

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.

Citizens unite
to shape a
prosperous
national future

Groups and individuals representing diverse viewpoints were once again brought together to engage in dialogue and negotiation aimed at resolving ongoing conflicts.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing urged that with a new government emerging from elections, everyone continue to actively and energetically cooperate in nation-building efforts just as they are doing now.

As a gesture of honouring the 78th Anniversary of Independence Day, a ceremony to confer honorary titles on recipients took place at Thabin Hall of the Office of the National Defence and Security Council in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning, attended by 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, who delivered a speech and presented honorary titles.

Speaking on the occasion,

the Senior General urged those who are already working hand in hand with the State to continue cooperating for the benefit of the nation and its economy. He also encouraged those who have not yet joined in collaborative efforts to align themselves with the national and State interests and to work together promptly with the government.

He continued that Tatmadaw, entrusted with the responsibility of defending and safeguarding the State, is an integral part of the nation, and its members also emerge from among the people themselves.

He recounted that Tatmadaw has taken the lead in resolving the political challenges and difficulties that the State has faced. It is essential to emphasize that all citizens should thoroughly study, understand, and appreciate the historical



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 confers the Alinka Kyaw Swa title on Yenantha Soe Hlaing at the conferring of honorary titles on recipients at the Office of the National Defence and Security Council in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

experiences that the nation has undergone.

The Senior General extended an invitation to the groups and individuals with differing views and opinions once again to meet, discuss, and negotiate to resolve conflicts.

He said that it is well known to all the honorary title recipients and distinguished guests that the Myanmar Tatmadaw, hand in hand with the ethnic national peoples, have bravely defended the country to ensure the enduring stability of independence and sovereignty, and that as a result, independence and sovereignty have been preserved up to the present day.

SEE PAGE 3

NATIONAL

Notification 1/2026

CONTINUED FROM YESTERDAY

- 21. Bhaddanta Vepulla, State Pariyatti Sasana University, Ward 7, Mayangon Township, Yangon Region
- 22. Bhaddanta Pandita, Kyaukpadaung Buddhism Learning Centre, Myitta Nyunt Ward, Tamway Township, Yangon Region
- 23. Bhaddanta Khemacara, Ywama Buddhism Learning Centre, West Ywama Ward, Insein Township, Yangon Region
- 24. Dr Bhaddanta Candobhasa, Kyauknitawya Buddhism Learning Centre, Mongthauk Village, Nyaungshwe Township, Shan State
- 25. Bhaddanta Subhoga, Hawkhamkyaung Buddhism Learning Centre, Ward 1, Laikha, Shan State
- 26. Bhaddanta Kovida Bhivamsa, Shwehintha Tawya Monastery, Ward 7, Nyaung-don, Ayeyawady Region
- 27. Bhaddanta Vilasa, Atwin Padamya Buddhism Learning Centre, Letthama Ward, Hinthada, Ayeyawady Region
- 28. Bhaddanta Jotissara, Peinnekwins Monastery, Peinnekwins Village, Kyangin Township, Ayeyawady Region

Title recipient Sayadaws abroad

- 29. Ven Ankumbure Pemasansha Thero, Len Purana Viharaya, SandasiriDunu-wila, Medamahanuwara, Sri Lanka
- 30. Ven Karagoda Uyangoda Maithri Moorthi Maha Thero, Sri Dhammananda, Pirivena, Balangoda, Sri Lanka

Tipitakadhara Dhammabhandagarika Title

- 1. Bhaddanta Paññavamsa Bhivamsa, Tipitaka Maha Thitsa Aungmyay Mon-astery, Paungku Nyana Ward, Pale Myothit, Mingaladon Township, Yangon Region

Aggamaha Ganthavacaka Pandita Title

- 1. Bhaddanta Uttamavamsa, Khemathiwun Buddhism Learning Centre, Kha-mathiri Ward, Myitkyina, Kachin State
- 2. Bhaddanta Sumangalasami, Thumingalayama Aungchanmyae Monastery, Mawphaung/NgaU Ward, Myitkyina, Kachin State
- 3. Bhaddanta Uttama, International Buddhist Education Centre (IBEC), Thawtapan Ward, Sagaing, Sagaing Region
- 4. Dr Bhaddanta Kavidhaja, Sitagu International Buddhist Academy, Thawtapan Ward, Sagaing, Sagaing Region
- 5. Bhaddanta Tissa, Maha Dhammikayama Ohntaw Buddhism Learning Centre, Ywakauk Ward, Pyinmana, Nay Pyi Taw
- 6. Dr Bhaddanta Caritta, Saddhamma Wepulla Buddhism Learning Centre, Doenwe Village-tract, Dekkhinathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw
- 7. Dr Bhaddanta Paññajota, Shwelayaung Buddhism Learning Centre, Kyauk-myint Village, Shwedaung Township, Bago Region
- 8. Bhaddanta Setthila, Zawtikayon Pali Tekkatho Monastery, Hsandaw Ward, Pyay, Bago Region
- 9. Bhaddanta Kovidajoti, Thukhitayama Buddhism Learning Centre, Yadanabon Ward 11, Okshitpin, Padaung Township, Bago Region
- 10. Dr Bhaddanta Tejaniya Lankara, Maha Gandayon Buddhism Learning Centre, Ward 1, Myohla, Yedashe Township, Bago Region
- 11. Bhaddanta Padicca, Maha Withutayama Buddhism Learning Centre, Hson-kon Village, Hsinbyukyun, Salin Township, Magway Region
- 12. Bhaddanta Kalyana, Lelutaung Monastery, Lelu Village, Myothit Township, Magway Region
- 13. Bhaddanta Pandicca, Thein Monastery, Masoeyein Taikthit, Seinpan Ward, Mahaaungmyay Township, Mandalay Region
- 14. Bhaddanta Arindama, Withokdayon Shwegyin Monastery, Ward 1, PyinOoL-win, Mandalay Region
- 15. Dr Bhaddanta Parama, State Pariyatti Sasana University, Dawnabwa Ward, Aungmyaythazan Township, Mandalay Region
- 16. Bhaddanta Kesara, Myole Shwezigon Buddhism Learning Centre, Ward 4, PyinOoLwin, Mandalay Region
- 17. Bhaddanta Paññasami Bhivamsa, Taingkyi Biwuntha Monastery, Maniya-danayama Myataung Monastery, West Yadanabonmi Ward, Mahaaungmyay Township, Mandalay Region
- 18. Bhaddanta Nandiya, East Gangaw Buddhism Learning Centre, Hline Ward, Mawlamyine, Mon State

TO BE CONTINUED

Notification 2/2026

CONTINUED FROM YESTERDAY

Wunna Kyaw Htin Title

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| 1. U Aye Kyaw | Deputy Minister | Ministry of Electric Power |
| 2. U Mya | Legal Expert | Supreme Court of the Union |
| 3. U Soe Thein | Member | Advocate Council |

Alinka Kyaw Swa Title

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1. Ludu U Hla | Writer, Journalist |
| 2. Ludu Daw Amar | Writer, Journalist |
| 3. Mya Than Tint | Writer |
| 4. Tha Ga Doe | Writer, Journalist |
| 5. U Thein Pe (Thein Pe Myint) | Journalist, Writer |
| 6. U Htay Myaing (Dagon Tayar) | Writer |
| 7. U Kyin Swe (Thawda Swe) | Writer |
| 8. U Tin (Dagon Shwe Hmyar) | Writer |
| 9. U Moe Hnin (P Moe Nin) | Writer |
| 10. U Sein Tin (Theikpan Maung Wa) | Writer |
| 11. Daw Khin Mya (Khin Myo Chit) | Writer |
| 12. Daw Tin Hlaing (Journal Kyaw Ma Ma Lay) | Writer, Journalist |
| 13. U Khin Maung Tint (Tekkatho Phone Naing) | Writer |
| 14. U Khin Maung Oo (Bo Taryar-Thirty Comrades) | Writer |
| 15. Colonel Than Nyunt (Retd) (Hmu Thabyay) | Writer |
| 16. Mya Than San | Song Composer |
| 17. Chit Naing (Psychology) | Writer |
| 18. Pyinmana Myint Hlaing | Song Composer |
| 19. Shan Tun (MyanmarSar) | Song Composer |
| 20. Santawchein Sein Ba Maung (Sein Ba Maung Lay) | Traditional Orchestra Professional |
| 21. Sein Chittee | Traditional Orchestra Professional |
| 22. Sein Mutta | Traditional Orchestra Professional |
| 23. Kyaw Swe | Actor, Director |
| 24. Shwe Ba | Actor |
| 25. Tun Wai | Actor |
| 26. U Kyauk Lone | Actor |
| 27. Khin Yu May | Actress, Vocalist |
| 28. Daisy Kyaw Win | Actress, Vocalist |
| 29. Arnt Kyaw | Actor |
| 30. Zaw One | Actor, Vocalist |
| 31. Nay Aung | Actor |
| 32. Khin Thida Tun | Actress |
| 33. Lwin Moe | Actor |
| 34. May Thinza Oo | Actress |
| 35. Tun Eindra Bo | Actress |
| 36. Lu Min | Actor |
| 37. Soe Myat Thuzar | Actress |
| 38. Eindra Kyaw Zin | Actress |
| 39. Phway Phway | Actress |
| 40. Wuthmon Shwe Yi | Actress |
| 41. Shumawa U Kyaw | Writer, Director |
| 42. U Win Pe | Writer, Director |
| 43. Khin Maung Oo/Soe Thein Htut | Director |
| 44. U San Aye | Intellectual |
| 45. U San Maung | Intellectual |
| 46. U Myint Khaing (Documentary Film) | Intellectual |
| 47. Zaw Myo Htut | Intellectual |
| 48. Nyein Min | Intellectual |
| 49. U Khin Maung Gyi | Intellectual |
| 50. Kyi Min Thein | Intellectual |
| 51. Win Lwin Htet | Intellectual |
| 52. U Win Ko (Academy Music Director Win Ko) | Music Director |

TO BE CONTINUED

NATIONAL

Dinner hosted in honour of 78th Anniversary of Independence Day

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 and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla hosted a dinner and reception in honour of the 78th Anniversary of Independence Day on the lawns of the National Defence and Security Council office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening.

