

## 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.

## Traditional Medicine Knowledge Boosts Public Health Outcomes

Rooted in local natural environments, cultures and customs, traditional medicine continues to be relied upon worldwide as a valuable heritage passed down from ancestors.

**A**CTING President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing sent a video speech in honour of the opening of the 24<sup>th</sup> Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners Conference and Myanmar Traditional Medicine Symposium on 16 December 2025. The full text of the translated video speech is as follows: — **SEE PAGE 4**



Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing accepts the Credentials of Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to Myanmar Haji Mohamad Sarif Pudbin Matseru at the Credentials Hall of the Office of the National Defence and Security Council in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

## Myanmar, Brunei to enhance cooperation in education, defence, tourism and aviation

**A**CTING President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing accepted the Credentials of Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to Myanmar Haji Mohamad Sarif Pudbin Matseru, at the Credentials Hall of the Office of the National Defence and Security Council in Nay Pyi Taw at 11 am yesterday.

At the ceremony, they exchanged views on the enhancement of friendly relations and cooperation between Myanmar and Brunei, exchange of goodwill visits of State leaders, and the situation to promote cooperation in education, defence, tourism and aviation sectors.


They also discussed the provision of humanitarian aid and the efforts of Myanmar in following the ASEAN Charter in the ASEAN society without interference in the internal affairs of other countries.

Moreover, their discussions focused on preparations of Myanmar to hold a free and fair multiparty democratic general election, and extension of invitations to electoral observation teams from the international community to the Myanmar’s elections.

After the ceremony, the Senior General and the Brunei Darussalam Ambassador to Myanmar had documentary photos taken.

Also, present at the ceremony were Commission Secretary General Ye Win Oo, Commission Member Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe and Director-General U Than Htwe of the Protocol Department. — MNA/TTA

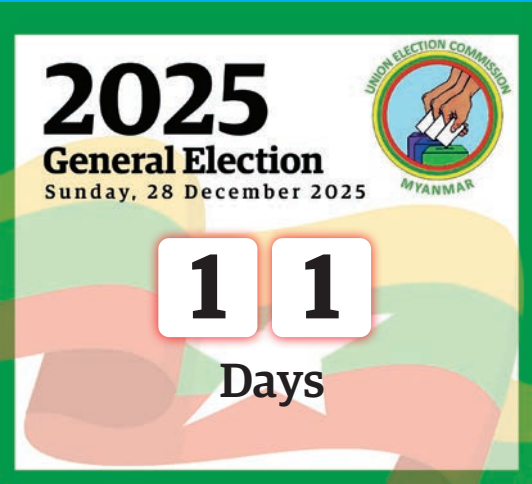
NATIONAL



# 2025 MULTIPARTY DEMOCRACY GENERAL ELECTION

- Domestic election observers who wish to monitor the multiparty democratic general election, which will begin in phases on 28 December 2025, may apply for election observation permits at the Union Election Commission (UEC), as well as the relevant Region/State, District, and Township Election Subcommissions from today until 5 December 2025.
- The Union Election Commission announced on 16 September 2025 that domestic election observers must follow the Code of Conduct for Observers, issued under Notification 68/2025, and adhere to the procedures set out for their observation activities under Notification 69/2025. These notifications are available for viewing and can be downloaded from the Union Election Commission’s official website <https://www.uec.gov.mm>.
- The Union Election Commission has also announced that international election observers will be allowed to monitor the multiparty democratic general election. Invitations will be extended directly to representatives of relevant countries and international organizations. In addition, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, invitations will be sent to representatives of foreign embassies, consulates, and permanent missions that maintain diplomatic relations with the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Union Election Commission



- Let us encourage production for prosperity of the Nation.
- Let us ensure education sector for the development of the Nation.
- Let us protect our environment for the prosperity of the Nation.

## Four National Objectives for 78<sup>th</sup> 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

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.



## Commemorating the 121<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the founding of Myanmar Cooperatives

18 December 2025

“Let’s work together in the cooperative sector to improve socioeconomic life”



Myanmar Gazette			
Appointment of Head of Service Organization confirmed, Heads of Service Organizations appointed			
<p>1. The National Defence and Security Council has confirmed the appointment of Dr Aung Thurein Win, Managing Director of No 1 Mining Enterprise under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, after the one-year probationary period.</p> <p>2. The National Defence and Security Council has appointed the following persons as Heads of Service Organizations shown against each of their names on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.</p>			
Name	Appointment	Name	Appointment
(a) Dr Aye Thet Thet Win Pro-Rector Sagaing University of Education Department of Higher Education Ministry of Education	Rector Sagaing University of Education Department of Higher Education Ministry of Education	(b) Dr Khaing Khaing San Pro-Rector Mawlamyine University Department of Higher Education Ministry of Education	Rector Hinthada University Department of Higher Education Ministry of Education
		(c) Dr Win Win Ei Pro-Rector Myeik University Department of Higher Education Ministry of Education	Rector Myeik University Department of Higher Education Ministry of Education
		(d) Dr Win Htike Deputy Director-General Currency Management Department Central Bank of Myanmar	Director-General Currency Management Department Central Bank of Myanmar



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)

Pakistan to send election observation team to Myanmar

ACTING President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing accepts Credentials of the Pakistani Ambassador.

Ambassador of Pakistan to Myanmar Mr Tariq Karim presented his Credentials to Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the Credentials Hall of the Office of the National Defence and Security Council in Nay Pyi Taw at 10 am yesterday.

Afterwards, they cordially discussed the plans of Pakistan to send the electoral observation teams to the multiparty democratic general election to be held in Myanmar soon.

Moreover, they exchanged views on strengthening diplomatic relations between the two countries, efforts to enhance friendship and co-operation, promotion of co-



Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Pakistani Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Tariq Karim at the Credentials Hall of the Office of the National Defence and Security Council in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

operation in trade, economic, defence, health and political sectors, and further promotion of cooperation in religious and tourism sectors. They also emphasized promoting

bilateral cooperation in the departments of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs between the two countries.

After the meeting, the Senior General and the Am-

bassador of Pakistan to Myanmar had documentary photos taken.

Also present at the ceremony were Secretary of the Commission General Ye Win

Oo, Commission Member Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe and Director-General U Than Htwe of the Protocol Department. — MNA/TTA

Public Announcement on Film Industry Licences

UNDER Article 419 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the State Administration Council promulgated the Amendment to the Film Law under Law No 59/2024 on 20 December 2024.

Furthermore, exercising the authority granted under Section 49 (a) of the Film Law, the Ministry of Information, with the agreement of the Union Government, issued Notification 149/2025 on 3 December 2025, promulgating the rules and regulations amending the Film Rules.

Under these amended rules, in addition to the

original eight categories of film business, the following activities must also obtain a business licence from the Department of Information and Public Relations before operation:

- (a) Establishment and operation of film training schools
- (b) Leasing of film production equipment
- (c) Provision of services related to film production
- (d) Establishment and operation of film studios
- (e) Film processing, dubbing, and special effects work

- (f) Establishment and operation of online cinemas, film distribution via applications, and online platforms

Similarly, applications for new cinema licences, or extensions of existing licences, must be submitted to the Department of Information and Public Relations in the respective Union Territory/Region/State. For further details, interested parties may contact 01 7536361.

Ministry of Information



# NATIONAL

## Traditional Medicine Knowledge Boosts Public Health Outcomes

### FROM PAGE 1

#### Everybody, Mingalaba!

I extend my heartfelt greetings and best wishes to all the responsible individuals attending the Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners Conference and the Myanmar Traditional Medicine Symposium, to the distinguished traditional medicine practitioners from each region and state, to the experts in related fields, and to all distinguished guests. May you be filled with happiness, good health, and peace of mind. I sincerely hope that you will continue to cherish, preserve, and promote the heritage of traditional Myanma medicine.

The Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners Conference and the Myanmar Traditional Medicine Symposium, which began in the year 2000, have since been held annually, and this year marks their 24<sup>th</sup> edition.

The objectives of this year's conference are:

- To further improve methods of diagnosis and treatment using Myanmar traditional medicine;
- To enable the people to understand the medicinal properties of surrounding plants and common kitchen ingredients;
- To enhance primary healthcare services through traditional medicine;
- To preserve, safeguard, and promote the traditional systems of Myanma medicine.

Myanmar traditional medicine has played an important role in the healthcare of the nation's people from ancient times up to the present day. For this reason, in line with the country's health policies, the conferences and knowledge exchange events are held annually to use traditional medicine and medicines to better safeguard public health. At present, this effort aligns with the fourth objective of the National Defence and Security Council: **"To emphasize enhancing the national education and health sectors for sustainable development of the State"**. It also supports the national goal of promoting long-lasting health and well-being for all citizens by strengthening the inclusive healthcare sector.

To preserve, safeguard, and promote traditional Myanma medical education



and medicines – a national cultural heritage – and to provide better healthcare to all citizens through traditional medicine, the country has established a major Traditional Medicine University that annually trains a new generation of traditional medicine practitioners. To date, in order to further develop traditional medicine in line with modern needs and to produce highly skilled traditional medicine practitioners, the first-ever doctoral course in traditional medicine was launched in the 2025 academic year.

Looking back over Myanmar's history, we can see the long-standing tradition of safeguarding public health through traditional medicine. For this reason, to enhance the practical skills of traditional medicine practitioners in providing healthcare to ethnic communities, a specialized training programme on physiotherapy was conducted in July and August 2025 at traditional medicine hospitals (100-bed) in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon. We also see that during natural disasters and other emergencies, traditional medicine has actively played a role in assisting and protecting the public. Furthermore, to foster respect and appreciation for the heritage of Myanmar traditional medicine, efforts have been expanded in each region and state to provide traditional medicine education, and the delivery of traditional medicine-based healthcare services in schools has been intensified. It is with pride and satisfaction that we acknowledge these developments.

