

The

Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

Vol. XII, No. 269, 8th Waning of Pyatho 1387 ME

www.gnlm.com.mm

Saturday, 10 January 2026

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.

Political Issues Must Be Addressed Through Stable, Political Means

Now is the time for armed and terrorist groups in Kachin State to prioritize ending fighting and violence in order to safeguard the interests of the state and its residents.

ACTING President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing sends a message to the ceremony to mark the 78th Anniversary of Kachin State Day, which falls on 10 January 2026. The full text of the translated message is as follows: -

SEE PAGE 4

Myanmar Election Phase I receives positive assessment from international observers

Citizens who wish to see the country continue on its democratic path are urged to take part in the elections and exercise their right to vote.

Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing yesterday afternoon said so at the meeting to discuss regional development activities with township-level departmental officials and town elders in Thaboung, Ayeyawady Region.

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General underlined that when casting votes, it is important for citizens to choose candidates who can emphasize the interests of their region and the nation, uphold



Acting President and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses the meeting with township-level departmental officials and town elders from Thaboung, Ayeyawady Region, yesterday.

Our Three Main National Causes, work in partnership with a stable Tatmadaw, and contribute to the well-being of the country.

During the first phase of the election,

international observation teams visited to monitor and study the process and provided positive evaluations.

He underscored that citizens who

wish to see the country continue on the democratic path should participate in the elections and cast their votes.

SEE PAGE 3

NATIONAL

- 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.

Notification 1/2026

CONTINUED FROM YESTERDAY

- Bhaddanta Visuddha, Sasana Gonyi Monastery, Htanaunggon Village, Salin Township, Magway Region
- Dr Bhaddanta Kesara, State Pariyatti Sasana University (Mandalay), Dawnabwa Ward, Aungmyaythazan Township, Mandalay Region
- Dr Bhaddanta Ñanobhasa, TatU Maha Gandayon Monastery, Ward 3, PyinOoLwin, Mandalay Region
- Bhaddanta Soma, Thukhawady Monastery, West Than Village, Kyaukse Township, Mandalay Region
- Bhaddanta Nandadhaja, Kaba Aungtheikdi Pariyatti Buddhism Learning Centre, Wa/Thu Extended Ward, Meiktila, Mandalay Region
- Bhaddanta Ñanasiri, Pyinnya Zawtayon Monastery, Zeepingyi Village, PyinOoLwin Township, Mandalay Region
- Bhaddanta Candavara, Thukhathitawana Baymetawya Monastery, Tapathun Village, Mudon Township, Mon State
- Bhaddanta Sumana, Sasanahitathiri Monastery, Kinmunchaung Village, Kyaikto Township, Mon State
- Bhaddanta Puppharamma, Gawkhitta Monastery, Aungthukha Ward, Ye, Mon State
- Bhaddanta Ketuvara, Yawabawzana Monastery, Myoma Ward 4, Mudon, Mon State
- Bhaddanta Therabhivamsa, MyotawU Monastic Education Pos-Primary School, Thiri Mingala Ward, Mawlamyine, Mon State
- Bhaddanta Paññavara, Dhammadzedi Pariyatti Buddhism Learning Centre, Shin Saw Pu Ward, Sangyoung Township, Yangon Region
- Bhaddanta Kusala, Maga Missionary Monastic Education School, Nga Ward, North Okkalapa Township, Yangon Region
- Dr Bhaddanta Paññacakka, Sitagu Pariyatti Buddhism Learning Centre, Myayadana Myothit, Mingaladon Township, Yangon Region
- Bhaddanta Kavidhaja Bhivamsa, Thukhakari Pariyatti Buddhism Learning Centre, Ward 3, Mayangon Township, Yangon Region
- Bhaddanta Sundara, Sunlungu Vipassana Monastery, Ward 16/2, Thingangyun Township, Yangon Region
- Dr Bhaddanta Nandasena Lankara, State Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon), Ward 7, Mayangon Township, Yangon Region
- Bhaddanta Acinna, Maha Bonpyan Monastic Education School, Kamakalok Model Village, Kyauktan Township, Yangon Region
- Bhaddanta Garuvamsa Bhivamsa, Dhamma Vihara Monastic Education Pos-Primary School, Ward Nga/Ka, Thingangyun Township, Yangon Region
- Bhaddanta Narada, Thiri Mingala Theikpan Monastery, Yoegyi Village, Kayan Township, Yangon Region
- Bhaddanta Paññananda, Zetawun Monastery, Yaykhala Village, Thongwa Township, Yangon Region
- Bhaddanta Malavara, Malarama Pariyatti Buddhism Learning Centre, Kwathit Ward, Insein Township, Yangon Region
- Bhaddanta Vimala, Chanmyaygonwai Monastic Education School, Ngahsutaung Village, Hlegu Township, Yangon Region
- Bhaddanta Acara, Kwanyinsi Chinese Buddhist Sasane Buddhism Learning Centre, Shwenantha Ward, Bahan Township, Yangon Region
- Dr Bhaddanta Vepullasiri, Dhammayanthi Education Centre Pariyatti Patipatti Missionary Monastery, Ward 131, Dagon Myothit (East) Township, Yangon Region
- Bhaddanta Vicinta, Thiri Mingala Hona Monastery, Hona Village, Mongkai Township, Shan State
- Bhaddanta Sundara, Satubonmika Monastery, Chanmyathazi Ward, Taunggyi, Shan State
- Bhaddanta Sobhita, Monastic Education School, Natyaykan Thawbitayama Pariyatti Buddhism Learning Centre, Ward 1, Lashio, Shan State
- Bhaddanta Paññobhasa, Kanbawza Shankyaunggyi Monastery, Ward 1, Kyaukme,

