meeting at the Thai side of the border in Chanthaburi province on Wednesday to prepare for formal talks regarding a ceasefire and monitoring mechanisms along their disputed border.

The secretariat-level meeting of the General Border Committee (GBC) began at the Ban Phak Kat permanent checkpoint. At around 4:25 pm local time, the Cambodian delegation arrived for a half-hour preliminary discussion. Speaking to reporters after the session, GBC Secretary for the Thai side Nuttapong Praokaew stated that the initial talks focused on setting the agenda for a full-delegation meeting scheduled for 9 am on Thursday. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

US denies visas to EU ex-commissioner, four others over tech rules

THE US State Department said Tuesday it would deny visas to a former EU commissioner and four others, accusing them of seeking to “coerce” American social media platforms into censoring viewpoints they oppose.

“These radical activists and weaponized NGOs have advanced censorship crackdowns by foreign states – in each case targeting American speakers and American companies,” the department said in a statement announcing the sanctions.

The measure targeted Thierry Breton, the former top tech regulator at the European Commission, who often clashed with tech tycoons such as Elon Musk over their obligations to follow EU rules. — AFP

Israel launches airstrikes on southern Lebanon

ISRAELI warplanes carried out a series of airstrikes on Wednesday targeting multiple areas in southern Lebanon, according to Lebanese media reports and the Israeli army.

Lebanon’s official National News Agency said Israeli warplanes launched several air-to-ground missiles around 10 am, striking Wadi al-Numairiyah and Wadi Houmine in the Nabatieh area.

The agency added that the attacks coincided with intensive unmanned aerial vehicle flights at medium altitude over towns in Nabatieh.

A Lebanese army intelligence source told Xinhua that Israeli warplanes carried out 11 strikes on areas containing Hezbollah positions, firing about 20 air-to-ground missiles that caused powerful explosions and material damage. No immediate reports of casualties were available. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Shan United go 3 points clear as Yangon United draw in MNL

DEFENDING champions Shan United moved three points clear at the top of the table in the 2025–2026 Myanmar National League (MNL) after securing a late victory on 24 December.

At Thuwunna Youth Training Centre, Shan United edged Thitsa Arman FC 3-2 in a hard-fought encounter. The league leaders capitalized on Yangon United’s goalless draw with Ayeyawady United to extend their advantage at the summit. Despite making several changes to their starting line-up, Shan United maintained their winning momentum, although they faced stern resistance and needed a stoppage-time goal to seal the result.

Thitsa Arman took the lead in 23 minutes through Saw Myo Zaw, who pounced on an error by Shan United goalkeeper Pyae Phyo Thu. Shan United responded four minutes later when Sa Aung Pyae Ko levelled the score. The forward struck again just before half-time to give Shan



This image displays Shan United and Thitsa Arman players vying for the ball during their MNL match. **PHOTO: MNL**

United a 2-1 lead at the break. In the second half, both sides pressed for goals, and Pyae Sone Aung equalized for Thitsa Arman in 84 minutes. However, Shan United found the decisive breakthrough in 90+3 minutes when Mark Sarki headed

home from a corner kick. Sa Aung Pyae Ko was named Man of the Match. After nine matches, Shan United have collected 25 points, while Thitsa Arman remain on eight points.

Meanwhile, at Yangon United Sports Complex, Yangon United and Ayeyawady United played out a goalless draw. Yangon United dropped points as they sought to maintain pressure on the leaders ahead of a direct clash, while Ayeyawady United earned a valuable point. Ayeyawady goalkeeper Soe Arkar claimed the Man of the Match award. Following the match, Yangon United sit second with 22 points from nine matches, while Ayeyawady United have 11 points.

Matchday Nine concludes on 25 December, with Hanthawady United facing Dagon Star United at Thuwunna Youth Training Centre, while Maha United take on Dagon Port at Thihadipa Stadium. — Shine Htet Zaw/KZL

Arsenal's Kepa Arrizabalaga eager for more League Cup heroics against Chelsea

ARSENAL goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga is relishing the prospect of knocking former club Chelsea out of the League Cup following his key role in a penalty shootout win over Crystal Palace.