As a member of ASEAN, Myanmar

not only cooperates with other member countries across various sectors but also actively participates in collaboration within the traditional medicine sector. If Myanmar's traditional medicine production industry can advance beyond the domestic industrial level to achieve regional and international standards, expanding production, improving quality, and enhancing packaging, it can boost the national economy and improve the socioeconomic well-being of the people. For this reason, in the ASEAN economic community, Myanmar is working together with other member countries to strengthen cooperation in the fields of traditional medicine and health supplements, to harmonize technical requirements and guidelines, and to facilitate smoother trade.

Therefore, I am pleased to note that in 2025, officials from the Ministry of Health and the Department of Traditional Medicine actively participated and led discussions in several international events, including the 37<sup>th</sup> Product Working Group for Traditional Medicines and Health Supplements (TM-HSPWG) Meeting and related sessions held in Singapore; the conference on traditional medicine and allied research among ASEAN countries held in Thailand; the workshop in Hanoi, Vietnam, on quality research related to raw materials of traditional medicine in Southeast Asian countries; the 3<sup>rd</sup> China-ASEAN cooperative conference on traditional medicine production held in China; and the international forum on tourism health

development for ASEAN countries held in Guangxi, China.

Moreover, Myanmar is cooperating with international organizations such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the ASEAN, the BIMSTEC and the Mekong Region in the traditional medicine sector.

Traditional medicines used by the public daily need to be safe, reliable, and of high quality and efficacy. In this regard, each step of the laboratory testing process is crucial, and it is necessary to enhance the capabilities of laboratory staff. Similarly, effective measures must be taken to prevent dishonest practices that could compromise the quality and integrity of traditional medicines.

In countries around the world, traditional medicine exists according to their local natural environment, culture, and customs, and people continue to rely on it as a heritage of their ancestors. While modern medicine and pharmaceuticals have advanced and are in use, it is well recognized that traditional medicine and remedies still serve as an important support for health. According to Myanmar's traditional medicine, it is important to understand the medicinal properties of local plants and common kitchen ingredients, so families can protect their health and live longer, healthier, and disease-free lives. Therefore, under the slogan "Caring for public health through traditional medicine," traditional medicine practitioners should be encouraged to provide more health education and guidance to help the public maintain balanced daily living and proper nutrition.

In conclusion, the annual Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners Conference and the Myanmar Traditional Medicine Symposium are held to further develop traditional medicine and enhance public health through its practice. May the traditional medicine practitioners from different regions and states who meet at this significant conference come together in unity, consultation, and friendship. I sincerely hope that this gathering will help accelerate the advancement of Myanmar traditional medicine and strengthen its capacity to better protect and promote the health of the people.

Thank you all.

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(+95) (01) 8604532,  
Hotline - 09 255597511

#### ADVERTISING & MARKETING

(+95) (01) 8604530,  
Hotline - 09 251022355  
marketing@gnlm.com.mm  
subscription@gnlm.com.mm

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[gnlmnews@gmail.com](mailto:gnlmnews@gmail.com),  
[newsroom@gnlm.com.mm](mailto:newsroom@gnlm.com.mm)  
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NATIONAL

Tatmadaw to take lead in holding free, fair multiparty elections: Vice-Senior General

STATE Security and Peace Commission Vice-Chairman, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, and Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, accompanied by senior Tatmadaw officials, deputy ministers and relevant officials, arrived at the airport in Myitkyina of Kachin State yesterday, and was welcomed by Kachin State Chief Minister U Khet Htein Nan along with ethnic traditional dance troupes.

The Vice-Senior General and party proceeded to Bala Min Htin Hall of Northern Command and met with officers and other ranks of Myitkyina Station.

Speaking on the occasion, the Vice-Senior General said the election will be held in three phases. The first phase of the election will be conducted on 28 December in 102 townships. The second phase will be held on 11 January 2026 in 100 townships, and the third phase will be conducted after a two-week period in 72 townships. Tatmadaw will take the lead in conducting a free and fair multiparty democratic general election, and all the responsible personnel should cooperate to ensure the eligible voters can vote. Efforts will be also made to hold by-election in the remaining 56 townships.

He stressed that measures must be taken to prevent electoral fraud similar to those that occurred during the 2020 election. Due to inaccuracies in voter lists during the previous election, Tatmadaw had to



State Security and Peace Commission Vice-Chairman, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, and Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win warmly greets officers and other ranks of Myitkyina Station at the Northern Command in Myitkyina yesterday.

temporarily take the State responsibilities. For the upcoming election, which will be led by Tatmadaw, the Myanmar Electronic Voting Machine (MEVM) that will prevent electoral fraud will be used. This system has been used to conduct elections in 34 countries.

Citizens aged 18 and above who possess a national ID cards are eligible voters, and responsible officials have already carried out door-to-door verification of necessary information to ensure all eligible voters can cast their vote. He emphasized that officials must ensure there are no omissions so that those included in voter lists do not lose their right to vote.

He then highlighted the important role of state stability while casting vote by the peo-

ple, proper security measures, and continued that the eligible voters residing in the country that is heading to multiparty democracy are responsible to vote individually and the youths must cast vote without fail as they are the ones who will serve State duties in pursuit of the democratic system one day.

Voters should choose candidates who can work in unity with Tatmadaw, who will uphold the Three Main National Causes, who can serve the interests of their local communities, who possess good moral character, are physically fit, capable of leading organizations, and who have sound perspectives on security, administration, and the economy. After the completion of the election, the Hluttaw will be convened and State respon-

sibilities will be transferred to the newly formed government.

To effectively fulfill duties, individuals must maintain good health and physical strength, and it is essential to continuously learn to adapt to the evolving advancements in military equipment and skills in line with the motto “Study, Practice, and Comply”. Just as strength is essential for maintaining a soldier’s physical and mental well-being, skill is developed through training to ensure skill in weapons and mastery of military techniques. Only through such expertise can confidence be built, and with confidence comes the courage to overcome any challenges faced.

Tatmadaw members are responsible to the State and to faithfully and dutifully carry out

lawful orders and assigned responsibilities without neglecting their primary duties. In serving duties, individuals need to have three capabilities in military, administrative and organizing and safeguard Tatmadaw’s 12 fine traditions. Training, administration, welfare, and morality are needed to ensure these three capabilities.

He then made proper instructions regarding with the proportionate administrative system in units and continued that Tatmadaw has already provided appropriate rights and benefits according to rank. Then, proper supervision is required to ensure the receivable things fully and correctly in order to promote welfare. Only then, mutual respect and trust between superiors and subordinates can be built up, and duties can be served successfully.

He then urged the officers and other ranks and families to follow 20 code of conducts for soldiers, avoid drugs, alcohol and gambling, detest bribery as filth.

He added that by reading and learning, Tatmadaw members can acquire knowledge and skills. He also urged to follow the directives of the Senior General such as going only where one should go, saying only what one should say, doing only what one should do, and making friend only with appropriate people.

He presented foodstuffs and cash awards for Tatmadaw members of the station through officials. — MNA/KTZH



MoFA Union Minister receives Ambassador of Brunei to Myanmar

UNION Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe received Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to Myanmar Haji Mohamad Sarif Pudir bin Matserudin at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi

Taw yesterday.

During the courtesy call, the Union minister congratulated the ambassador on his appointment as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei

Darussalam to Myanmar. They discussed matters relating to further strengthening cooperation between the two Foreign Ministries, enhancing relations between Myanmar and Brunei, and promoting mutually beneficial cooperation in various sectors, particularly agriculture, trade, investment and labour. — MNA

Union Minister U Than Swe and Brunei Ambassador Haji Mohamad Sarif Pudir bin Matserudin shake hands during the courtesy call in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.



# NATIONAL

## Vice-Senior General Soe Win meets Kachin State officials and university leaders in Myitkyina



State Security and Peace Commission Vice-Chairman, Defence Services Deputy C-in-C, and C-in-C (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win delivers the speech at the meeting with the Kachin State government, departmental officials, town elders in Myitkyina yesterday.

**S**TATE Security and Peace Commission Vice-Chairman, Defence Services Deputy Commander-in-Chief, and Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win yesterday met members of the Kachin State government, departmental officials, town elders, Rectors, Pro-rectors, teachers, staff, and students of Myitkyina University, the Education Degree College, and the Polytechnic University at designated locations, where he delivered a speech.

Yesterday afternoon, he met members of the Kachin State government and departmental officials at the Kachin State Government Office meeting hall and delivered a speech.

The meeting was attended by Daw Dwe Bu, a member of the Advisory Body of the National Defence and Security Council, Kachin State Chief Minister U Khet Htein Nan, senior military officials from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, the Northern Command Commander, deputy ministers, state government ministers, departmental officials from districts and townships, ethnic traditional cultural groups, religious associations, and township leaders.

During the meeting, the Kachin State chief minister briefed attendees on the state's current situation, progress in regional development, imple-

mentation of agricultural and livestock activities, projects undertaken during the financial year, foreign exchange earnings from agricultural products, loans extended to farmers and business owners from the State Economic Development Fund, progress in MSME activities, preparations for the successful conduct of the multi-party democratic general election, and the implementation status of the Head of State's directives.