Shan State

- Bhaddanta Tejindasabha, Saddhamma Sitagu Mahasi Sasana Yeiktha Monastery, Ward 3, Pathein, Ayeyawady Region
- Bhaddanta Sudhammissara, Thitayon Monastery, Nawin Ward, Yekyi, Ayeyawady Region
- Bhaddanta Paññasiri, Mogok Vipassana Pariyatti Patipatti Sasana Yeiktha, Bigadawon Monastery, Ward 3, Pathein, Ayeyawady Region
- Bhaddanta Indaka, Mahamuni Phayagyi Monastery, Tepinseik Village, Pyapon Township, Ayeyawady Region
- Bhaddanta Varañña, Kwayma Taungpon Monastery, Kwayma Village, Kyangin Township, Ayeyawady Region
- Bhaddanta Vijayasara, Ledi Pariyatti Buddhism Learning Centre, Ward 2, Pathein, Ayeyawady Region

Title recipient Sayadaws abroad

- Venerable Bour Kry, Paduma Dhammayutta Temple, 3 Village, Chaktumuk, Quarter, Khan Daun Penh, Cambodia
- Phra Sophunnonthasorn Ashin Chataponno, Wat Bang Phai Royal Monastery, Bangkok, Thailand
- Bhaddanta Sujanappiya, Sanobararam Yadana Vipassana Moanstry, Nagaland, Kathmandu, Nepal
- Venerable Rajawatte Wappa Thero, Sri Jayasekararamaya, Parliament Road, Rajagiriya, Sri Lanka

Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja Title

- Bhaddanta Sasana, Cetiyapala Monastery, Myothaya Ward, Mogaung Township, Kachin State
- Bhaddanta Candobhasa, Yanaungmyin (Bommaw) Monastery, Pamti Ward, Myitkyina, Kachin State
- Bhaddanta Aggavamsa, Matar Koemile Theravada Buddhist Missionary Monastery, Aungmyay 2 Village, Waingmaw Township, Kachin State
- Bhaddanta Paññajota, Theravada Buddhist Missionary Monastery, Nwalawoe Village, Loikaw Township, Kayah State
- Bhaddanta Paññananda, Hilly Missionary Centre, TatU Monastery, Dawtama Ward, Loikaw, Kayah State
- Bhaddanta Sobhita, Lawka Atula Manaung Tawya Monastery, Ward 9, Hpa-an, Kayin State
- Dr Bhaddanta Dhammapala, Dhammayangchi Pariyatti Buddhism Learning Centre, Ward 4, Myawady, Kayin State
- Bhaddanta Tejinda, Theravada Buddhist Missionary Monastery, Suntaung Village, Mindat Township, Kachin State
- Bhaddanta Kusala, Theravada Buddhist Missionary Monastery, Vamthu Village, Mindat Township, Chin State
- Bhaddanta Janeya, Theravada Buddhist Missionary Monastery, Khale Village, Lahe Township, Naga Self-Administered Zone, Sagaing Region
- Bhaddanta Kulavamsacara, Theravada Buddhist Missionary Monastery, Phamaung Village, Khamti Township, Sagaing Region
- Bhaddanta Vilasa, No 6 Monastic Education School, Kaba Ekaraza Sasana Ayeyeiktha, Nabebla Village, Ayadaw Township, Sagaing Region
- Bhaddanta Silavamsa, Zeya Thitayon Monastery, Phaungtaw Village, Yebyu Township, Taninthayi Region
- Bhaddanta Aggasara, Taungpaw Pariyatti Buddhism Learning Centre, Anawa Ward, Kawthoung, Taninthayi Region
- Bhaddanta Khemananda, Thitsa Myitta Medication Monastery, Ywathit Village, Myeik Township, Taninthayi Region
- Bhaddanta Paduma, Mani Zawtika Kyweshin Monastery, Kyweshin Village, Ottarathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw
- Bhaddanta Panditananda, Paditayama Buddhism Learning Centre, Myawady Ward, Tatkon Township, Nay Pyi Ta

TO BE CONTINUED

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)

Cultivation of trees and bamboo as industrial crops helps conserve environment and create jobs for residents

Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission Senior General Min Aung Hlaing made an inspection tour of the Paper Mill (Thaboung) operated by Myanmar Economic Corporation yesterday afternoon.