The Gunners went

through

to the semi-finals on Tuesday after Kepa saved Maxence Lacroix’s spot-kick in a dramatic 8-7 shootout success following a 1-1 draw with Palace at the Emirates Stadium.

Kepa spent seven years with the Blues before moving to north London in pre-season and he could now deny his old side a spot in the first major final of the current campaign. — AFP

Arsenal goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga celebrates saving the shoot-out penalty of Crystal Palace’s Maxence Lacroix to win an English League Cup quarterfinal at the Emirates. **PHOTO: AFP**

Real Madrid forward Endrick joins Lyon on loan

REAL Madrid and Lyon have agreed a deal for Brazilian striker Endrick to spend the second half of the season on loan with the Ligue 1 club, both sides announced on Tuesday.

Lyon will pay Real Madrid around one million euros (US\$1.18 million) for the loan, which does not include

an option to make the move permanent at the end of the campaign.

The 19-year-old joined Real Madrid in the summer of 2024. He scored one goal in 22 La Liga appearances last season, most of them as a substitute, but netted five times to help the club reach the Copa del Rey final.

This season, Endrick has lost playing time due to injury, making just three appearances — one each in La Liga, the Cup and the UEFA Champions League. The loan move is expected to give him more minutes as he looks to secure a place in Brazil’s squad for the 2026 FIFA World Cup. — Xinhua



Endrick has scored seven goals in 40 appearances for Real Madrid. **PHOTO: AFP / FILE**

Macron meets French farmers in bid to defuse anger over trade deal
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WORLD

Russia carries out about 87% of trade with non-Western countries – Deputy Prime Minister

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexei Overchuk stated that Russia's economy has successfully shifted towards the East and Global South, with approximately 87 per cent of its trade now conducted with non-Western countries.

RUSSIA'S economy has turned to the East, and about 87 per cent of trade is carried out with non-Western countries, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexei Overchuk said on Wednesday.

"There is a shift in the [Russian] economy towards the East, towards the Global South, towards emerging markets. Over the past five to six years, our economy has turned to the East. And today, about 87 per cent of our trade in physical terms is carried out with non-Western countries," Overchuk said in an interview with Rossiya 24 TV channel. — SPUTNIK



Vladivostok Port, located on the scenic shores of Golden Horn Bay in the Russian Far East, serves as a vital maritime and cultural link between Russia and the Asia-Pacific region. PHOTO: PIXABAY



The image displays the Indian Space Research Organization's (ISRO) LVM3-M6 rocket at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, India, preparing for the BlueBird Block-2 mission. PHOTO: ISRO

Heaviest satellite ever lifted from Indian soil using an Indian launcher: ISRO

INDIAN Space Research Organization (ISRO) Chairman V Narayanan on Wednesday hailed the successful launch of the BlueBird Block-2 communication satellite, calling it the "heaviest satellite ever lifted from Indian soil using an Indian launcher".

Narayanan highlighted that the satellite was injected into its intended orbit with precision, marking a significant achievement for ISRO.

During his speech, V Narayanan said, "Launch vehicle has successfully and precisely injected the BlueBird Block 2 communication satellite in the intended orbit. This is the first dedicated commercial launch for a customer from the USA, that is AST SpaceMobile... This is our 104th launch from Sriharikota, also the 9th successful mission of the LVM-3 launch vehicle, demonstrating its 100 per cent reliability..."

This mission, which was the first dedicated commercial launch for US-based AST SpaceMobile, also marked the 104th launch from Sriharikota and the ninth successful flight of the LVM-3 launch vehicle. — ANI

Pope Leo XIV calls for global truce on Christmas Day

POPE Leo XIV on Tuesday called for a global truce on Christmas Day, expressing "great sadness" that "apparently Russia rejected a request" for one.

"I am renewing my request to all people of good will to respect a day of peace — at least on the feast of the birth of our Saviour," Leo told reporters at his residence in Castel Gandolfo near Rome.

Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022 and has repeatedly rejected calls for a ceasefire saying it would only give a military advantage to Ukraine. "Among the things that cause me great sadness is the fact that Russia has apparently rejected a request for a truce," the pope said. — AFP