State Security and Peace Commission Vice-Chairman, Defence Services Deputy Commander-in-Chief, and Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win addressed the development of Kachin State, emphasizing coordination in line with the Head of State's instructions. He noted that since assuming responsibility on February 1, 2021, some civil servants left due to threats and coercion, while loyal officials continued their duties.

Vice-Senior General Soe Win outlined the schedule for the upcoming multiparty general election: the first part on 28 December 2025, the second on 11 January 2026, and the third two weeks later. He highlighted that elections are essential to form a new government and transfer state power. To ensure a free and fair vote, the Myanmar Electronic Voting Machine (MEVM), based on the Direct Recording

Electronic (DRE) system, will be used. Developed locally and certified by the National Certification Committee and the Myanmar Standard Mark, the system has been proven effective in countries such as India, Bhutan, Iran, Brazil, and others.

He stressed the importance of voter participation, regional peace, and cooperation with officials. Voters are encouraged to select candidates with the knowledge, morality, and leadership skills necessary to serve the region effectively and uphold political, administrative, economic, and security responsibilities.

Vice-Senior General Soe Win highlighted the importance of agriculture and livestock for the national economy, emphasizing the need for accurate statistics, dedicated employees, and awareness-raising activities by officials. He urged MSMEs to focus on producing and exporting new agricultural and livestock-based products rather than limiting sales to local markets.

He also stressed that electricity is essential for agricultural production and industrial development. Hydropower, being the most cost-effective source at K82 per unit compared to K171 for solar, K235 for natural gas, and K215 for coal, should be prioritized. He specifically called for the review, discussion,

and implementation of the Myitsone Hydropower Project on the Ayeyawady River to generate electricity in Kachin State.

The Vice-Chairman of the Commission said national economic policies on investment, finance, and trade require a strong base of educated human resources, making the promotion of education essential for development. Citing the 2014 Population and Housing Census, he noted that the country's population exceeds 51 million, with 66.9 per cent in the working-age group (between 15 and 64 years old), up from 54.8 per cent in 1973, reflecting urban migration and expanding job opportunities. He added that 66.9 per cent of the working-age population is educated, underscoring the need for greater investment in education to support long-term socioeconomic growth and attract foreign investment.

Since taking office, the Head of State has expanded and upgraded universities and colleges, increased funding for basic education, and strengthened support for teachers. Literacy at the Union level stands at 92.1 per cent among more than 22 million people. However, school attendance declines sharply after age 14, falling to 43.3 per cent among those aged 15-19 and 15 per cent among those aged 20-24, with only 1.6 per cent of adults having attended university or college.

To address this, 89 technical high schools have been opened in 88 districts, and he called for cooperation among the government, parents, students, and communities to overcome barriers such as school fees, lack of interest, and disabilities and to improve grade transition rates.

Then, town elder U A Phu highlighted the need for adequate fertilizer, repaired waterways to prevent flooding, and support for overall agricultural development. U La Mai Gwan Ja requested clarification on the benefits and guarantees that the Myitsone Hydroelectric Project would provide for local communities, village leaders, and religious organizations. Deputy Minister U Aye Kyaw explained ongoing discussions with Chinese companies regarding the project's implementation.

Vice-Senior General Soe Win discussed the Myitsone Hydroelectric Project, noting that it was initiated during his tenure as regional commander but halted due to political crises just before the final stage of dam construction. He addressed concerns from residents and religious leaders about earthquake risks, explaining that the dam, located 25.4 kilometres from the Sagaing fault line, was originally designed to withstand a Maximum Credible Earthquake (MCE) of 7.1.

**SEE PAGE 7**



NATIONAL

24<sup>th</sup> Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners' Conference and Myanmar Traditional Medicine Symposium kick off in Nay Pyi Taw

THE opening ceremony for the 24<sup>th</sup> Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners Conference and Myanmar Traditional Medicine Symposium took place at the Myanmar International Convention Centre I in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

It was attended by State Security and Peace Commission Member Prime Minister U Nyo Saw, Union ministers, deputy ministers, senior Tatmadaw officers, departmental officials, ambassadors and charge d'affaires of foreign embassies, relevant officials of Myanmar Medical Council, Traditional Medicine Council, other officials and invitees.

After the ceremonial ribbon-cutting event, SSPC Member Prime Minister U Nyo Saw pressed the electric button to inaugurate the event.

A video message, sent by Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing was screened during the opening ceremony.

(A video message, sent by Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing is reported separately on page



State Security and Peace Commission Member Prime Minister U Nyo Saw observes traditional medicines displayed at the the 24<sup>th</sup> Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners Conference and Myanmar Traditional Medicine Symposium in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

1 & 4)

SSPC Member Prime Minister stated that the government places great importance on the traditional medicine sector and is actively supporting, honouring, and promoting it. Myanmar traditional medicine practitioners are being systematically trained from the basic level through diploma programmes, bachelor's degrees, and up to master's degree levels to ensure they become fully qualified professionals. At this conference, senior traditional

medicine practitioners are able to share academic knowledge and practical experience with the younger generation and pass on their legacy, providing significant benefits. He urged the younger generation to continue working toward the further development and advancement of traditional Myanmar medicine in the future.

He continued that to implement the directives of the Head of the State, such as "Only with good health can one pursue education, only with good health

can one work, nothing is more important than human life", traditional medicine plays a key role. Moreover, a collaborative effort to develop Myanmar traditional medicine is needed to be able to keep abreast domestically or with ASEAN and international traditional medicine sectors.

Therefore, efforts must be made to further promote traditional Myanmar medicine and to ensure that traditional medicines are safe, free from harmful side effects, of high quality, modern-

ized, and to nurture more qualified human resources in the traditional medicine sector.

He stressed the need to prevent the disappearance of Myanmar traditional medicine by researching medicines so that the public can use them with confidence and trust, and reaffirmed that the government will continue to support and encourage the further development of Myanmar traditional medicine. He also highlighted the importance of further improving and establishing standards and guidelines for traditional medicine, and the government is providing support in terms of modern equipment and technologies, necessary manpower, development-required sectors, and education and training programmes.

Preserving and promoting Myanmar's own traditional medicine resources and value systems not fade or decline is a national duty and responsibility of the younger generations.

He watched the video clip featuring development measures for traditional medicine and the entertainment programmes.

He had a documentary photo taken together with the attendees.

He observed the booths at the event. — MNA/KTZH

Vice-Senior General Soe Win meets Kachin State ...

FROM PAGE 6

The project includes six sites along the Maykha and Malikha rivers with a total capacity of 19,099 MW, 6,000 MW of which is allocated to Myitsone. The selected dam type, a Concrete Face Rock Fill Dam (CFRD), will have an installed capacity of 5,600 MW. Seismic considerations were informed by other local dams, such as Zaungtu and Kon, which withstood the March 28, 2025, Mandalay earthquake. Experts from the Asia Charter Professional Engineer (ACPE) team recommend designing the dam to withstand even stronger earthquakes.

The project plan also in-

cludes measures to regulate the water table and prevent annual flooding in Myitkyina. Water levels along the Ayeyawady River are expected to reach 10 metres annually, allowing navigation from Myitkyina to the Ayeyawady Region, while sediments from the riverbed will serve as natural fertilizer for farmers along the river.

If the project is successful, it will benefit both the country and Kachin State by increasing productivity, providing electricity, and enabling year-round use of the waterway. The local ethnic communities, association officials, and village elders who attended expressed their pleasure and appreciation for the initiative.

Vice-Senior General Soe Win presented awards and honours to 15 ethnic traditional cultural organizations and five religious organizations, with officials receiving them on their behalf. He also greeted attendees and toured MSME exhibitions showcasing local agricultural and livestock products, food items, traditional clothing, accessories, and handicrafts made from amber, gemstones, and bamboo.

In the evening, Vice-Senior General Soe Win held a meeting with Rectors, Pro-rectors staff, and students of Myitkyina University, the Degree College of Education, and the Polytechnic University, emphasizing the role

of youth as future national leaders. He cited education data from the 2014 census, noting a population of over 51 million, a literacy rate of 92.11 per cent, and that 66.9 per cent of the population is aged 15 to 64. While school enrollment stands at about 90 per cent, with a net enrolment rate of 94.8 per cent, he highlighted weaknesses in grade transition, as only 15 per cent of those aged 20 to 24 are at the university level. He called for cooperation among the government, parents, communities, and students to address challenges such as school fees and access to education, stressing continued support for the education sector and the responsibility of youth

to contribute to national development.

Vice-Senior General Soe Win also met university officials to review institutional needs, coordinated necessary measures, and presented awards to schools. He then visited Myitkyina Public Hospital to meet patients, assess medical conditions, encourage health workers, and present food and cash gifts. He also paid religious visits to Dhammarakkhita Wantho Monastery and the Kachin Baptist Church, where he met religious leaders, made offerings and donations, exchanged Christmas gifts, and conveyed greetings and thanks. — MNA/TH



# Improve the capacity of civil service personnel

IN any country, there is a government and a civil service. The government provides political leadership and sets policies, while the civil servants are responsible for implementing those policies in practice. Although the political leaders in the government may change, civil servants are required to continue carrying out their respective duties in accordance with their roles.

Every person desires progress and aims for a better life, so effort and hard work are necessary. All civil servants chose this career path because they wanted to serve as public employees, and they applied for the civil service in line with their livelihood

Civil servants must learn lessons from the historical events that have occurred in the country and work to build a modern, developed, peaceful, and stable nation for the future. The State has been able to overcome armed conflicts that arose from political causes, political disruptions, natural disasters, and various hardships and difficulties through the unified strength of loyal civil servants and responsible citizens.