The guests were welcomed by Commission member Prime Minister Zeya Kyaw Htin Thray Sithu U Nyo Saw and his wife, Union ministers and their wives at the dinner.

The Senior General and his wife cordially greeted representatives of political parties, Ambassadors and Chargés d’Affaires ad interim of foreign embassies, honorary consuls and guests who attended the dinner.

The Senior General and his wife together with attendees to the dinner enjoyed the fireworks.

The Senior General and his wife had the dinner together with attendees. Before and during the dinner, artistes from the Myanma Radio and Television under the Ministry of Information and those from the Fine Arts Department under the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture performed song entertainments.

The Senior General and his wife and party watched the variety dance at the



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 cordially greets dignitaries attending at the 78th Anniversary of Independence Day dinner in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

honorary hall. After the entertainment, the Senior General and his wife presented the flower basket to the artistes.

Also present at the dinner were Commission Vice-Chairman Vice-Senior General Thiri Pyanchi Maha Thray Sithu

Soe Win, Commission member Executive Chief U Aung Lin Dwe and his wife, Commission Secretary General Ye Win Oo and his wife, Union-level dignitaries and their wives, Union ministers and their wives, senior Tatmadaw officers from

the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, deputy ministers, Ambassadors and Chargés d’Affaires ad interim of foreign embassies and honorary consuls, representatives of political parties, and guests. — MNA/TTA

Citizens unite to shape a prosperous ...

FROM PAGE 1

However, he noted that it is well known to all that the country has not yet fully succeeded as it should, due to certain foreign countries that do not wish the nation or its people well, some domestic armed groups that have strayed from the right path, and a small number of ill-informed terrorists and their supporters.

The Senior General highlighted that among today’s title recipients, some have made selfless efforts for the nation’s peace and stability, as well as individuals using their knowledge and skills to advance the

country across various sectors. At the same time, there remain selfish, ill-informed individuals, both domestic and abroad, who engage in destructive actions and betray the State.

He retold that everybody knows the government has held Phase I of the multiparty democratic general election successfully in accord with the adopted work procedures.

Furthermore, he added that Phase II of the election will be held on 11 January, and Phase III will continue on 25 January. The State is placing special emphasis on ensuring that the elections are free, fair, and con-

ducted with dignity.

The Senior General underscored that it is well known to all that, to ensure that those eligible to vote do not lose their voting rights and to support the nation’s development, the State has, in accordance with the law, granted clemency, reduced sentences, or released individuals who were serving legal penalties or facing ongoing cases, thereby restoring their freedom and peace.

As the support of all citizens is vital for the State, for the future of the State, the Senior General strongly urged that, under the new govern-

ment emerging from elections, everyone continue to actively and energetically cooperate in nation-building efforts just as they are doing now.

The Senior General conferred the Sithu title on 13 recipients, the Thiha Thura title on two, the Thura title on one, the Thiri Pyanchi title on 10, the Zeya Kyaw Htin title on nine, the Wunna Kyaw Htin title on 17, the Alinka Kyaw Swa title on eight and the Theikpa Kyaw Swa title on 11, respectively.

After the ceremony, the Senior General cordially greeted the attendees, title recipients, and their families.

Also, present at the ceremony were Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, the wife of the Senior General, SSPC Vice-Chairman Vice-Senior General Thiri Pyanchi Maha Thray Sithu Soe Win, Commission Member Prime Minister Zeya Kyaw Htin Thray Sithu U Nyo Saw and his wife, the Commission Member Executive Chief and his wife, the Commission Secretary and his wife, Commission members and their wives, Union-level dignitaries, Union ministers and their wives, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, title recipients and their families. — MNA/TTA

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)



Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing delivers the address at the conferring of Tatmadaw gallantry medals on recipients at Zeyathiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Tatmadaw members contribute to smooth and successful conduct of election

The State and Tatmadaw reaffirm their readiness to continue providing all appropriate support and fulfilment for the welfare of Tatmadaw members.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing expressed his recognition for those who are diligently fulfilling their assigned duties in various positions to defend the State, but they could not receive medals. A ceremony to confer Tatmadaw gallantry medals on recipients was held at Zeyathiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon, attended by State Security and Peace Commission Chairman and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Thadoe Maha

Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing. On the occasion, the Senior General unveiled that on the occasion of Independence Day every year, Tatmadaw confers honours for exceptional service and bravery to those who have carried out difficult duties with full sacrifices, without sparing their lives, adding that at this ceremony, 51 individuals who have earned the “gallantry medal” will be honoured in accordance with established tradition. He expressed his recognition for

those who are diligently fulfilling their assigned duties in various positions to defend the State, but they could not receive medals. He highlighted that Tatmadaw has not only engaged in military clashes but has also confronted political struggles, thereby establishing a unique historical milestone known as national political leadership. He noted that Tatmadaw members and their family members should respect and value the honour of Tatmadaw, urging

them to fully understand the immense significance of independence alongside the responsibility of defending the State, and to diligently and courageously carry out their respective duties. The Senior General highlighted that due to their loyalty and integrity toward the nation and the people, these well-deserved honours are being conferred. In addition, the State and Tatmadaw continue to manage necessary support for the welfare and well-being of Tatmadaw family members, and to ensure that brave and dedicated soldiers are nurtured and encouraged. He emphasized that the State and Tatmadaw will always be ready to continue carrying out all appropriate fulfilment for Tatmadaw members.

SEE PAGE 5

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NATIONAL

Teachers should nurture disciplined and high-quality human resources

❖ Teachers should strive to nurture disciplined and high-quality human resources for the future of the nation.

(An excerpt from the speech delivered by State Administration Council Chairman, Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with teachers at the assembly hall of the No 3 Basic Education High School in PyinOoLwin on 11 June 2025)

Tatmadaw members contribute to ...

FROM PAGE 4

He stressed that Myanmar’s Tatmadaw is being developed and maintained as a modern, patriotic army (Standard Army) with strong discipline, capability, and combat power, aimed at enabling it to engage in conventional warfare effectively and to ensure it is not exploited or manipulated on the global political stage.

The Senior General underscored that Phase I of the multiparty democratic general election was successfully held on

28 December 2025, and Phases II and III will continue to be conducted this month. This demonstrates Tatmadaw’s respect for the State and the people, its faithful fulfilment of commitments, and its integrity. The dutiful efforts of Tatmadaw members helped the successful conduct of the election.

He urged that if the democratic system desired by the entire population is to be strong and well-established, then all citizens must actively participate

in the processes that ensure the successful conduct of elections. Likewise, Tatmadaw must continue to work hand in hand with the people in these efforts.

The Senior General presented gallantry medals to seven Colonels, six Lieutenant Colonels, 14 Majors, four Captains, one Lieutenant, four Warrant Officers II, one Quartermaster Sergeant, three Sergeants, five Corporals, and six Lance Corporals, respectively.

The Senior General hosted

a tea party for medal recipients. Meanwhile, the Myawaddy Entertainment Troupe performed song entertainment.

After the ceremony, the Senior General, his wife and party cordially greeted the medal winners.

Also, present at the ceremony were Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, the wife of the Senior General, Commission Vice-Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Thiri Pyanchi Maha Thray Sithu

Soe Win, Commission Member Prime Minister Zeya Kyaw Htin Tharay Sithu U Nyo Saw and his wife, the Commission Member Executive Chief and his wife, the Commission Secretary and his wife, Commission members and their wives, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, Union-level dignitaries, Union ministers and their wives, medal recipient Tatmadaw members and inheritors. — MNA/TTA

Foreign Heads of State send congratulatory messages to Acting President Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on 78th Anniversary of Independence Day

The following are congratulatory messages from Foreign Heads of State/Government sent to Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on the occasion of the 78th Anniversary of Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Mr Ramchandra Paudel, President of Nepal sends Congratulatory Message to Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Acting President and Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

On the auspicious occasion of 78th Anniversary of Independence Day of Myanmar, I extend my congratulations and best wishes to Your Excellency and the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. I wish for the continued progress and prosperity of the people of Myanmar.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu’izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam sends Congratulatory Message to Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

I extend my warmest greetings on the occasion of the New Year 2026 and sincere congratulations to the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on the 78th Independence Day.

Our countries continue to enjoy warm and friendly relations in mutually beneficially areas. I look forward to further strengthening these much-valued ties, both bilaterally and as regional partners, to promote peace, security, and stability in our region.

Please accept my best wishes for peace and progress in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Foreign Minister sends congratulatory message to Union Minister for Foreign Affairs on 78th Anniversary of Independence Day

The following is the message of felicitations from the Foreign Minister sent to Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe on the occasion of the 78th Anniversary of Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Dato Seri Setia Haji Erywan bin Pehin Datu Pekerma Jaya Haji Mohd. Yusof, Second Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brunei Darussalam sends Congratulatory Message to U Than Swe, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

I extend my warmest congratulations to you and the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on the occasion of your 78th Independence Day.

Over the years, Brunei Darussalam and Myanmar have maintained warm and friendly ties. We had productive discussions during your Official Visit to Brunei Darussalam in January to advance relations, particularly in trade and people-to-people exchanges. I look forward to continuing our work to deepen these important ties, both bilaterally and as a member of the ASEAN family.

With my kindest regards and best wishes for a prosperous new year ahead.

NATIONAL

State flag hoisting and saluting ceremony observed in Nay Pyi Taw

A ceremony to hoist the State flag was held in conjunction with the State flag saluting ceremony in honour of the 78th Anniversary of Independence Day 2026 at the square of the Nay Pyi Taw City Hall yesterday morning.

The flag-hoisting platoon flanked by ethnic people hoisted the State flag at 4:20 am.

At 6 am, Union-level dignitaries, Union ministers, Union-level organization members, senior Tatmadaw officers, deputy ministers, departmental heads and people took the positions at the square. The Guard of Honour of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) took the position at the square.

Chairman of the Central Committee for Holding the 78th Anniversary of Independence Day State Security and Peace Commission member Prime Minister Zeya Kyaw Htin Thray Sithu U Nyo Saw took the salute of the Guard of Honour.



Prime Minister Zeya Kyaw Htin Thray Sithu U Nyo Saw reads the message sent by the Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Chairman of State Security and Peace Commission Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing to the 78th Anniversary of Independence Day ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The Prime Minister and attendees together with the Guard of Honour saluted the State flag and paid tributes to the fallen leaders and comrades. They then recited four-point oath.