At the briefing hall of the mill, officials reported to the Senior General on the brief history of the mill, accomplishment of the guidance given by the Senior General, appointment of the employees, financial reports of the mill, production of newsprint and distribution of the mill, production and distribution of newsprint at the 60-tonne newsprint factory, test-running of the 50-tonne advanced paper mill, production of the 60-tonne pulp factory and the 40-tonne briquette factory, and plans. In his guidance, the Senior General said that the government imports different types of paper abroad annually due to domestic demand. Efforts must be made to achieve success in the production of paper to reduce the import volume of paper as well as cut the spending on foreign exchange. Cultivation of trees and bamboo to fulfil the requirements of industrial raw materials can contribute to environmental conservation in addition to the creation of job opportunities for residents. As pulp is crucial for paper production, all has to make strenuous efforts for the production.

The Senior General and officials inspected the processing of crushing raw bamboo pieces at the pulp production factory, the production process of paper at the 50-tonne advanced paper mill, newsprint production at the 60-tonne newsprint mill, and the functions of the briquette factory and gave necessary guidance to officials. — MNA/TTA



Acting President and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman inspects the Paper Mill (Thaboung) under Myanmar Economic Corporation.

Myanmar Election Phase I receives positive ...

FROM PAGE 1

Moreover, the Senior General said that, as about 80 per cent of the population lives in rural areas and approximately 20 per cent in urban areas, there is a greater need to promote rural-based economic development.

He gave guidance that cultivation of high-quality Pawsan rice varieties in suitable areas helps increase the incomes of individual farmers and contributes to improving the circulation of money within the region.

He noted that cultivation of sesame, groundnut, sunflower and soyabean would improve local oil security and significantly contribute to national oil self-sufficiency.

The Senior General emphasized that in Thabaung Township, where bamboo is abundant, efforts should be made to develop a bamboo-based business by producing higher-value bamboo products.

The economy of the nation is based on agriculture and livestock activities, so

industrial, agricultural, and livestock basic education high schools are being opened in districts to turn out human resources, he added.

Chief Minister of Ayeyawady Region U Tin Maung Win reported to the Senior General on the data about the township, agriculture and livestock activities, local food security, test-cultivation of Robusta coffee species, production of quality seeds, requirements of drum seeders, disbursement of loans from the State Economic Development Fund to farmers to have agricultural inputs, establishment of forests to green the environment, efforts to supply efficient electricity, development

undertakings for MSME businesses, and promotion of education, health and sports sectors.

Town elders requested the Senior General to provide better transport facilities for Thaboung Township and construct a vehicle terminal in the town.

Union Ministers U Min Naung and Dr Charlie Than discussed opportunities for farmers to seek assistance from the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation for promotion of agriculture and livestock sectors in the township, successful cultivation of Robusta coffee at the horticultural farms, distribution of quality strains of crops at fair prices, plans to

disburse loans from the State Economic Development Fund to those wishing to expand livestock and fish production, needs to use farmlands under the prescribed laws and rules, and fulfilment of capitals, technology and inputs for development of MSME businesses.

The Senior General cordially greeted the departmental officials, town elders and residents who attended the meeting.

Also, present at the meeting were Commission Secretary General Ye Win Oo, Union ministers, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, the commander of the South-West Command, and deputy ministers. — MNA/TTA

Salient points from the speech delivered by the Senior General at the meeting with residents in Thaboung

1. Cultivation of high-quality Pawsan rice varieties helps increase the incomes of individual farmers and contributes to improving the circulation of money within the region.
2. Growing oil crops would improve local oil security and significantly contribute to national oil self-sufficiency.
3. Efforts should be made to develop a bamboo-based business by producing higher-value bamboo products in the Thaboung region.

NATIONAL

Political Issues Must Be Addressed Through Stable, Political Means

FROM PAGE 1

Esteemed national brethren and people in Kachin State,

I extended heartfelt greetings with best wishes to all state residents and all Kachin ethnic people for the fulfilment of both mental and physical well-being, good health and prosperity, and the realization of all beneficial hopes and aspirations on the auspicious occasion of the 78th anniversary of Kachin State, which falls today, 10 January.

All ethnic nationalities born of the Union and residing in Myanmar have long lived in close bonds of kinship, mutual affection, and respect. For many centuries, they have existed in an independent and sovereign nation, governing themselves on their own land and waters, under their own authority and institutions. However, due to the armed oppression of foreign countries, independence was lost, and the country fell into colonial subjugation. Thereafter, all ethnic nationalities – without distinction between hills and plains, states and regions – stood united with a strong spirit of Union, and were able to regain the independence of the nation.