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Therefore, in order to become reliable and capable civil servants for the future of the nation, individuals must continuously improve their own abilities. Whenever the country faces challenges, loyal civil servants must do their utmost to support the nation so that it does not falter or decline. Only then will the nation be able to remain strong and stable in the long term.

WHEN we talk about child mental health today, we often turn to Western thinkers such as Jean Piaget, Abraham Maslow, and Erik Erikson. Their theories have shaped modern education, parenting, and therapy by helping us understand how children grow, what they need emotionally and cognitively, and how best to support them.

Yet long before modern psychology emerged, the East – particularly Buddhist psychology – had already developed a profound understanding of the human mind. When we place these two traditions side by side, the contrasts are fascinating, and the overlaps surprisingly powerful.

### The Western Lens: Helping Children Adapt to the World

Western psychology primarily focuses on helping children function well within their social and cultural environment. Its goals often include helping children to:

- Adjust and thrive in family, school, and peer settings

# Western Wisdom versus Eastern Insight: How Different Cultures Understand Our Kids’ Minds

By Khin Maung Myint

- Develop a stable sense of identity (Erikson’s stages of psychosocial development)
  - Achieve well-being by meeting emotional, psychological, and physical needs (Maslow’s hierarchy)
  - Understand, manage, and treat difficulties such as anxiety, depression, trauma, or ADHD
- The emphasis is on developmental stages, learning processes, and the interaction between external influences (parents, teachers, social expectations) and internal processes (thoughts, emotions, behaviour).
- In short, Western psychol-

ogy asks:

How can we help the child become a healthy, capable individual in society?

### The Eastern Lens (Buddhism): Liberating the Mind

Buddhist psychology begins from a different place. Rather than focusing primarily on social success or achievement, it asks a deeper question:

Why do humans suffer – and how can suffering be reduced at its root?

From this perspective, mental well-being involves:

- Understanding Dukkha (the universal experience of dissatisfaction or suffering)
- Recognising Anattā

(No-Self) – the idea that clinging to a fixed, permanent identity creates distress

- Seeing how craving, aversion, and ignorance fuel emotional suffering
- Cultivating wisdom, compassion, and clarity through mindfulness and meditation

Applied gently and age-appropriately, these ideas help children learn that thoughts and emotions are experiences, not definitions of who they are. A child can feel angry, anxious, or sad – without being those emotions.

Here, the goal is not just adaptation to the world, but inner freedom and resilience, regardless of circumstances.

### Where East and West Meet

Despite their different starting points and ultimate aims, modern psychology increasingly recognises how well these traditions complement one another.

Key meeting points include:

- Mindfulness (Sati): Now widely used in schools and therapy to improve attention, emotional regulation, and stress management.
- Compassion (Metta): Encouraging kindness toward oneself and others, reducing shame, bullying, and emotional isolation.
- Present-moment awareness: Helping children worry

less about the future, ruminate less about the past, and feel safer in the “now”.

Approaches such as Mindfulness-Based Cognitive Therapy (MBCT) and Compassion-Focused Therapy (CFT) are clear examples of East–West integration in clinical practice.

### Why This Matters for Children Today

Children today grow up in a world of rapid change, academic pressure, social comparison, and digital overstimulation. A purely performance-based model of mental health is no longer enough.

By drawing from both traditions:

- Western psychology provides structure,

assessment tools, and evidence-based interventions.

- Eastern wisdom offers practices that nurture calmness, self-awareness, emotional balance, and compassion from an early age.

Together, they help children not only cope with the world, but flourish within it—developing strength without rigidity, confidence without ego, and kindness alongside competence.

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## I Say What I See: Inspiration & Motivation – Either Or or Both?

*A spark alone cannot move the world; neither can a push without vision.*

By @Editor

**Inspiration and motivation** are frequently mentioned together in public speeches, classrooms, workplaces and self-help discussions, yet they do not mean the same thing. The **Oxford Dictionary** defines inspiration as something that mentally stimulates a person to do or feel something creative, while motivation is described as the reason or reasons for acting or behaving in a particular way. **Merriam-Webster** similarly distinguishes inspiration as an uplifting or stimulating influence, and motivation as the force that initiates, directs and sustains action. In local English-Myanmar dictionaries, *inspiration* is commonly translated as စိတ်ထဲမှ အလင်းတောက်မှု or စိတ်အားပေးမှု၊ ဉာဏ်ကွန့်မြူးမှု၊ (အနုပညာ စသည်) စူးနံ့ဝင်စားခြင်း၊ (ရှုတ်တရုတ်) စိတ်ကူးပေါ်ခြင်း, reflecting an inner spark, whereas *motivation* appears as အားဖြည့်ပေးခြင်း၊ တွန့်အားပေးခြင်း or လုပ်ရန် အားပေးမှု၊ စိတ်ဓါတ်သွင်းပေးမှု, indicating encouragement that pushes one towards action. These parallel definitions suggest that while inspiration may ignite an idea, motivation

is what keeps it moving, prompting the central question of this essay: are inspiration and motivation an either-or choice, or are they, in practice, inseparable?

In everyday social settings, the difference between inspiration and motivation becomes clearer. In schools, a teacher’s passionate words may inspire students, but without structured guidance, discipline and follow-up, that inspiration often fades once the classroom door closes. In workplaces, speeches about vision and teamwork can momentarily lift morale,

yet it is incentives, deadlines and accountability that motivate employees to deliver results. Community activities offer similar examples: public campaigns may inspire civic pride, but sustained participation usually depends on practical support and clear responsibilities. Even in family life, encouragement alone rarely leads to lasting change unless it is paired with consistent expectations and effort. These familiar scenes with- in our social fabric suggest that inspiration tends to open the mind, while motivation governs

action – each effective in its own way, yet limited when operating alone.

In many real-world situations, motivation exists without inspiration, and the result is often burnout rather than progress. In offices, employees meet targets not because they believe in the work, but because they fear penalties, need salaries or feel trapped by routine. The motivation is present, yet the absence of inspiration turns effort into obligation. In education, students push themselves through exams under pressure

from parents, rankings and future job prospects, but with little interest in learning itself; the outcome is frequently exhaustion rather than intellectual growth. Similar patterns appear in public service and community work, where individuals continue performing duties out of responsibility or necessity, even as enthusiasm quietly drains away. These cases reveal a hard truth: motivation can force movement, but without inspiration, it rarely sustains meaning, and over time, it wears people down.

While motivation without

inspiration leads to burnout, the reverse imbalance also carries its own risks. Inspiration, when left unsupported by discipline or direction, often remains an idea rather than an outcome. Many people feel inspired by speeches, books or social media messages, yet struggle to translate that feeling into sustained action. The initial excitement fades, replaced by frustration or self-doubt, not because the inspiration was false, but because it lacked a motivating structure to carry it forward.

This imbalance is increas-

ingly visible in the digital age. Online platforms offer endless sources of inspiration – success stories, motivational quotes and carefully curated lifestyles – but little guidance on process, effort or failure. Viewers may feel uplifted momentarily, only to return to routine life unchanged. In such cases, inspiration becomes a temporary emotional high, disconnected from real-world constraints. Without motivation anchored in planning, consistency and accountability, inspiration alone proves insufficient.

Across society, these patterns suggest that inspiration and motivation function less as alternatives and more as complementary forces. Inspiration provides direction and meaning, helping individuals understand *why* something matters, while motivation supplies the persistence required to follow through. When one dominates, and the other is missing, an imbalance emerges, either exhaustion without purpose or enthusiasm without progress. The issue, therefore, is not choosing between the two, but recognising how they must work together within real social and personal contexts.

Observing these patterns across schools, workplaces, communities and digital spaces, it becomes clear that neither inspiration nor motivation alone is sufficient. Inspiration without motivation may spark ideas but rarely sustains action, while motivation without inspiration can drive effort but often leads to fatigue or burnout. In practice, both must operate together: inspiration to illuminate purpose, and motivation to maintain momentum. In our social fabric, the most meaningful progress emerges when individuals and institutions cultivate this balance, encouraging sparks of creativity while providing the support, structure and accountability needed to transform vision into results. In short, the question is not whether to choose one over the other, but how to harness both in harmony for lasting impact.

**Progress is born where inspiration meets motivation.**



# NATIONAL

## NDSC Executive Chief extends food support to Tatmadaw personnel

A ceremony to provide food and beverages to members of the armed forces serving national defense and security duties was held yesterday morning at the Rakhine State Government Guest House, attended by U Aung Lin Dwe, Executive Chief of the National Defence and Security Council Office.

The ceremony was attended by Union ministers, members of the Central Advisory Body of the National Defence and Security Council, the State Chief Minister, Lt-Gen Naing Naing Oo of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), the Commander of the Western Command, members of the state government, officials from Sittwe Station, the Commander of No 4 Police Command, the Commander of the State Police Force, and other officials.

Executive Chief U Aung Lin Dwe first acknowledged all the security forces who are per-



Executive Chief of the National Defence and Security Council Office U Aung Lin Dwe inspects the completed marble slab paving on the platform of the Lawkananda Pagoda in Sittway yesterday.

forming their duties with great energy to maintain peace and stability in Rakhine State and the rule of law. He also acknowledged the forces' dedication and spirit toward the country and called on them to work harder than ever before, in accordance with enacted laws, to prevent the loss of lives and property based on their pure dedication and spirit.