The Prime Minister read the message sent by Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar State

Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing to the 78th Anniversary of Independence Day ceremony.

The Prime Minister took the salute of the Guard of Honour, and the ceremony came to an end.

The 78th Anniversary of

Independence Day 2026 was held in line with the national objectives: 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; and to advance other economic sectors and promote MSMEs based on regional products. — MNA/TTA

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

National Defence and Security Council

Order 1/2026

2nd Waning of Pyatho 1387 ME
4 January 2026

Remitting prison sentences

IN commemoration of the 78th Anniversary of Independence Day on humanitarian and compassionate grounds, as well as on the goodwill of the government, the Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has remitted the punishment of prisoners from their respective prisons, detention centres and camps reducing one-sixth of the sentences they are serving as per Article 401(1) of the Code of Criminal Procedure except for those convicted of murder and rape or jailed for charges under the Explosives Act, the Unlawful Association Act, Section 19 (f) of the 1878 Arms Act, the 1949 Arms (Emergency Penalty held) Act (Temporary), the 1951 Arms (Temporary Amendment) Act, the 1924 Shan State Arms Order, the 2023 Weapons Law, the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, the Natural Disaster Management Law, the Counter-Terrorism Law and the Anti-Corruption Law before 4 January 2026.

By order,
Aung Lin Dwe
Executive Chief

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

National Defence and Security Council

Order 2/2026

2nd Waning of Pyatho 1387 ME
4 January 2026

Pardon Order

THE Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has pardoned 6,134 male and female prisoners who are serving their terms at respective prisons, detention centres and camps under Article 401 (1) of the Code of Criminal Procedure on the condition that “they will have to serve the new punishment together with the remaining punishment to which they were sentenced this time if more offence is committed”, in commemorating the 78th Anniversary of Independence Day which fall on 4 January 2026, on humanitarian and compassionate grounds.

By order,
Aung Lin Dwe
Executive Chief

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

National Defence and Security Council

Order 3/2026

2nd Waning of Pyatho 1387 ME
4 January 2026

Pardon Order

THE Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has remitted the punishment of 52 foreign prisoners from the respective prisons, detention centres and camps, upon the conditions “to serve the new punishment together with the remaining punishment to which he was sentenced this time if more offence is committed” under Article 401 (1) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, in commemoration of the 78th Anniversary of Independence Day on bilateral relation of the countries and humanitarian grounds, and they are expelled from Myanmar.

By order,
Aung Lin Dwe
Executive Chief

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Union Election Commission

Announcement 6/2026

2nd Waning of Pyatho, 1387 ME
4 January 2026

Announcement on List of Individuals Elected as Pyithu Hluttaw Representatives

THE Union Election Commission hereby announces that, in accordance with notifications issued by the relevant Region and State Subcommissions under Section 49 (b) of the Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law, the following individuals have been elected as Hluttaw representatives for the respective Pyithu Hluttaw constituencies listed below in the multiparty democratic general election held in phases starting from 28 December 2025.

Shan State

No	Name	CSC	Constituency	Representing Party/Independent
1	U Win Zaw	13/PaTaYa(C)036527	Pindaya	Union Solidarity and Development Party
2	Khun Kaung Chit Tun	13/HaPaNa(C)058111	Hopong	Pa-O National Organization
3	U Kyaw Myint Naing	13/NaKhaTa(C)067233	Nawngkhio	Union Solidarity and Development Party
4	U Than Tun Oo	7/ThaKaNa(C)101478	Kengtung	Union Solidarity and Development Party
5	U Kyaw Nyein Aung	13/TaKhaLa(C)074829	Tachilek	Union Solidarity and Development Party
6	Nang Kyin (aka) Nang Sein	13/TaKaNa(C)218094	Taunggyi	Pa-O National Organization
7	U Htay Lwin (aka) U Di Lone	13/NaSaNa(C)000105	Namhsan	Union Solidarity and Development Party
8	U Aung Zaw Moe (aka) Aung Zaw Moe Tun	12/YaKaNa(C)021420	Muse	Union Solidarity and Development Party
9	Sai Moe Zaw Oo	13/MaHsaNa(C)010349	Monghsat	Union Solidarity and Development Party
10	Dr Myo Tun	13/KaLaTa(C)003401	Lashio	Union Solidarity and Development Party
11	Sai Tun San (aka) Sai Hsae Han	13/LaKhaTa(C)016708	Langhko	Shan and Nationalities Democratic Party
12	U Khun Aung San	13/TaKaNa(C)136965	Loilem	Pa-O National Organization

Ayeyawady Region

No	Name	CSC	Constituency	Representing Party/Independent
13	U Zaw Min	14/KaPaNa(C)003414	Kyonpyaw	Union Solidarity and Development Party
14	U Than Tun	14/PaThaNa(C)152297	Pathein	Union Solidarity and Development Party
15	U Kan Myint Than	14/PhaPaNa(C)137416	Maubin	Union Solidarity and Development Party
16	Daw Myint Sanda Aung	14/MaMaNa(C)170246	Myaungmya	Union Solidarity and Development Party
17	U Naing Min Oo	14/KaKhaNa(C)074043	Kyangin	National Unity Party
18	U Aung Win Swe	14/MaAhNa(C)002437	Myanaung	Union Solidarity and Development Party
19	U Win Swe (aka) U Win Shwe	14/LaPaTa(C)013751	Labutta	Union Solidarity and Development Party
20	U Htay Win	14/HaThaTa(C)067835	Hinthada	Union Solidarity and Development Party

Sd/ Than Soe
Chairman
Union Election Commission

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission

Statement 1/2026

5 January 2026

1. In commemoration of the 78th Anniversary of Independence Day, which falls on 4 January 2026, the National Defence and Security Council has announced the following orders: Order No 1/2026 grants a conditional pardon, reducing the remaining sentences of prisoners currently serving sentences in prisons, jails, and camps by one-sixth; Order No 2/2026 grants amnesty with conditions to 6,134 prisoners by reducing their remaining sentences; and Order No 3/2026 grants amnesty with conditions by reducing the remaining sentences of 52 foreign prisoners, followed by deportation orders.

2. The Myanmar National Human Rights Commission is greatly joyful for the pardon and amnesty recipients and their respective family members. It is hoped and believed that, having understood the value of national independence, they will dutifully and faithfully participate in protecting
- and safeguarding independence, and in the nation-building process based on the democracy and federal system being implemented by the State.

3. Furthermore, it is viewed that reducing the sentences of foreign prisoners, granting amnesty, and deporting them will support relations between nations and lead to increased cooperation.

4. The orders issued by the National Defence and Security Council are observed to yield positive results from the perspectives of human rights, humanitarian considerations, and the promotion of international cooperation. Therefore, the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission issues this statement welcoming the conditional pardon order and the amnesty orders.
- Myanmar National Human Rights Commission

Lend a helping hand to visually impaired people

No one wishes to suffer from any type of disability in their life, and they wish to build themselves with abilities throughout their life. But someone suffers from some disabilities due to their fortune as well as various unseen causes.

However, most of the people with disabilities do not give up on the difficulties and challenges of life, with utmost efforts to show off their brilliant skills to others, so as not to be left behind in society. As they put in great efforts to be able to keep abreast of other ordinary people, their skills and capabilities are higher and higher, with wonderful results which may be beyond the capabilities of ordinary persons.

Especially, those who lose eyesight face hardship in their life. Although they can shape themselves, they do not have

any guidelines mentioned in the literature. Fortunately, Braille letters save their life so as to uplift their existing capabilities in order to shoulder to shoulder with ordinary people.

Braille is a tactile representation of alphabetic and numerical symbols using six dots to represent each letter and number, and even musical, mathematical and scientific symbols. Braille is used by blind and partially sighted people to read the same books and periodicals as those printed in a visual font. Even under normal circumstances, persons with disabilities – one billion people worldwide – are less likely to access health care, education, employment, and to participate in the community.

For the visually impaired, life under lockdown has posed several issues in terms of independence and isolation, especially for people who rely on the use of touch to communicate their needs and access information. The pandemic has revealed how critically important it is to produce essential information in accessible formats, including in Braille and audible formats. Otherwise, many persons with disabilities could face a higher risk of contamination due to a lack of access to guidelines and precautions to protect and reduce the spread of a pandemic.

Currently, governments from many countries create opportunities for people with disabilities to safely unite with society. They can showcase their wonderful capabilities in their careers without relying on any other along their life. In line with the theme for the 2026 World Braille Day, which falls on 5 January, “Accessibility and Inclusion for the Visually Impaired”, everyone should lend a helping hand to persons with visual impairments to be able to do everything.

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Connecting on the Universal Dance of Words

“ကြိုးစားက ဘုရားဖြစ်”
“Effort leads to Buddhahood”



“ကြိုးစားက ဘုရားဖြစ်” ဆိုတဲ့ မြန်မာဆိုရိုးစကား ဟာ တကယ်တော့ အလွန် တန်ဖိုးရှိလှပါတယ်။ “လူ့ဘဝမှာ ဘာမှမဖြစ်နိုင်ဘူးဆိုတာ မရှိဘူး၊ တကယ်ကြိုးစားရင် အမြင့်ဆုံးပန်းတိုင်ကိုတောင် တက်လှမ်းနိုင်တယ်” ဆိုတဲ့ အဓိပ္ပာယ်ပါ။

ဗုဒ္ဓဘာသာ အယူအဆအရ ဘုရားရှင်ဆိုတာဟာလည်း လူသားဘဝကနေပဲ မဆုတ်မနစ်တဲ့ ဇွဲလုံ့လနဲ့ ပါရမီတွေကို ပြည့်ကျင့်ပြီးမှ ဖြစ်လာတာပါ။ ဒီတော့ လူသားတစ်ယောက်အနေနဲ့ ကိလေသာတွေကို ဖယ်ရှားနိုင်အောင် တစိုက်မတ်မတ် ကြိုးစားမယ်ဆိုရင် အမြတ်ဆုံးဖြစ်တဲ့ “ဘုရားအဖြစ်” ကိုတောင် ရနိုင်ပါတယ်။ ဇွဲက အဓိကကျပါတယ်။ တစ်ခါတည်းနဲ့ မအောင်မြင်ရင်တောင် ထပ်ခါထပ်ခါ ကြိုးစားခြင်းက ရလဒ်ကောင်းကို ပေးစွမ်းပါတယ်။

ကိုယ့်ကိုယ်ကိုယ် ယုံကြည်မှုကလည်း အရေးကြီးပါတယ်။ “ငါလည်း လုပ်နိုင်တယ်” ဆိုတဲ့ စိတ်ဓာတ်ကို မွေးကြရပါမယ်။

လူငယ်တွေကို အားပေးတဲ့ ဆိုရိုးစကား

အရင်ခေတ်က “တိုးတက်ရေးမဂ္ဂဇင်း” မှာဆိုရင် စာမျက်နှာတိုင်းမှာ ဒီစာသားလေးကို ထည့်သွင်းပြီး လူငယ်တွေကို အားပေးခဲ့ပါတယ်။ စာရေးဆရာကြီးတွေတောင် ဒီစကားကို ရင်ထဲမှာ စွဲနေအောင် မှတ်သားပြီး ဘဝကို တည်ဆောက်ခဲ့ကြတာပါ။

ဒီနေ့ခေတ်မှာလည်း ကျောင်းစာပဲဖြစ်ဖြစ်၊ အလုပ်အကိုင်ပဲဖြစ်ဖြစ် “ငါ မလုပ်နိုင်တော့ဘူး” လို့ စိတ်ဓာတ်မကျဘဲ ရည်မှန်းချက် ပေါက်မြောက်အောင် ကြိုးစားကြရပါမယ်။

ကိုယ်လုပ်ချင်တဲ့အလုပ်တစ်ခု အောင်မြင်ဖို့အတွက် ရှေ့ကနေ အဓိကဦးဆောင်ပေးတဲ့ အင်အားကြီး ၄ မျိုး ရှိပါတယ်။

ပထမဆုံးက ဆန္ဒ ပါ။ “လုပ်ချင်လိုက်တာ” ဆိုတဲ့ သာမန်စိတ်ကူးမျိုးထက်ပိုပြီး၊ ရည်မှန်းချက်အောင်မြင်ဖို့အတွက်ဆိုရင် အသက်တောင်စွန့်ဝံ့တဲ့ ပြင်းပြတဲ့ဆန္ဒမျိုးကို ဆိုလိုပါတယ်။ ဘုရားလောင်းတွေမှာရှိတဲ့ ဆန္ဒမျိုးပေါ့။

ဒုတိယကတော့ ဝီရိယ ပါ။ ဒါကတော့ “ခွံရှိရှိ ကြိုးစားတာ” ပါ။ “ငှပ်မိသဲတိုင် တက်နိုင်ဖျားရောက်” ဆိုသလိုမျိုး၊ မဟာဇနကမင်းသား ပင်လယ်ထဲမှာ လက်ပစ်မလွှဲဘဲ ကူးဆတ်ခဲ့သလို အဆုံးထိအားထုတ်တဲ့ ဇွဲမျိုးဖြစ်ပါတယ်။ ဒီလိုကြိုးမားတဲ့ ဝီရိယရှိမှသာ မြင့်မားတဲ့အောင်မြင်မှုကို ရနိုင်တာပါ။

တတိယက စိတ္တ ဖြစ်ပါတယ်။ အလုပ်တစ်ခုလုပ်တဲ့အခါ တုန်လှုပ်မသွားဘဲ ခိုင်ခိုင်မာမာ ဆုံးဖြတ်ချက်ချနိုင်တဲ့ “စိတ်ဓာတ်ကြံ့ခိုင်မှု” ကို ပြောတာပါ။

နောက်ဆုံးတစ်ခုကတော့ ဝီရိယ လိုခေါ်တဲ့ “ပညာ” ပါ။ ဒါကတော့ အသိတရားနဲ့ အမြော်အမြင်ရှိရှိ စူးစမ်းဆင်ခြင်တာဖြစ်ပြီး၊ ဒီအစွမ်းရှိမှသာ အမှားအမှန်ကိုခွဲခြားပြီး အောင်မြင်အောင် လုပ်ကိုင်နိုင်မှာ ဖြစ်ပါတယ်။

The Myanmar proverb “Effort leads to Buddhahood” is a very valuable saying. It means that nothing is impossible in human life; if you truly try your best, you can reach even the highest goals.

Why do we say this?
According to Buddhist beliefs, the Buddha himself started as a hu-

man being. He attained Enlightenment only after practising relentless perseverance and fulfilling great virtues (Parami). Therefore, this proverb uses the “attainment of Buddhahood” – the highest possible achievement – as an example to show that if a human works hard enough to overcome all obstacles, anything is reachable.

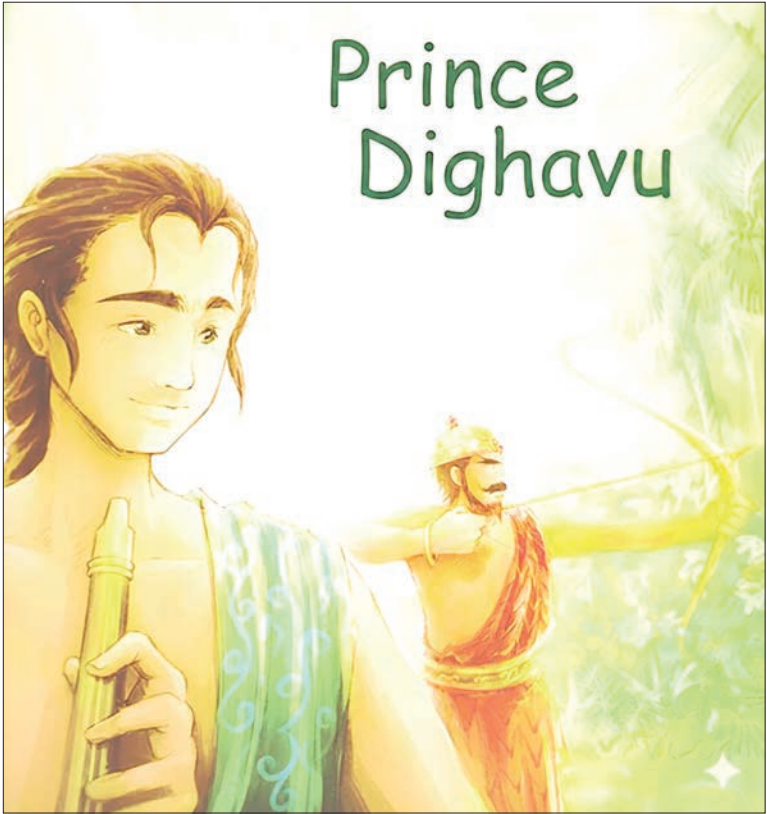
These key meanings emphasize that nothing is impossible if you are willing to work hard and refuse to give up. Success often requires perseverance, meaning that even if you fail at first, you will eventually see results by trying again. Ultimately, these ideas build self-confidence by fostering a “can-do” spirit and helping you believe in your own potential.

Examples in Literature and Real Life

In the past, the famous “Toe-Tet-Yay” (Progress) Magazine printed this quote on every single page to encourage young people. Even great writers kept this motto close to their hearts to build their successful lives.

In today’s world, whether it is for school or work, remember this phrase whenever you feel discouraged or think, “I can’t do it anymore.” If even the highest state of Buddhahood can be achieved through effort, then our daily goals and dreams are definitely within reach!

“ချစ်စကို ရှည်စေ၊ မုန်းစကို တိုစေ”
“Keep love long, keep enmity short”



“ချစ်စကို ရှည်စေ၊ မုန်းစကို တိုစေ” (ဒါမှမဟုတ် ရန်စကို တိုစေ) ဆိုတာ လူမှုဆက်ဆံရေးမှာ တကယ့်ကို အစိုးတန်တဲ့ ဘဝအတွက် လမ်းညွှန်ချက် စကားလေးပါ။ “ချစ်ခြင်းမေတ္တာကိုတတ်နိုင်သမျှ ဆွဲဆန့်ပြီး ကြာရှည်အောင် ထားပါ။ မုန်းတီးမှုနဲ့ ရန်ငြိုးတွေကိုတော့ မြန်မြန်ဖြုတ်ပြီး တိုတိုလေးနဲ့ အဆုံးသတ်လိုက်ပါ” လို့ ဆိုလိုတာပါ။

လောကမှာ တစ်ယောက်နဲ့တစ်ယောက် ချစ်ချစ်ခင်ခင် နေရတာက စိတ်ရော ကိုယ်ပါ အေးချမ်းစေပါတယ်။ မုန်းတီးတာ၊ အာဃာတထားတာတွေက ကိုယ့်ရင်ထဲမှာ မီးခဲပိုက်ထားရသလိုပါ။ ကိုယ့်ကိုကိုယ်ရော သူတစ်ပါးကိုပါ ပူလောင်စေပါတယ်။ ဒါကြောင့် စိတ်ဆင်းရဲစရာ အမုန်းတရားတွေကို လက်ထဲမှာ ကြာကြာမဆုပ်ကိုင်ထားဘဲ မြန်မြန်စွန့်လွှတ်ဖို့ တိုက်တွန်းတာဖြစ်ပါတယ်။

ဒီစကားရဲ့ အနှစ်သာရကတော့ ခွင့်လွှတ်ခြင်းရဲ့ အင်အား ဖြစ်ပါတယ်။ရန်ငြိုးကို ရန်တုံ့မမူဘဲ ခွင့်လွှတ်လိုက်တာဟာ တကယ့်ကို မြင့်မြတ်တဲ့စိတ်ထားပါ။ ပေါင်းသင်းဆက်ဆံရေးမှာ အမုန်းတရားကို ဖြတ်နိုင်ရင် ရန်သူတောင် မိတ်ဆွေဖြစ်လာနိုင်ပါတယ်။