The Executive Chief then presented food and beverages to the troops serving the defence and security duties of the coun-

try. He and his team also visited the Lawkananda Pagoda, where they offered flowers, water, and oil lamps and donated funds for the renovation of the pagoda.

Next, the officials inspected the completed construction of two steel-structure glass halls, measuring 27 feet 11 inches in length, 21 feet 9 inches in width, and 15 feet in height, built for the Maravijaya and Abhyarajamuni Buddha images. The halls were constructed to facilitate peaceful homage by the public and to protect the images, which are enshrined in the courtyard of the Lokananda Pagoda, from saltwater damage and natural disasters. They then paid homage to the two Buddha images and inspected the completed marble slab paving in the pagoda courtyard.

Afterwards, the Executive Chief and his team visited the construction site of the 1,580-foot-long dirt road leading to Sittway Airport from in front of Alotawpyae Monastery, where officials explained the progress of the work, after which he gave the necessary instructions and inspected the road by driving along it in vehicles. — MNA/TH

## Action taken against 229 people for sabotaging election processes, says MoHA Union Minister

THE meeting 5/2025 of the Central Committee on Security Supervision for the Multiparty Democracy General Election was held yesterday afternoon at Areindama Hall, Myanmar Police Force Headquarters.

Speaking at the meeting, Chairman of the Central Committee on Security Supervision, Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung said the Union Election Commission allowed a 60-day campaign period for voter mobilization, and election-related gatherings, speeches, and voter mobilization in Phase I townships can be done starting from 12 midnight on 26 December and for the townships in Phase II at 12 midnight on 29 December; and they must be suspended starting from 12 midnight on 9 January 2026 until the end of election. Phase III-related information will be announced. The campaign advertisements and posters must be removed by the deadlines; if not, the township election subcommissions, in coordination with the respec-



The meeting 5/2025 of the Central Committee on Security Supervision for the Multiparty Democracy General Election in progress in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

tive City Development Committees or Township Development Committees, will remove them. Moreover, the different levels of supervisory committees should also supervise to ensure that the party and Hluttaw candidates follow without fail.

In accordance with the one of the objectives of the National Defence and Security Council, “to implement multiparty democratic system, with the participation of the people, to ensure the success of multiparty democratic general election process and successfully moving towards with the multiparty democratic system aspired by the entire people”, on 26 November, 724 male and female prisoners, who face punishment, from their respective prisons, jails and camps under Penal Code Section 505-A were pardoned aiming not to lose the right of every eligible person to be able to freely and fairly cast vote in coming multiparty democracy general election, whereas reduced the punishment of 2,361 male and female prisoners who face punishment, from their respective prisons, jails and camps under Penal Code Section 505-A and withdrew the hearings of the suit of 5,580 people who were prosecuted under Code of Criminal Procedure Article 512 for attempting to evade.

The central committee has also drawn up the comprehen-

sive phased security plans for holding the election, eight additional security plans and 11 separate plans for other possible situations, and all should be implemented practically. Moreover, it should prepare security measures for the local and foreign observers and media during the election period.

He continued that a total of 229 people – 201 males and 28 females – were taken action in 140 cases under “Law on the Protection of Multiparty Democratic General Elections from Obstruction, Disruption, and Destruction” for attempting to sabotage election processes.

He then instructed the affiliated departments under the ministry to cooperate with Tatmadaw, people's militia units, other security units and partner organizations to ensure the security, state stability and peace in the relevant electoral period.

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



# NATIONAL

## Questions and Answers in the press conference on national-level prevention of telecom fraud and online gambling

DAW Myintzu Zaw Toe of the Popular News journal asked that she wanted to know how the government and Tatmadaw will handle the telecom fraud and online gambling activities and illegal foreign entrants in Minletpan.

Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun replied that the Minletpan case has already become known to the media, and that the case is a manoeuvre by the KNU to show that it is not connected to online fraud after having previously committed online fraud activities. He said that this was done to divert attention from the Government's ongoing efforts to decisively and comprehensively crack down on online fraud and online gambling operations. To that end, he said, KNU staged a show of seizing the KKO group — an organization in which the KNU itself had been involved (adding that he had previously explained how and in what ways the KKO group and certain elements of KNU had been connected in some areas) — to conceal from the public the depth of their own involvement. He added that these points were also presented in their Power-Point materials. He further said that, through the embassy of a foreign country, they had received information that citizens of that country had died in the Minletpan case. With regard to this matter, he said that investigations are currently underway and that, once the investigations are completed, further actions will be taken accordingly.

He continued that, as he had previously stated, online fraud cases would be eradicated, and that strong action would be taken against online fraud incidents wherever they occur in Myanmar. In connection with the question, he also wished to address certain situations arising along the Myanmar-Thailand border. He said that they are carrying out security measures and the demolition of structures in border areas, and that the objectives of these operations had already been explained. He said that, in an attempt to disrupt these efforts, the KNU has been instigating fighting in those areas, including clashes with Tatmadaw members. He added that there have



Daw Myintzu Zaw Toe

also been claims from Thailand that shells fired by the Myanmar Tatmadaw have landed inside Thai territory, and that he did not entirely deny this. He stressed that Myanmar and Thailand are neighbouring countries, and that mechanisms for border affairs between the two countries have already been established down to the basic level, with coordination being carried out through township-level bilateral border committees, district-level bodies, and regional-level mechanisms. However, he emphasized that some of the incidents were not the result of fire from their side. He alleged that the KNU was deliberately creating problems between Myanmar and Thailand, including firing rounds into Thailand while staging the appearance of fighting. Concerning this, he said that at the Minletpan location he was about to show, it could be seen that KNU elements were deliberately firing 40mm grenades into Thailand. He said he would present the video footage, adding that the firing was directed toward Thailand, that no fighting was taking place at the time, and that this served as evidence. The video shows KNU elements firing across the Thaungyin (Moei) River into Thailand without any engagement taking place. He claimed that such actions were intended to create misunderstandings and provoke problems between the two countries. He added that only by acting in this way could the KNU and KNU-linked terrorist groups continue to exist, as instability and problems along the border are what sustain their presence and operations. He concluded by saying that Myanmar and Thailand are neighbouring

countries that have maintained relations for many decades, and that both sides would counter such attempts to sow misunderstanding through friendship and cooperation, and would continue to work together bilaterally.

Deputy Chief Editor U Myo Min Latt of Amimyay Thitsa Thadinsone news journal asked about the eradication strategy. He said he would like to know about certain areas of cooperation between the Government and organizations currently operating in Kayin State, such as NCA signatory groups like the DKBA, organizations such as the KNU/KNLA-PC, and groups like the BGF that are currently under the authority of the State defence.

Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun said that this point had already been included among the terms he mentioned earlier. He wished to state that, within online fraud activities, not only some EAO groups but also certain armed groups are involved. However, rather than saying that organizations themselves are involved, it should be understood that the activities are carried out either by individual members within those organizations or by small groups that follow those individuals. What he wanted to emphasize was that bad blood must be removed. Just as there are good people in every organization, there are also bad ones, and not all organizations are bad. At present, among those operating in the Shwe Kokko area, some BGF members are involved in cooperation, while some BGF members are not involved at all. Therefore, clear distinctions must be made. He also said that EAO organizations should not look at the face of the government, but instead look at the face of the State and the people.

Chief Editor Daw Khaing Sabei Oo of Hein Thitsa Thadinsone Journal said it was known that Myanmar is currently accepting individuals who entered from other countries and were involved in online fraud activities, including those who committed or participated in such crimes, and is bearing the full costs of feeding, accommodating, and



Daw Khaing Sabei Oo

caring for them before repatriating them to their countries of origin. She questioned whether, when Myanmar citizens have been involved in such activities in other countries or have been exploited in illegal activities or other unlawful work, those countries have similarly cared for them and repatriated them to Myanmar in this manner, and how many such cases there have been.

Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun replied that, internationally, these matters constitute transnational crimes and are carried out collectively by criminals and fugitives who have fled from other countries through illicit means. While he could not provide an exact figure in response to the journalist's question, he noted that every country has its own standards at the international level, including established humanitarian standards. Therefore, if a Myanmar national commits an offence in another country, that country handles the case in accordance with its own laws. Providing food and accommodation and conducting screening before repatriation are procedures practised by all countries. He added that such measures are being carried out and that repatriation to Myanmar is also taking place.

Chief Executive Officer U Min Htet Paing of Thadin Naga Thadinsone Journal said it has been observed that as online fraud and gambling have become more widespread in Myanmar, Myanmar citizens, as well as citizens of other countries, are suffering from related criminal activities. While it is understood that the current period is one of cracking down on and eradicating such crimes, he wished



U Min Htet Paing

to know the situation regarding how quickly citizens from other countries, as well as Myanmar citizens, who have unwillingly fallen into online fraud operations, will be rescued, protected, and provided with assistance.

Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun explained that there are some complexities in online fraud cases. The complicated aspect is that, in some instances, individuals did not commit the crime themselves but had their phone numbers, identification numbers, or images misused. There are people in Myanmar who have suffered such harm. However, in other cases, it is not a matter of victimization but of collaboration. As stated by the Deputy Minister of Home Affairs, while it is true that some individuals were victims, others were not victims and carried out the acts themselves. He acknowledged that such cases exist in Myanmar and that there are also foreign nationals involved. He said the number of those arrested so far is relatively small. As the Deputy Minister of Home Affairs noted, although some individuals were arrested and deported, certain people later willingly returned. Such individuals must be clearly identified and distinguished. Those who are guilty will be dealt with severely. He said Myanmar's position has already been made clear: online fraud is not the deception of a single person, but the deception of large numbers of people, and is therefore regarded as a serious crime committed against the public. Accordingly, those who require protection will be protected, while those who must face firm legal action will be dealt with decisively.