By Augustin

ဒီဃီတိကောသလမင်းကြီး ဝတ္ထုထဲက သင်ခန်းစာ

ဒီဃာဂမင်းသားဟာ မိမိ၏ မိဘများကို သတ်ခဲ့တဲ့ ဗာရာဏသီမင်းကို ရန်တုံ့ပြန်ရန် အခွင့်အရေးရှိသော်လည်း ဖခင်၏ အဆုံးအမ ကို နားထောင် ခဲ့ပါတယ်။ရန်တုံ့မှု သဖြင့် ရန်တို့သည် မငြိမ်းကုန်၊ ရန်မတုံ့မှုမှသာလျှင် ငြိမ်းကုန်၏ ဆိုတဲ့ အဆုံးအမ ကို ပြန်လည် အမှတ်ရပြီး ရန်ငြိုးကို စွန့်လွှတ်ခဲ့ပါတယ်။။ နောက်ဆုံးမှာ ဗာရာဏသီမင်းနဲ့ မိတ်ဆွေဖြစ်လာပြီး မိမိရဲ့ ထီးနန်းကိုပင် ပြန်လည်ရရှိခဲ့ပါတယ်။ ဒီဝတ္ထုဟာ မုန်းတီးမှုရဲ့ ဆိုးကျိုးနဲ့ ချစ်ခြင်းမေတ္တာရဲ့ အကျိုးကျေးဇူးကို ထင်ရှားစွာ ပြသပါတယ်။

ကျွန်တော်တို့ နေ့စဉ်ဘဝမှာလည်း သူငယ်ချင်းချင်းဖြစ်ဖြစ်၊ လုပ်ဖော်ကိုင်ဖက်ချင်းဖြစ်ဖြစ် စိတ်ကောက်တာ၊ အမြင်မကြည်တာလေးတွေ ရှိတတ်ကြပါတယ်။ အဲ့ဒီအခါမျိုးမှာ ဒီစကားလေးကို သတိရလိုက်ပါ။

“Keep Love Long, Keep Hate Short”

The Myanmar proverb “Chit-Sa-Ko-Shay-Say, Mone-Sa-Ko-To-Say” (or “Keep love long, keep enmity short”) is a beautiful guideline for human relationships. It means that we should try to make our friendships and love last as long as possible, while getting rid of hatred or grudges as quickly as we can.

Love and kindness bring happiness and peace to our minds. On the other hand, holding onto hate only causes stress and misery. If we keep a grudge for a long time, it ends up hurting both the people around us. That is why this proverb encourages us to nurture good feelings and let go of bad ones quickly.

The Story of Prince Dighavu

The best example of this is the story of Prince Dighavu. Even though the King of Brahmadatta had killed his parents, the Prince chose not to take revenge when he had the chance. He remembered his father’s final advice:

“Do not look far (don’t keep long-term grudges), and do not look too short (don’t break off friendships quickly). Hatred is not settled by hate; it is only settled by love.”

Because he chose to “keep hate short” and let go of his anger, he eventually became friends with the King and even got his kingdom back. This story clearly shows that love wins over hate.

Choosing forgiveness is a powerful way to promote peace because it is often the best way to end a conflict. When you let go of anger, you also become happier and feel much lighter in your daily life. Ultimately, the greatest success comes from building bridges, as it allows you to turn an old enemy into a new friend.

စကားခြောက်ခွန်း၊ လှည့်ထွန်း၊ လေးခွန်းကိုပယ်၊ နှစ်ခွန်းတည်
The Six Types of Speech: “Discard Four, Keep Two”

လူလောကမှာ စကားပြောဆိုပုံ ခြောက်မျိုးရှိတယ်လို့ မြတ်စွာဘုရားက ဟောကြားခဲ့ပါတယ်။ ဒါပေမဲ့ အဲဒီခြောက်မျိုးလုံးကို ပြောလို့မရပါဘူး။ “လေးခွန်းကို ပစ်ပယ်ပြီး နှစ်ခွန်းကိုပဲ တည်” (သုံးစွဲ) ရမယ်လို့ ဆိုရိုးရှိပါတယ်။ ဒါဟာ စကားပြောရာမှာ အကျိုးရှိဖို့နဲ့ သတိထားဖို့ အလွန်အရေးကြီးတဲ့ လမ်းညွှန်ချက်ပါ။

စကား ၆ မျိုးဆိုတာ ဘာတွေလဲ?

အချက် ၃ ချက်ပေါ် မူတည်ပြီး ခွဲခြားထားတာပါ - (၁) မှန်ကန်မှုရှိလား၊ (၂) အကျိုးရှိလား၊ (၃) တစ်ဖက်လူ နှစ်သက်လား ဆိုတာပါပဲ။

မှန်တယ်၊ အကျိုးရှိတယ်၊ နားထောင်သူ နှစ်သက်တယ် (ဒါမျိုးကို ပြောရမယ်)။ မှန်တယ်၊ အကျိုးရှိတယ်၊ ဒါပေမဲ့ နားထောင်သူ မနှစ်သက်ဘူး (အကျိုးရှိမယ်ဆိုရင် ဒါမျိုးကိုလည်း ပြောသင့်တဲ့အချိန်မှာ ပြောရမယ်)။ မှန်တယ်၊ ဒါပေမဲ့ အကျိုးမရှိဘူး၊ နားထောင်သူတော့ နှစ်သက်တယ် (ဒါမျိုးကို ပယ်ရမယ်)။ မှန်တယ်၊ ဒါပေမဲ့ အကျိုးလည်းမရှိဘူး၊ နားထောင်သူလည်း မနှစ်သက်ဘူး (ဒါမျိုးကို ပယ်ရမယ်)။

မမှန်ဘူး၊ အကျိုးလည်းမရှိဘူး၊ ဒါပေမဲ့ နားထောင်သူ နှစ်သက်တယ် (ဥပမာ-ခြောက်ပွင့်စကား။ ဒါမျိုးကို ပယ်ရမယ်)။ မမှန်ဘူး၊ အကျိုးလည်းမရှိဘူး၊ နားထောင်သူလည်း မနှစ်သက်ဘူး (ဒါမျိုးကို ပယ်ရမယ်)။

ဘာကြောင့် ဒီဆိုရိုးကို လိုက်နာသင့်တာလဲ?

လောကမှာ စကားဟာ ဓားသွားထက်တောင် ထက်ပါတယ်။ “မှန်ကန်ပြီး

အကျိုးရှိဖို့” က အဓိကပါ။ တစ်ခါတလေ ကိုယ်ပြောလိုက်တဲ့စကားက မှန်တော့မှန်တယ်၊ ဒါပေမဲ့ တစ်ဖက်လူအတွက် ဘာမှလည်း အသုံးမကျဘူးဆိုရင် အဲ့ဒီစကားက အလကားပါပဲ။

မြတ်စွာဘုရားကိုယ်တိုင်ကတောင် စကားပြောတဲ့အခါ မှန်ကန်မှု နဲ့ အကျိုးရှိမှု ပါမှသာ ပြောဆိုလေ့ရှိပါတယ်။ တစ်ဖက်လူက သဘောကျတာ၊ မကျတာထက် (အကျိုးရှိမယ်ဆိုရင်) မှန်ကန်တဲ့စကားကိုပဲ ရွေးချယ်ပြောဆိုဖို့ သင်ကြားပေးခဲ့တာပါ။

အကျိုးမရှိတဲ့ အငိုစကားတွေကို ရှောင်ကြဉ်တာက ကိုယ့်ရဲ့ တန်ဖိုးကို ပိုမြင့်စေပါတယ်။



The Six Types of Speech: “Discard Four, Keep Two”

There is a wise Burmese proverb that says: “Six types of speech exist among humans; discard four and keep only two.” This teaching, originally from the Buddha, serves as a great guide for mindful and effective communication.

What are the 6 Types of Speech?

To communicate effectively, you should evaluate what you say based on whether it is true, useful, and pleasing to the listener. You should always keep and share information that is true, useful, and pleasant to hear. If something is true and useful but unpleasant – like a hard truth – you should still keep it, but wait for the right time to say it. However, you should discard anything useless or false, even if it sounds good, as well as anything harmful, dishonest, or insulting.

Why follow this rule?

In this world, words can be sharper than a sword. The most important things are Truth and Benefit. Sometimes we say things just because they are true, but if they don’t help anyone or bring any value, those words are a waste of time.

Even the Buddha only spoke words that were both true and beneficial. He taught that as long as a word is helpful and true, it should be said—even if the listener might find it difficult to hear at first.

The Bottom Line

To practice “Right Speech,” you should always ask yourself if what you are about to say is both true and useful. By focusing only on words that meet these two criteria and avoiding useless or dishonest talk, you naturally increase your personal value. This habit not only helps you communicate more effectively but also helps you build stronger, more meaningful relationships with others.

■

NATIONAL

78th Independence Day celebrated in Yangon

THE State flag-hoisting and saluting ceremonies of the 78th Anniversary of Independence Day took place at the People's Square in Yangon yesterday.

The flag-hoisting platoon from Yangon Command raised the State Flag at 4:20 am together with the departmental officials and ethnic groups.

At 7 am, the flag saluting ceremony was organized and Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein took the salute of the Guard of Honour. He then saluted the State Flag together with the Guard of Honour and attendees to the event.

The region chief minister, Guard of Honour and attendees also saluted the nation's fallen leaders and soldiers and took



The 78th Independence Day flag-hoisting and saluting ceremony in progress in Yangon yesterday.

the four-point oath.

The region chief minister read the message sent by the Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Chairman of State Security and Peace Commission Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing to the 78th Anniversary of Independence Day ceremony.

The event was attended by Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Pyae Sone Lin, Regional Chief Justice Daw Sandar Thwe, region cabinet members, the regional advocate-general, the regional auditor-general, senior Tatmadaw officers, national people, students and invitees. — Ko Ko Zaw (MNA)/KZL

Candidates for Pyithu Hluttaw compete in Phase I of general election 2025

THE Union Election Commission yesterday issued the number of ballots for individual Pyithu Hluttaw candidates who competed in the constituencies in Phase I of the Multiparty Democratic General Election 2025.

U Win Zaw of Union Solidarity and Development Party, Daw Nwet Htoo of Danu National Democracy Party and Daw Tin Tin Nwe of People's Pioneer Party competed in Pindaya Township of Shan State; Khun Kaung Chit Tun of Pa-O National Organization, Daw Nang Tin Myo Aye of USDP and Daw Zin Lei Lei of PPP in Hopong Township; and U Kyaw Myint Naing of USDP, U Win Oo of DNDP, Daw Saw Yu of National Unity Party, U Soe Than of People's Party, U Sai Phu Aung of Shan and Nationalities Democratic Party and U Zarni Aye (a) Nyunt Tin of PPP in Nawnghkio Township.

Moreover, U Than Tun Oo of USDP, Sai Ywet (a) Dr Sai Ywet Houg of SNLD, Nang Hla Hla Ohnma Kyaw of NUP, U Thein Kyaw Khaing of People's Party and Daw Thanda Lwin of PPP contested in Kengtung Township; U Kyaw Nyein Aung of USDP, Daw Toe Toe Myint Aung of SNLD and Daw Yin May Thu of NUP in Tachilek Township; and Nang Kyin (a) Nang Sein of PNO, U Aung Aung of USDP, U Kyaw Zeyar Win of Myanmar Farmers' Development Party, U Thaung Tin (a) Thaung Tin Yi of SNLD, U Win Naing of NUP, Daw Nilar Aung of PPP, U Win Kyi as an independent, Daw Nang Lan Nwon

of People's Party and U Hsan Phone of Kokang Democracy and Unity Party in Taunggyi Township.

U Htay Lwin (a) U Di Lone of USDP, Sai Naw Maing of SNLD, Nang Kham Lay of PNO, Nang Chit Thae Nu of NUP and U Sai Thura Ko Ko of PPP took part in the election in Namhsan Township; U Aung Zaw Moe (a) Aung Zaw Moe Tun of USDP and U Sai Boe Aung of SNLD in Muse Township; Sai Moe Zaw Oo of USDP, U Kyaw Hsan Oo of SNLD and Sai Ngin Seng of NUP in Monghsat Township; and Dr Myo Tun of USDP, U Soe Min of SNLD, Daw Kathy Aung of NUP, U Shaung Woo of KDUP and U Myint Soe of PPP in Lashio Township.

Sai Tun San (a) Sai Hsae Han of SNLD and Sai Myint Swe of USDP competed in Langkho Township; and U Khun Aung San of PNO, U Khin Maung Thi of USPD, Sai Soe Tint (a) Sai Kham Pan of SNLD, Nang Khe of NUP and U Zaw Moe Latt as an independent in Loilem Township.

U Zaw Min of USDP, U Myo Thein of Kayin People Party, U Ko Ko Htet of People's Party, Daw Amar Wai of NUP, Nant Than Myint Kyi of People's Party of Myanmar Farmers and Workers, U Kyaing of PPP, U San Shein of MFDP and Daw Nyein Nyein Ei of SNLD contested in Kyonpyaw Township of Ayeyawady Region; U Than Tun of USDP, U Kyaw Maung Maung of PPP, U Myint Soe Aung of NUP, Saw Law La of KPP, U Aung Soe of People's Party, U Nay Win Tun of PPMFW, U Aung Min Naing as

an independent, U Tin Pe of MFDP, U Tin Oo of SNLD, and U Aye Win (a) U Win Kyi as an independent in Pathein Township; and U Kan Myint Than of USDP, U Phyo Wai Soe of People's Party, U Win Sein of NUP, Naw Moe Moe Hsan of Modern People's Party, U Lin Min Tun of MFDP, U Soe Hlaing of SNLD and U Min Min Zaw of PPP in Maubin Township.

Daw Myint Sanda Aung of USDP, U Aung Khin of KPP, U Hla Tun of NUP, U Tun Myat of PPP, Daw Khin Mar Swe of SNLD, U Thiha of People's Party and U Min Khaung Than of MFDP competed in Myaungmya Township; U Naing Min Oo of NUP, U Myo Min Htut of USDP, Dr U Tin Maung Kyaing of People's Party and U La Min Naing of PPP in Kyangin Township; and U Aung Win Swe of USDP, Daw Khin Yon of NUP, U Aung Ko Ko of PPP and U Myint Khaing of People's Party in Myanaung Township.

U Win Swe (a) U Win Shwe of USDP, Daw Kyawt Kyawt Soe of NUP, U Kyaw Hlaing Htwe of People's Party, Sa Jimmy Oo of KPP, U Kyaw Than of PPP, U Nay Htet Aung of MFDP and U Chit Min Win of SNLD participated in the election in Labutta Township; and U Htay Win of USDP, Daw Khin Aye Mon of NUP, U Aung Kyaw Lwin of People's Party, Dr Nant Khin Thin Su of KPP, Daw Thanda Aung of PPP, U Zin Bo Bo Tun of MFDP and Daw Lin Lin Htet Aung of SNLD in Hinthada Township. — GNLM

Kyaikkasan Pagoda Board of Trustees seek bidding for gilding work

KYAIAKKASAN Pagoda Board of Trustees invited business entities to conduct gilding work on the entire body of the Kyaikkasan Pagoda in Thingangyun Township, Yangon, through a sealed tender system.

The tender form is available at 3 pm on 8 January 2026, and the deadline for tender submission is noon on 9 January. Qualified bidders must submit the sealed tender proposal, along with two gold foils meeting the quality standard, to the pagoda board of trustees.

Individuals can enquire about details by dialling 09 459245594 and 09 446890019 during office hours.

The historic Kyaikkasan Pagoda, established over 2,600 years ago, is an ancient pagoda enshrining seven strands of Buddha's hair and ten relics. Under the supervision of the Yangon Region government, preparations are underway to offer gold foil for the full body of the Pagoda and the 18 surrounding pagodas in February 2026. Those devotees, monks and nuns wishing to contribute to the gold foil offering can contact the pagoda board of trustees' office. — NN/KK

NATIONAL

Prisoners nationwide granted amnesty for 78th Independence Day



Some released prisoners from the prisons are pictured in front of the prisons yesterday.

YESTERDAY, the National Defence and Security Council of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, in honour of the 78th Anniversary of Independence Day and with a view to bringing peace to the people, on grounds of social leniency and in recognition of the State’s goodwill,

pardoned 6,134 prisoners who had been sentenced for offences under any existing laws before 4 January 2026, subject to specific conditions. The amnesty excluded prisoners convicted under the Murder, Rape, the Explosive Substances Act, the Unlawful

Associations Act, Section 19 (f) of the Myanmar’s Arms Act (1878), the Arms (Emergency Punishment) (Temporary) Act (1949), the Arms (Temporary Amendment) Act (1951), the Shan State Arms Order (1924), the Arms Act (2023), the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic

Substances Law, the Natural Disaster Management Law, the Counter-Terrorism Law, and the Anti-Corruption Law. Under the amnesty, prisoners who have been sentenced for any offence and are serving their terms in various prisons, detention centers, or camps have

been granted a remission of one-sixth of their remaining sentences under Section 401 (1) of the Code of Criminal Procedure. A total of 6,134 prisoners across the country have been granted this remission, with the stipulation that “if they commit another offence, they shall continue to serve the remaining sentence in addition to any new sentence they receive.” The State has sentenced prisoners according to the crimes they committed, while ensuring that prisons and detention centres provide appropriate social, health, and other human rights standards. The prisoners released yesterday were joyfully welcomed by their parents and relatives. — MNA/TH

6,134 inmates granted amnesty nationwide, including 283 from Mandalay Central Prison



Families warmly welcome recently-released inmates from the Mandalay Central Prison yesterday.

TO mark the 78th Anniversary of Independence Day, and in consideration of public peace of mind and humanitarian grounds, the authorities granted amnesty yesterday to 6,134 inmates serving sentences in prisons, labour camps and detention facilities across the country. Among them, 283 inmates from Mandalay Central Prison were released, according to official sources. Those granted amnesty from Mandalay Central Prison included 224 male inmates and

59 female inmates, bringing the total to 283. Mandalay Region Minister for Security and Border Affairs Colonel Nay Lin Soe and Mandalay Region Prisons Department Director U Cho Win Tun met the released inmates at Mandalay Central Prison yesterday morning and delivered words of guidance and advice. Afterwards, officials systematically carried out health checks on the released inmates and provided them with labour wages, food allowances and travel expenses before their release

from the prison. “We are pleased that inmates have been granted amnesty and released in this way. Those who have regained their freedom should comply with the laws and regulations set by the State, live peacefully and harmoniously with their families, and contribute as much as they can to religious and national interests,” said Deputy Director U Thein Zaw Maung, a responsible officer from Mandalay Central Prison. On the same day, a total of 1,167 inmates in Mandalay Region — comprising 981 male inmates and 186 female inmates from five prisons and seven labour camps — were granted amnesty.

One of the released inmates said, “I am extremely happy to receive amnesty. My family members are already here to welcome me. I feel joyful to be able to meet my family again after gaining my freedom. I am grateful to the State leaders for granting amnesty, and I sincerely hope that the remaining friends who are still inside will be released soon”. — Maung Aye Chan/KZL

850 prisoners granted amnesty at Insein Prison

THE State Security and Peace Commission, in commemoration of the 78th Anniversary of Independence Day and with the aim of bringing peace to the people on humanitarian grounds, has granted amnesty to 6,134 prisoners and 52 foreign nationals serving sentences in various prisons, detention centers, and camps across the country, in accordance with Section 401 (1) of the Code of Criminal Procedure. As part of the amnesty, a total of 850 prisoners, including foreign nationals, were released from Insein Central Prison in Yangon yesterday. At the gymnasium of Insein Central Prison, Yangon Region Minister for Security and Border Affairs Colonel Win Tint and

Yangon Region Police Force Commander Police Brig-Gen Ko Ko Lwin delivered speeches to prisoners who were eligible for amnesty and in compliance with rules and regulations, before transporting them to their respective townships in the region by YBS vehicles. Yesterday, a total of 850 prisoners were pardoned at Insein Central Prison, including 646 male prisoners, 193 female prisoners, eight foreign male prisoners, one foreign female prisoner, and two others. Parents and relatives of the 850 prisoners released from Insein Central Prison yesterday welcomed them with joy in front of the prison. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/TH



Families warmly welcome recently-released inmates from the Insein Central Prison yesterday. PHOTO: KANU

NATIONAL

MSME market fair at People’s Square draws large crowds

THE 2026 MSME market fair, being held at Yangon’s People’s Square to commemorate the 78th Anniversary of Independence Day, is bustling with shoppers, with stalls offering products from various regions of the country at affordable prices.

Yesterday, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, accompanied by regional ministers and officials, inspected the sale of products from various regions at affordable prices and warmly welcomed visitors to the market.

More than 350 stalls are participating in the fair, including shops from industrial zones, MSME businesses, the Small Scale Industries Department, the Cooperative Department, the Yangon Region Directorate of



This photo features the market fair held in Yangon’s People’s Square in Yangon to commemorate the 78th Independence Day, yesterday. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT(MNA)**

Investment and Company Administration, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), the Myanmar Rice Federation, and local

bookstores and restaurants.