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# NATIONAL

## Questions and Answers in the press conference...

FROM PAGE 11



U Win Zaw

Reporter U Win Zaw of Ahmantaya Thadinsone Journal said that he welcomed the formation and operation of the Supervisory Committee for Combatting Online Fraud and Online Gambling, and expressed confidence that online fraud and online gambling would be eliminated as soon as possible. He noted that many people are engaging in fraudulent sales of online gambling schemes, such as car, motorcycle, land plot, and house lotteries, advertised online as prize draws that would pay out if the three-digit Thai lottery numbers match. He wished to know whether action is being taken and arrests are being made against such online lottery operations.



Police Brig-Gen Kyaw Lin

Police Brig-Gen Kyaw Lin replied that online gambling activities can be found operating on the internet in various forms and through a wide range of methods and games. Those who fraudulently sell illegal Thai lottery schemes and prize draws involving cars, land, houses, and similar items are being identified through technical means and prosecuted under the Gambling Law. He added that as of December 2025, action has been taken in 107 online gambling cases.

Chief Reporter Ko Thuta Kyaw of the NP News news agency said that online scams

are being eradicated along the border areas, but there have been reports that some of the perpetrators have crossed into the country. There are also reports claiming that corrupt activity is involved in the actions taken against them. He wished to have a clear response regarding this matter.

Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun said that online gambling involves two layers of complexity: first, the technical aspects, and second, the individuals carrying out the activities. Regarding the technical aspects, even if online gambling operations are suppressed locally, certain technical elements may remain intact, and it is impossible to completely remove data that exists “in the cloud” or on the internet. Such information cannot be fully known even by journalists or the authorities, making it difficult to eradicate. The second layer involves individuals committing online gambling offences. He noted that those engaged in such activities are rarely upright or law-abiding people; internationally, most offenders are fugitives or criminals who have fled other countries, and they often have networks or groups supporting them from behind the scenes. He continued that, for this reason, they are tracking certain cases and coordinating efforts in collaboration with all relevant parties. Those who are suppressed at the borders may still enter Myanmar, and it cannot be said that this is impossible, nor do they deny it. Journalists have already observed how many individuals have left the country, and some can also enter Myanmar. When they enter, the authorities will take decisive action to suppress them. He emphasized that when individuals enter Myanmar, the primary responsibility lies with the local population: the people themselves should report relevant information without pretending not to see or hear anything. If they ignore what they see or hear, it is as if the suppression has already begun. Secondly, there should be no place for offenders to hide – they will only be able to hide among the local population. To prevent hiding, he urged that if any suspicious individuals or situations

are observed, the community should work together with law enforcement authorities to take coordinated action.



U Zeyar Nyein

Senior Reporter U Zeyar Nyein of Myanmar Transparency News Agency said that in recent days, China issued warrants for the arrest of four major gangs from China and around 100 suspected individuals. Based on this, it appears that northern groups such as the MNDAA and TNLA have also been accepting and protecting individuals involved in online scams in exchange for fees. He added that in the Myawady Township area, Tatmadaw is currently carrying out operations to eradicate such activities. In this situation, some armed groups engaged in clashes with Tatmadaw are reportedly taking fees from online scam perpetrators to provide protection and help them evade capture. He wished to know how the responsible authorities and Tatmadaw plan to handle and resolve these matters.

Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun clarified that some reports have been received, but certain pieces of information cannot yet be verified. Reports are indicating that, even within the Laukkai border area, small groups are continuing online scam operations, though not on a large scale as before. These reports have not been confirmed because there are no dedicated news-gathering organizations in that area, and the information comes indirectly through news channels. However, the sources are considered reasonably reliable. Therefore, they are also co-operating with the neighbouring country, China, and will continue efforts to strengthen the reliability of this information. Based on these ongoing efforts, there are EAO-controlled areas in the bor-

der regions and some territories of armed groups further inland, where small-scale operations are still taking place. Arrests have already been made in and around Namsang Township in southern Shan State. According to coordinated intelligence exchanged between the two countries, these activities are ongoing. He emphasized that Myanmar and China will continue working together to identify sources in these areas and suppress online scam activities.

U Zeyar Nyein asked that if the information from these sources is accurate, and if it is true that certain individuals are being sheltered or rescued, he wishes to know how authorities plan to take action in response.

Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun replied that they have been engaging in discussions with certain organizations. These discussions are aimed at achieving a ceasefire and promoting peace. Regarding the actions of these organizations, they will first issue warnings, and if these are not heeded, the State will take appropriate action.



U Aung Kyaw Oo

Senior Reporter U Aung Kyaw Oo of Special Hittaing news agency said that he is pleased with the efforts of the government in eradicating online scams in the border areas. However, he noted that some operations are still accessing phones online through linked systems. Some games, similar to “buffalo games”, reportedly lose around K10 million per day in a very short period. He also observed that certain artists are being used to advertise these activities. He wished to know how these matters are being managed.

Police Brig-Gen Kyaw Lin replied that with the advance-

ment of technology, crimes committed using technology have become more varied and widespread. Regarding online gambling and slot games such as “buffalo games”, authorities have been monitoring and taking action against related social media accounts, including Facebook and Telegram accounts. From 2023 to 2025, over 2,000 Facebook, Telegram, and other social media accounts suspected of being linked to online games were identified and acted upon. In connection with these, more than 2,300 SIM cards were blocked, and 456 linked phone numbers were also disabled. Additionally, over 1,900 Pay accounts used for deposits and withdrawals related to online gambling were blocked. He noted that some advertisements involved actors promoting these activities. In one case in 2025, an actor who advertised on the Miles Ceno Facebook Page was identified, arrested, and prosecuted according to the law. He stated that Myanmar’s police are actively monitoring and investigating online gambling activities using technical methods, and can block accounts, Pay accounts, and social media accounts. SIM cards are also being disabled, and links are continuously monitored, with associated phone numbers being blocked



Naung Taw Lay

as well.

Chief Editor Naung Taw Lay of Myanmar National Post News Agency said he wished to know whether a case has been filed against Saw Kwe Htoo Win, the leader of the KNU armed group, and his associates, who were primarily responsible for conducting online scam operations. If no case has been filed yet, he wanted to know whether there are plans to open one.

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NATIONAL

Questions and Answers in the press conference...

FROM PAGE 12



Police Chief Police Lt-Gen Win Zaw Moe

Police Chief Police Lt-Gen Win Zaw Moe said that the KNU was previously considered an unlawful organization. After signing the nationwide ceasefire agreement (NCA), the KNU was removed from the list of unlawful organizations. However, following the political developments in 2021, the KNU has engaged in terrorist acts, including attacks on government offices, destruction of roads and bridges, and disruption of the Asian Highway. At the time of these incidents, the State government could not remain passive toward the KNU. Therefore, on 28 August 2025, the KNU was once again officially declared both a terrorist organization and an unlawful organization. He said that the current situation regarding online scams and online gambling in the border areas, and the KNU's position on these activities, had already been explained earlier, so it should already be understood. Currently,

cases have been filed against the KNU, including leader Pado Saw Kwe Htoo Win, members of the central committee, and their subordinate members, under the Anti-Terrorism Law and the Unlawful Associations Act. Cases have also been filed under the law protecting the general election of the Union-level democratic party from obstruction and sabotage. He added that actions will continue under domestic law to hold the KNU accountable. He emphasized that what he was describing reflects their internal processes. He noted that Myanmar has its own law enforcement agency and is a member country of ASEANAPOL. Last year, the 42nd ASEANAPOL Conference was held in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, and this year, the 43rd ASEANAPOL Conference was held in Thailand, attended by delegations led by him. He further stated that Myanmar also cooperates with the international police organization, Interpol. Internally, they are carrying out their operations, and if all criteria are met, they will continue coordination with ASEANAPOL and Interpol. However, he stressed that in these international organizations, Myanmar must operate in accordance with their constitutions, including Interpol's Constitution, while continuing its work.

Chief Editor U Htoo Maung Maung of Union Politics News

asked about the situation regarding online scams in Myawady,



U Htoo Maung Maung

noting that the government has taken control of KK Park, which had been under the KNU armed group, and has managed the transfer of individuals who arrive there at the national level. He also said that after KNU entered and took control of online scam operations linked to the KKO group in Minletpan, there were reports that, without transferring them to the State government, the insurgents captured them unilaterally and transferred them to Thailand. He wished to know whether the Thai government officially reports such transfers back to the Myanmar government, and also sought information regarding bilateral cooperation between the two governments on these matters.

Chief of Police Police Lt-Gen Win Zaw Moe explained that online scam gangs operate as part

of a multi-jurisdictional criminal network. Therefore, Myanmar has the responsibility to address crimes occurring within its own territory. Moreover, there is an original country where these online scam operations are initiated, and a transit country through which they pass before reaching Myanmar. Myanmar has responsibility for passing of those individuals and the transit countries are also responsible for it. Moreover, the transit countries have to disrupt the flow of people and financial transactions. He added that for border area control, Myanmar and the transit countries must enhance and implement border control and border monitoring plans. Designating this as a border security issue solely for Myanmar overlooks the global operations of these criminal networks. Therefore, the original country must also implement effective preventive measures to protect its nationals in advance. He stated that to effectively dismantle these criminal operations, all countries involved in the network must cooperate. As previously explained, the perpetrators originate from an original country, pass through a transit country, and Myanmar serves as the destination. Currently, the "hotspot" areas are Myanmar and Thailand, and the majority of those involved are Chinese nationals. Therefore, China, Thailand, and Myanmar

are working together on this matter. The trilateral cooperation among Myanmar, China, and Thailand is ongoing to prevent online scams and online gambling across the Myanmar-Thailand border region. He noted that the Chinese side is being led by the Assistant Minister of Public Security of China. Yesterday, a delegation from Myanmar went to Bangkok, and today they are scheduled to visit KK Park and the Shwe Kokko areas. Following the press briefing, Myanmar's Deputy Minister of Home Affairs will also follow up. He emphasized that the three countries are jointly working on operations to suppress online gambling, and that three senior-level meetings and two minister-level meetings have already been held. Regarding the online scam operators in the Minletpan area, KNU's direct transfer to Thailand is being addressed through a meeting in Thailand, where the three countries will openly and transparently coordinate. He stressed that since Myanmar is the government in Minletpan, it will handle the matter directly. The meeting in Thailand will allow open coordination regarding direct transfers. Currently, the three countries are jointly cooperating, intending to eliminate online scam operations in the region, and these collaborative efforts are actively ongoing. — MNA/TTA

KK Park scam sites demolished as more online gambling fraud perpetrators arrested in Myawaddy

THE Myanmar government manages a combined team consisting of security forces, administrative bodies, and local authorities conducting a joint operation to clear illegal buildings in the Shwe Kokko and KK Park areas, where online gambling scams are most prevalent, and systematically demolish illegal buildings and destroy the confiscated items used in online gambling scams in the areas.

Yesterday, authorities demolished one illegal three-storey building and 11 illegal two-storey buildings in Section 3

at the Myawady-Mahtawthalay in the KK Park area, and a total of 456 buildings out of 635 illegal buildings in the KK Park area.

In addition, a combined team of security forces, administrative organizations, and local officials began searching and clearing buildings in and around Myawady, Kayin State, starting on 8 December to prevent illegal foreign nationals from living in buildings and engaging in online gambling. Yesterday, 43 more buildings were inspected. Among them, three illegal Chinese nationals were identified and arrested in a building on



This image captures scam-related materials being burned.

Ingyin Street, Ward 3, Myawaddy Township. Once the investigation is complete, they will

be transferred to the relevant countries in accordance with the law and procedures.

Moreover, the confiscated equipment used in online gambling scams in the KK Park area and the Shwe Kokko area in Myawady Township was systematically burned to prevent them from being used again.

The government considers the eradication of telecom fraud and online gambling crimes as a national responsibility. To ensure that such activities can no longer operate within Myanmar, will continue to coordinate with domestic forces as well as with neighbouring countries. — MNA/YHT(NLM)



# Tokyo stocks fall sharply amid caution ahead of US economic data release

TOKYO stocks fell sharply Tuesday, with the Nikkei index ending at a two-week low below the key 50,000 line, as caution prevailed before the release of key US economic indicators.

The 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average dropped 784.82 points, or 1.56 per cent, from Monday to 49,383.29, its lowest closing level since 2 December. The broader Topix index finished 60.97 points, or 1.78 per cent, lower at 3,370.50.

On the top-tier Prime Market, the main decliners were nonferrous metal, securities house and mining issues. The US dollar weakened to the upper 154 yen

range in Tokyo as the yen was bought on expectations that the Bank of Japan will raise its benchmark interest rate at a two-day policy meeting through Friday, dealers said.

On the stock market, heavyweight technology issues tracked declines of their US counterparts overnight, while exporter shares were pressured by a stronger yen.

Investors sold shares to adjust positions and waited for the release of US jobs data for November and retail sales figures for October due out Tuesday to gauge the likelihood and timing of another rate cut

by the Federal Reserve, analysts said.

“Investors were wary about the possibility that the data will show the labour market is worsening more than expected, forcing the Fed to resume interest rate cuts, although it has signalled a pause,” said Masahiro Yamaguchi, head of investment research at SMBC Trust Bank. “While the main scenario is that the Fed’s previous rate reductions would lead to a soft landing, stocks may continue to be sold widely if rate cuts are believed to be failing to stop the economic slowdown,” Yamaguchi added. — Kyodo

## Canada’s CPI rises 2.2% in Nov

CANADA’S Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 2.2 per cent year on year in November, matching the increase in October, Statistics Canada said on Monday.

According to the national statistical agency, prices for services rose at a slower pace in November compared with October. Lower prices for travel tours and traveller accommodation, in addition to slower growth for rent prices, put downward pressure on the all-items CPI.

Offsetting the slower growth in services on an annual basis were higher prices for goods, driven by price increases for groceries as well as a smaller decline for gasoline prices, said the agency.

Excluding gasoline, the CPI rose 2.6 per cent for the third consecutive month, it added. The CPI rose 0.1 per cent month over month in November, it said. — Xinhua



Customers shop for fruit at a supermarket in Toronto, Canada, on 15 December 2025. Canada’s Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 2.2 per cent year on year in November, matching the increase in October, Statistics Canada said on Monday. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V UNI ACCORD VOY.NO. (837N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V UNI ACCORD VOY.NO. (837N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **17-12-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.  
Phone No: **2301185**

**Shipping Agency Department**  
**Myanma Port Authority**

Agent For:

**M/S EVERGREEN MARINE (ASIA) PTE., LTD.**

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V WANEN VOY.NO. (0UVGVS1NC)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V WANEN VOY.NO. (0UVGVS1NC)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **17-12-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.  
Phone No: **2301185**

**Shipping Agency Department**  
**Myanma Port Authority**

Agent For:

**M/S CMA-CGM SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD**

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V XO LUCKY VOY.NO. (X2525E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V XO LUCKY VOY.NO. (X2525E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **17-12-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.  
Phone No: **2301185**

**Shipping Agency Department**  
**Myanma Port Authority**

Agent For:

**M/S TI2 LOGISTICS PTE LTD**

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY.NO. (218N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY.NO. (218N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **17-12-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.  
Phone No: **2301185**

**Shipping Agency Department**  
**Myanma Port Authority**

Agent For:

**M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE**

### PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTER CHANGING

The manufacture of **Shandong Binnong Technology Co.,Ltd** have registered the following product in Pesticide Registration Board of Myanmar to distribute in Myanmar. Now, we have to change from old distributor name **“Myanmar Byter Agro Tech Co.,Ltd”**, to new distributor name **“Pure Crop Chemical Co.,Ltd”**. If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon, from here to next 14 days. **Pure Crop Chemical Co.,Ltd**. Ph-09401573814

Sr.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration No.
1.	BNS Prefit	Pretilachlor 30% EC	F2022-3664

### PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTER CHANGING

The manufacture of **Shaanxi Sunger Road Bio-Science Co.,Ltd** have registered the following product in Pesticide Registration Board of Myanmar to distribute in Myanmar. Now, we have to change from old distributor name **“Myanmar Sunger Road Bio-Science Co.,Ltd”**, to new distributor name **“Farm Link Co.,Ltd”**. If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon, from here to next 14 days. **Farm Link Co.,Ltd**. Ph-09401573814

Sr.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration No.
1.	Metoba	Abamectin 2% + Methoxyfenozide 8% SC	P2025-6160





# Myanmar adds medals in kickboxing and sepak takraw at XXXIII SEA Games

MYANMAR athletes secured two silver medals in kickboxing, one bronze in sepak takraw, one bronze in silat and one bronze in wushu, increasing the country's overall tally at the XXXIII South-East Asia Games, hosted across Bangkok and Chonburi, Thailand.

Myanmar Olympic Committee General Secretary and Deputy Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs U Htein Lin, Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Aung Kyaw Htun, along with team leaders and officials, observed Myanmar athletes competing across 22 sports, including cycling, archery, shooting, bowling, billiards and

snooker, kabaddi, sepak takraw, futsal, muay, taekwondo, kickboxing, athletics, e-sports, pencak silat, table tennis, international rowing, dragon boat racing and weightlifting.

In the morning session at Football Field 1 of the Sports Authority of Thailand in Bangkok, officials cheered Myanmar athletes competing in men's and women's recurve archery individual and team elimination matches. Later, at the John Paul II Sports Centre at Assumption University in Samut Prakan, they observed Myanmar athletes competing in the women's kickboxing point fighting -50-kilogramme and K1 -52-kilogramme bouts, in which



Deputy Ministers U Htein Lin and U Aung Kyaw Tun pose for the group documentary photo with winning medallist.

Lin Sanda Htay and May Thazin Htoo secured silver medals.

In addition, Myanmar athletes competed in the men's road race cycling, recurve archery, women's 25-metre pistol shooting, men's doubles bowling, snooker singles, kabaddi Super Five, men's and women's four-player sepak takraw, men's futsal, muay (-57-kilogramme, -63-kilogramme, -54- kilo-

gramme and -51-kilogramme), men's 60-kilogramme and women's 66-kilogramme taekwondo, athletics (javelin throw and 3,000-metre steeplechase), women's e-sports (MLBB) team event, silat, table tennis doubles and team events, international rowing (men's single sculls and women's fours), dragon boat racing and the men's 94-kilogramme weightlifting event.

Myanmar's sepak takraw, silat and wushu teams each added one bronze medal, demonstrating consistent performances across multiple disciplines.