In addition, at the 78th Independence Day Music and Entertainment Pavilion in the centre of People’s Square, many singers, DJs, ethnic traditional dance groups, and new-generation performers entertained the crowd, who joined in singing, dancing, and celebrating.

In addition, bus shuttle services are available to facilitate the public’s visit to the fair, while trash bins and mobile toilets have been provided to ensure proper waste disposal and maintain a clean, orderly environment.

Fireworks were launched at People’s Square yesterday evening to celebrate the 78th Independence Day in 2026. — Zaw Min Latt (MNA)/TH

Tachilek hosts 28th traditional Lahu New Year festival

THE 28th Lahu ethnic group’s traditional New Year festival was held on 2 January at Yaypusan Sanpya Village, Tachilek Township, Shan State (East), according to U William Moe, a member of the festival organizing committee.

At the Lahu ethnic group’s traditional New Year festival, Lahu youth welcomed the new year by washing elders’ hands and performing traditional dances, modern song-and-dance performances, and gourd flute dances.

“The New Year festival is celebrated every year to respect and honour Lahu ethnic cultural heritage, such as religion, literature, clothing, and traditions, rediscovering hidden traditional culture, and enabling Lahu communities scattered throughout the country to gather once a year. This collective New Year

festival is the most important and largest festival of the Lahu ethnic groups during the year,” said U William Moe.

The Lahu ethnic group, originally consisting of five subgroups, has evolved into more than 20 tribes, with the gourd flute as its cultural symbol and the dance known as Kakhae — performed around a pine tree — as its most famous dance. — ASH/TH



This photo captures the Lahu ethnic group’s Kakhae dance, performed around a pine tree.

CI extension to provide until 16 January for last round



The photo depicts Certificate of Identity- CI issuing station in Samut Sakhon in Thailand.

THE process of extending the Certificate of Identity-CI will be lengthened until 16 January for last round in Thailand, the Department of Labour announced.

The expansion of the operation period aims not to lose job opportunities for Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand, as there are people who are left after paid for the CI extension at 7-Eleven stores, it said.

The CI extension was initially scheduled to end by 31 December 2025 but it has been now extended to 16 January 2026 for remaining people.

There are four CI issuing stations in Thailand’s Samut Sakhon, Samut Prakan, Chiang Mai and Surat Thani and one mobile unit in Krabi. Myanmar migrant workers are urged to do the CI extension before the deadline. — MT/ZS

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

နိုင်ငံတော်မှချီးမြှင့်သည့် စွမ်းဆောင်မှုဆိုင်ရာ ဂုဏ်ထူးဆောင်တံဆိပ်
စီမံထူးချွန်တံဆိပ်(ပထမဆင့်) ဂုဏ်ပြုချီးမြှင့်ခံရသော
ဒေါ်နန်းခမ်းနောင့်

Founder နှင့် ဂုဏ်ထူးဆောင်နာယက၊ မြန်မာနိုင်ငံအီလက်ထရောနစ်အားကစားအဖွဲ့ချုပ်အား
အထူးဂုဏ်ယူဝမ်းမြောက်ဂုဏ်ပြုခြင်းနှင့်
သမိုင်းဝင်မြန်မာ့ဂုဏ်ဆောင် Esports ကမ္ဘာ့ချန်ပီယံအသင်း၏ ပွဲကိုင်ပုဂ္ဂိုလ်
မြန်မာနိုင်ငံအီလက်ထရောနစ်အားကစားအဖွဲ့ချုပ် ဦးဆောင်နာယကကြီးအား
အထူးကျေးဇူးတင်ဂုဏ်ပြုလွှာ



ဆော်ဒီအာရေဗျနိုင်ငံတွင် ကျင်းပပြုလုပ်ခဲ့သော Esports အားကစား ကမ္ဘာ့ဖလား ၂၀၂၅ ပြိုင်ပွဲတွင်
မြန်မာနိုင်ငံကိုယ်စားပြု ဝင်ရောက်ယှဉ်ပြိုင်ခဲ့သည့် Yangon Galacticos အသင်းက
အမြင့်ဆုံး ‘ကမ္ဘာ့ချန်ပီယံ (World Champion)ဆု’ ကို ထိုက်ထိုက်တန်တန် ဆွတ်ခူးကာ
“မြန်မာနိုင်ငံ၏ ပထမဆုံး ကမ္ဘာ့ချန်ပီယံရွှေတံဆိပ်ဆုရအားကစားအဖွဲ့ချုပ်”အဖြစ်
သမိုင်းဝင်အောင်မြင်မှုရယူခဲ့ပြီး မျိုးဆက်သစ်မြန်မာလူငယ်များအားလုံးအတွက်
ကမ္ဘာနှင့်ယှဉ်ပြိုင် ရင်ပေါင်တန်းနိုင်သည့် ပြယုဂ်တစ်ခုအဖြစ်
လူငယ်များကိုစိတ်ဓာတ်ခွန်အားတက်ကြွမြှင့်မားစေခဲ့ပြီးဖြစ်ပါသည်။

မြန်မာနိုင်ငံအီလက်ထရောနစ်အားကစားအဖွဲ့ချုပ် (MESF) စတင်တည်ထောင်သည့် အချိန်မှစ၍
ယခု သမိုင်းဝင်အောင်မြင်မှုကြီး ရရှိစေနိုင်ရန်အတွက်
နှစ်စဉ် ကျပ်သန်းပေါင်း(၄၀၀၀)ကျော် အဓိကပံ့ပိုးကူညီလှူဒါန်းပြီး စဉ်ဆက်မပြတ် ဦးဆောင်
လမ်းညွှန်စီမံ၍ သမိုင်းဝင်မြန်မာ့ဂုဏ်ဆောင် ကမ္ဘာ့ချန်ပီယံအသင်းအား ကြိုဆိုဂုဏ်ပြုပွဲကို
ရန်ကုန်မြို့နှင့် တောင်ကြီးမြို့တွင် ခမ်းနားစွာကျင်းပပြီး ဆုငွေကျပ်သိန်းပေါင်း(၁၀၀၀၀)နှင့်
မြေကွက်(၉)ကွက်တို့ကို ထိုက်တန်စွာဂုဏ်ပြုချီးမြှင့်ပေးပါသော

KBZ Bank / KBZ Group ၏ တည်ထောင်သူ
နာယကကြီး ဦးအောင်ကိုဝင်း

ဦးဆောင်နာယကကြီး၊ မြန်မာနိုင်ငံအီလက်ထရောနစ်အားကစားအဖွဲ့ချုပ်အား
အထူးကျေးဇူးတင်ဂုဏ်ပြုအပ်ပါကြောင်းနှင့်
နိုင်ငံတော်မှချီးမြှင့်သည့် စွမ်းဆောင်မှုဆိုင်ရာ ဂုဏ်ထူးဆောင်တံဆိပ်
စီမံထူးချွန်တံဆိပ်(ပထမဆင့်) ဂုဏ်ပြုချီးမြှင့်ခံရသည့် အဖွဲ့ချုပ် Founder နှင့် ဂုဏ်ထူးဆောင်နာယက
ဒေါ်နန်းခမ်းနောင့်အား အထူးဂုဏ်ယူဝမ်းမြောက်ဂုဏ်ပြုအပ်ပါကြောင်း
လေးစားစွာဖြင့် မှတ်တမ်းတင်အပ်ပါသည်။

Founder ၊ ဥက္ကဋ္ဌ နှင့် Myanmar Esports အားကစားလူငယ်များ
မြန်မာနိုင်ငံအီလက်ထရောနစ်အားကစားအဖွဲ့ချုပ်
၁၃၈၇ ခုနှစ်၊ ပြာသိုလဆုတ်(၃)ရက်နေ့ (၅ -၁-၂၀၂၆)

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

China calls on US to release Venezuela’s Maduro



The Foreign Ministry has expressed “grave concern” over the capture of Maduro and his wife. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

China expresses grave concern over the US forcibly seizing Maduro and his wife and taking them out of the country.

CHINA on Sunday called on the United States to release Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro and his wife at once.

A Foreign Ministry spokesperson made the remarks in response to the capture of Maduro and his wife by the US on Saturday. The pair were subsequently taken from Caracas to New York to face trial.

“China expresses grave concern over the US forcibly seizing Maduro and his wife and taking them out of the country,” the spokesperson said

in a statement, adding that the US move is in clear violation of international law, basic norms in international relations, and the purposes and principles of the UN Charter.

“China calls on the United States to ensure the personal safety of Maduro and his wife, release them at once, stop toppling the government of Venezuela, and resolve issues through dialogue and negotiation,” the spokesperson said.

— Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

North Korea fires ballistic missiles in first test of 2026

NORTH Korea fired multiple ballistic missiles off its east coast on Sunday, Seoul’s military said.

Seoul’s defence ministry said it had detected “several projectiles, presumed to be ballistic missiles” fired from near the North Korean capital Pyongyang around 7:50 am (2250 GMT Saturday).

The missiles flew approximately 900 kilometres (559 miles), the military said, adding that South Korea and ally the United States were “closely analysing the specifications” while “maintaining a full readiness posture”. — AFP

La Guaira port hit as Maduro removed by US

Twelve hours after US airstrikes in Venezuela, smoke lingered over La Guaira’s port, where damaged shipping containers and shattered buildings testified to the force of the mission that ousted President Nicolás Maduro.

Firefighters cleared debris as armed police patrolled to prevent looting, while stunned residents filmed the destruction. Locals described the blasts as traumatizing, recalling past disasters. — AFP

BBC settles with 7 October attack survivors

THE BBC says it has reached a settlement with an Israeli family who survived Hamas’s 7 October attack on southern Israel after a news crew filmed inside their destroyed home.

The crew, which included senior correspondent Jeremy Bowen, entered the Horenstein family’s home in the days after the attacks in 2023. “While we do not generally comment on specific legal issues we are pleased to have reached an agreement in this case,” a BBC spokesperson says. Tzeela and Simon Horenstein and their two young children survived the attack when a door the Hamas terrorists tried to blast open twisted and jammed. — AFP

Russia to develop nuclear-powered space engine prototype by 2030

A nuclear-powered space engine prototype must be developed in Russia by 2030, and two gigafactories will be opened this year, Alexei Likhachev, director general of Russia’s State Atomic Energy Corporation Rosatom, said Saturday. “Our partnership with Roscosmos under a dedicated federal project — covering the lunar station and a megawatt-class rocket engine — demonstrates the role of nuclear power in advancing space exploration,” said Likhachev in an interview with the Russia 24 TV channel.