Following the 16 December competitions, Myanmar concluded the Games with three gold, 19 silver and 23 bronze medals, placing seventh overall among participating nations with a total of 45 medals. — MNA/KZL

# Myanmar wushu team returns with five medals from XXXIII SEA Games

THE Myanmar wushu team, along with other participating athletes, has returned to Yangon after securing three silver and two bronze medals at the XXXIII South-East Asia Games, held from 9 to 20 December 2025 in Bangkok and Chonburi, Thailand.

In the Games' wushu events, the men's barehand taolu (duilian) pair of Tin Htoo Wai and Ye

Yint Htun won a silver medal. In the women's sanshou (56-kilogramme) event, Cherry Than claimed a silver medal, while in the women's sanshou (60-kilogramme) category, Hnin Nu Wa secured another silver. The women's barehand taolu (duilian) pair of Thu Pan Htwa and Khine Sandar Soe earned a bronze medal, and in the men's sanshou

(70-kilogramme) event, Myo Min Htet also brought home a bronze.

The athletes returned to Yangon yesterday evening via Myanmar Airways International (MAI), where officials from the Department of Sports and Physical Education, along with the athletes' parents, warmly welcomed and congratulated them on their achievements. — MNA/KZL



The commemorative group photo of winning medallists from Team Myanmar upon their arrival at the Yangon International Airport.

# IOC unveils 2028 Winter Youth Olympics events, quota

A streamlined eight-day competition period with approximately 1,600 athletes will be featured at the 2028 Winter Youth Olympic Games, the International Olympic Committee announced on Monday.

The scale represents about 20 per cent fewer athletes than at the 2024 Winter Youth Olympics in Gangwon. The decision was approved by the IOC Executive Board last week.

The Games will use fewer competition venues, relying mainly on existing infrastructure from the 2026 Winter Olympics in Milan-Cortina to cut operational and rental costs. The programme will feature the seven core Winter Olympic sports: biathlon, bobsleigh, curling, ice hockey, luge, skating and skiing.

To bolster youth appeal, eight new events will debut, including synchronized skating, mixed singles luge, moguls and rail events for freestyle skiing and snowboarding. 15 events included at Gangwon 2024 have been dropped.

The rail events, recently added to the International Ski and Snowboard Federation calendar, are noted for their geographic accessibility, suitability for indoor training with minimal snow and cost-effective delivery using existing slopestyle infrastructure.

"This programme represents an important step forward for the Winter YOG," said IOC member Karl Stoss, chair of the Olympic Programme Commission. "It reflects a clear commitment to sustainability, innovation and youth focused sports formats." — Xinhua





## Pheu Thai Party unveils three PM candidates

THE Pheu Thai Party of Thailand announced three prime ministerial candidates on Tuesday, namely Yodchanan Wongsawat, Suriya Juangroongruangkit, and Julapun Amornvivat.

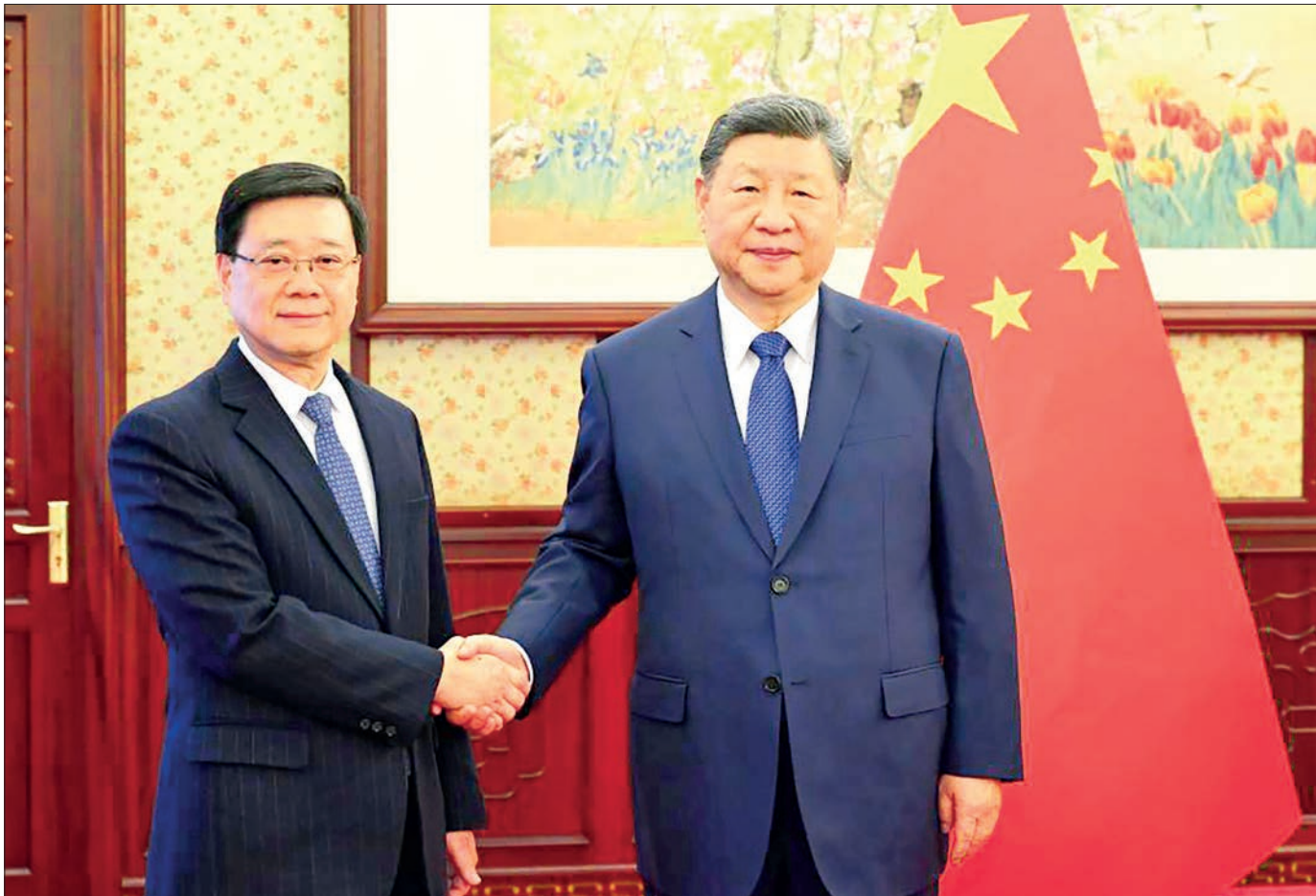
According to the resumes released by the Pheu Thai Party, Yodchanan is a professor at Mahidol University and also serves as the university's vice-president for research. Suriya is the Pheu Thai Party's election director and a former deputy prime minister who has held multiple ministerial positions. Julapun is currently the leader of the Pheu Thai Party. He previously served as the country's deputy finance minister. The Election Commission of Thailand announced on Monday that the election for the new House of Representatives is scheduled for 8 February 2026. All political parties must submit their prime ministerial candidates between 28 and 31 December. — Xinhua

## Russia backs Iran's efforts to settle crisis in ties with IAEA, West: FM

RUSSIA supports Iran's efforts to resolve the crisis in its relations with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the West, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov stated on Monday. "We are ready to support the efforts Iran is now making to get over this crisis, including in its relations with the IAEA and the West in general," he said in an interview with Iranian media outlets.

According to Lavrov, not only has international law been undermined, but the Iranian nuclear deal has also been compromised, despite the fact that it was endorsed by UN Security Council resolutions, which all parties are obligated to implement under the UN Charter. — Xinhua

# Xi hears report from HKSAR chief executive



President Xi Jinping meets Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) John Lee, who is on a duty visit to Beijing, capital of China, 16 December 2025. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

**P**RESIDENT Xi Jinping on Tuesday met Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) John Lee, who is on a duty visit to Beijing.

During the meeting, Xi heard a report from Lee on Hong Kong's current situation and the HKSAR government's work.

Xi said that the central authorities fully recognized the work of Lee and the HKSAR government.

The fourth plenary session of the 20<sup>th</sup> Central Committee of the Communist Party of China stressed the importance of resolutely implementing the "one country, two systems" policy, under which the people of Hong Kong administer Hong Kong with a high degree of autonomy, and promoting the long-term prosperity and stability in Hong Kong, Xi noted.

He called on the HKSAR government to align actively with the national

15th Five-Year Plan, uphold and improve its executive-led government, promote high-quality economic development, and extensively participate in the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, so that Hong Kong integrates into and serves the overall national development in an improved manner. Li Qiang, Cai Qi, Ding Xuexiang, Li Ganjie, Chen Wenqing, Xia Baolong and other officials attended the meeting. — Xinhua

## US claims "90%" of issues concerning Ukraine peace deal resolved

THE United States, Ukraine and Europe have reached consensus or significantly closed gaps on 90 per cent of their differences on a 20-point draft peace plan, reports said on Monday, citing two senior US officials.

The comments came after US President Donald Trump's special envoy Steve Witkoff and son-in-law Jared Kushner met with senior Ukrainian and European officials in Berlin over the peace

deal on Sunday and Monday.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said in a post on social media platform X that the Berlin talks were a "first draft", warning of "destructive" elements to be removed.

Zelensky said Ukraine has compromised by accepting strong security guarantees instead of NATO membership, though it remains unclear what type of US commitments on Ukraine's security guarantees would entail and whether the US Senate will be required to ratify any Article Five-like arrangements for a non-NATO country. — Xinhua



The Reichstag building is pictured in Berlin, Germany, 15 December 2025. **PHOTO: XINHUA**