“A prototype must be ready by 2030,” he said.

Likhachev also noted that Rosatom is expanding into electric mobility, working on both power solutions and control systems, and has already achieved tangible results. Two gigafactories producing lithium-ion batteries are set to open in 2026, he said, adding that one will be located in Neman, near the Kaliningrad Nuclear Power Plant, and the other in New Moscow. — Xinhua



The image shows a laboratory prototype of a plasma electric rocket engine developed by Russian scientists at Rosatom. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE / SPACE INSIDER**

India calls for parties to return to dialogue in Venezuela crisis

INDIA’S Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) expressed deep concern over recent developments in Venezuela, stressing that it is closely monitoring the situation. The statement urged all parties to resolve issues peacefully through dialogue and diplomacy, reaffirming India’s support for the well-being and safety of Venezuelans.

The MEA highlighted that the Embassy of India in Caracas remains in contact with the Indian community and will provide assistance. On Saturday, the MEA advised Indian nationals to avoid non-essential travel to Venezuela and urged those already there to exercise extreme caution, restrict movements, and stay connected with the embassy via email or emergency helpline. — ANI

SPORTS

Arsenal stretch
Premier League
lead as Villa win

ARSENAL fought back from a goal down to beat Bournemouth 3-2 on Saturday, stretching their lead at the top of the Premier League as Aston Villa extended their winning run at home.

A goal from Gabriel Magalhaes and two from the returning Declan Rice sent the Gunners six points clear of second-placed Villa and seven ahead of Manchester City. Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta praised the character of his team, singling out Rice and

Gabriel, whose sloppy pass set up Bournemouth for the opening goal. "I love the character of Gabriel, the way he overcome that situation — it's just unbelievable, it says a lot about how much we've grown," he told Sky Sports.

"The team found a way to beat them and it's a massive win." The Spaniard said that Rice had worked hard to be available after missing Tuesday's 4-1 home win against Villa with a knee problem. — AFP



Arsenal's Declan Rice celebrates scoring their second goal on the way to the Gunners' 3-2 victory.
PHOTO: AFP

Tyson Fury comes out
of retirement again



British boxer Tyson Fury. PHOTO: AFP

FORMER world heavyweight champion Tyson Fury announced Sunday he will return to boxing in 2026.

Fury has not fought since losing to Oleksandr Usyk in a bout for three of the four major world titles in December 2024.

But the 37-year-old British star posted on Instagram on Sunday: "2026 is that year. Return of the mac."

"Been away for a while but I'm back now, 37 years old and still punching. Nothing better to do than punch men in the face and get paid for it."

Fury also said he was retiring from the sport after beating Dillian Whyte in April 2022, only to return later in the year.

Fury's history of retirement followed by u-turns meant few believed his most recent claim to end a career that had brought 34 wins in 37 contests.

He was incensed at the judges' decisions in a pair of defeats by Usyk, the only boxer to beat Fury, who said in last year's retirement message: "I'm going to end with this: Dick Turpin wore a mask." — AFP

Rast ends Shiffrin slalom streak to
claim Kranjska Gora double

CAMILLE Rast ended US star Mikaela Shiffrin's World Cup slalom streak on Sunday as the Swiss skier completed a double at Kranjska Gora a day after winning the giant slalom.

Shiffrin had been looking to extend her slalom run having won all five

races in the discipline this season, in addition to last year's season-ender.

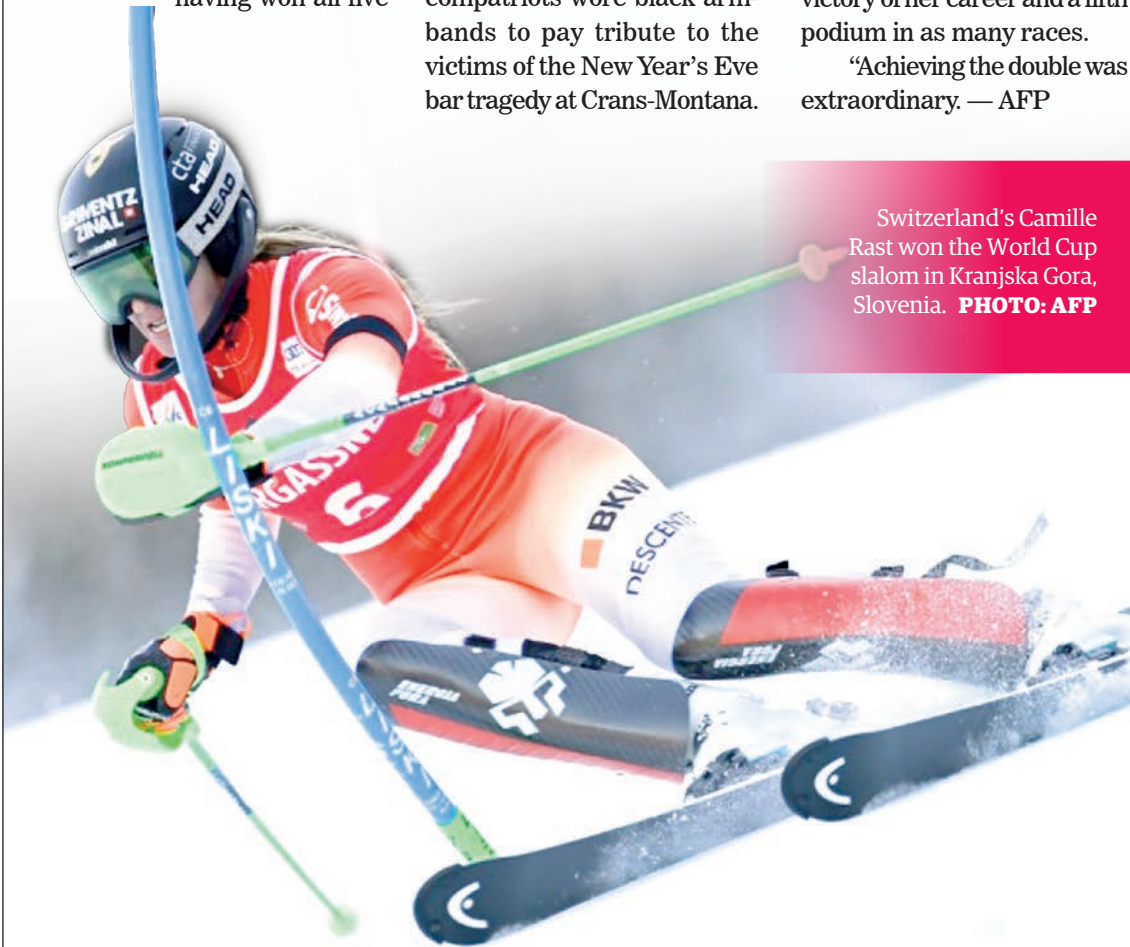
But the overall World Cup and slalom leader had to settle for second place 0.14 seconds behind Rast.

The Swiss skier and her compatriots wore black armbands to pay tribute to the victims of the New Year's Eve bar tragedy at Crans-Montana.

And the reigning slalom world champion blitzed to the fastest time in both runs having also led Shiffrin by 0.10sec after the first run.

"I gave it everything I had this weekend," said Rast, who achieved the fourth World Cup victory of her career and a fifth podium in as many races.

"Achieving the double was extraordinary. — AFP



Switzerland's Camille Rast won the World Cup slalom in Kranjska Gora, Slovenia. PHOTO: AFP



ROK President Lee Jae Myung arrives in Beijing for state visit

This marks Lee's first visit to China since taking office.

AT THE invitation of Chinese President Xi Jinping, President of the Republic of Korea (ROK) Lee Jae Myung arrived in Beijing on Sunday for a state visit to China from 4 to 7 January.

It is Lee's first visit to China since he took office. A Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson said that China and the ROK are important neighbours and partners. It is expected that under the strategic guidance of the two heads of state, this visit will play an active role in promoting the further development of the China-ROK strategic cooperative partnership, the spokesperson added. — Xinhua



President of the Republic of Korea Lee Jae Myung arrives in Beijing, capital of China, 4 January 2026. PHOTO: DAI TIANFANG/XINHUA

Russian Far East region welcomes Chinese investors to tap into new incentive mechanism

RUSSIA invites international investors, notably from China, to fully utilize the new investment-attraction mechanism of the International Advanced Development Zones (IADs), said Aleksey Chekunkov, Russian

minister for the Development of the Far East and Arctic.

The new preferential regime for Russia's Far East came into force on 1 January 2026. Unlike previously introduced prefer-

ential regimes, IADs are specifically aimed at foreign investors and offer substantial benefits, Chekunkov said in a recent interview with Xinhua.

Chekunkov noted that IADs offer enterprises a large package of benefits, including a zero corporate profit tax rate for 10 years, social insurance contribution rates significantly below the Russian average, access to land plots with infrastructure and a free customs zone regime.

The key advantage of IADs, he stressed, lies in providing investors with long-term stability guarantees — tax and regulatory conditions remain unchanged throughout the entire project lifecycle for a maximum of 15 years. Moreover, the commercial information of resident companies will enjoy special protection.

According to Chekunkov, Russian authorities currently plan to establish IADs in five Far Eastern regions: Primorsky Krai, Khabarovsk Krai, Amur Oblast, Zabaykalsky Krai and the Jewish Autonomous Oblast. — Xinhua



The Ozyorny mining and refining facility (also referred to as the Ozernoye GOK) is a major lead-zinc processing plant located in the Republic of Buryatia, Russia. PHOTO: EN.KREMLIN.RU

Pope Leo says welfare of Venezuelans must prevail

Pope Leo XIV on Sunday said Venezuelans' welfare should prevail after the toppling of President Nicolas Maduro in a US operation and said the country's sovereignty should be guaranteed.

Following his Angelus prayer in St Peter's Square, the first US pope told the crowd that "the welfare of the beloved Venezuelan people must prevail over all other considerations and lead to overcoming violence and embarking on paths of justice and peace, guaranteeing the sovereignty of the country." — AFP