It was a fine historical evidence for the state and the country that patriotic heroes, including leaders and Kachin ethnic people from Kachin State, sacrificed life, blood and sweat for the sake of the nation and the national people in the independence struggle. As a gesture of honouring the formation of the Kachin State government at the first-ever meeting of the Kachin State Council Conference held on 10 January 1948, the day of 10 January was designated as the Kachin State Day. It has been held annually, and this year's occasion turns 78.

Kachin State is endowed with a variety of beautiful ecosystems in different parts of the state, which possess snow-capped mountains, namely Khakaborazi, Ganalrazi, Phonkanrazi and Madwerazi in the northern part of the state, geologically significant situations in the Hukaung Plain, as well as being rich in precious natural resources.

The high and steep mountain ranges and the lush and green forests, along with the emergence of the stable and beautiful Ayeyawady River, which originates at the confluence of the Makha and Malikha rivers, are the diverse beauties of Kachin State. Kachin State is home to Kachin tribes such as Jingphaw, Lachid, Lawwaw, Lisu, Rawam, Zaiwah, etc. Moreover, some Shan ethnic groups and other ethnics including the Bamar ethnic, are living in the state together.

The Manaw festival held at the ceremony to mark the Kachin State Day showcases a fine tradition which portrays adoration of the national prestige and integrity, and preserving cultural customs and fine traditional heritage of ethnicities in Kachin State. The Manaw dance with collective efforts is a symbol which dedicates to peace and prosperity across the state as well as the Union and indicates the unity of people from the state. It is a meaningful, traditional cultural festival to ensure the further strengthening of peace and prosperity in the state.

Moreover, Kachin State is a major state endowed with valuable mineral wealth, natural resources, and abundant natural assets. Owing to its favourable water conditions, fertile land, and suitable climate, crops are being cultivated successfully and continue to develop and thrive. Likewise, the scenic beauty of the Ayeyawady River, which is a symbol of unity together with the state's

lush greenery and rich natural vitality, also constitutes a distinctive characteristic of the state.

As Kachin State is a developed state with favourable water and land conditions, all ethnic brothers and sisters within the state must unite their spirit and strength and work together in harmony to ensure peace and stability in the state, to improve the socioeconomic lives of state residents, and to expand employment opportunities.

Esteemed national brethren,

The government took the State responsibilities in accordance with the Constitution as part of preventing possible dangers triggered by voting fraud in the 2020 general elections. After that, the government has been focusing on serving the interests of the entire ethnic group. As such, all people, including Kachin ethnics, have to cooperate with the government in firmly implementing the multiparty democratic path that the entire people aspire to.

It is necessary to resolve the political problems stably and politically. Everyone has to consider and review that attacks and impossible demands of each ethnic region with arms which do not benefit the country are terrorist activities against the democratic way, and these make troubles to themselves. I would like to note that now is the time for all to strive for ending the armed conflicts in relevant regions as well as ensuring tranquillity, stability, and durable peace.

Moreover, the number of ethnic Hluttaw representatives at the political platform must hold discussions under the law for the sake of strengthening the multiparty democratic system and the interests of the region and ethnics. So, I would like to urge the entire ethnic people to join hands with the government, Tatmadaw and public service personnel to build a Union based on democracy and a federal system in accord with the aspirations of the ethnic people.

Moreover, the country has to enjoy peace and stability and needs to be free from armed conflicts and terrorist acts for national development. Only when the country is peaceful and stable will it march forward with development initiatives. As such, I would like to urge that now is the time for armed groups and terrorist groups in the state to emphasize the efforts to cease fighting and violent acts as part of serving the interests of the state and residents.

At present, the National Defence and Security Council is striving for the implementation of education and healthcare for the people, with the enhancement of their economy, as well as building a multiparty democratic Union by adopting the objectives. The objectives "To steadfastly strive for the emergence of political forces and the people's representatives who can implement a genuine, disciplined multiparty democratic system while constantly emphasizing on the national interests of the State" and "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" are being implemented, and everyone knows that the multiparty democratic general election Phase I was held successfully. Furthermore, the Phases II and III will be held to transfer the State responsibilities being taken by the current government to the forthcoming government, which will emerge from the

election. The foundation of democracy is the election. So, I would like to deeply urge all ethnic people to cooperate in successfully holding the election and building a multiparty democratic Union.

In Kachin State, the flow of illegal commodities, cross-border crimes and drug trafficking in border areas adjacent to other countries are activities against the law, tarnishing the image of the state and defaming its integrity. I would like to urge departmental officials, ethnic leaders and the entire people to combat these illegal activities as part of initiating the enforcement of the law.

Esteemed Kachin ethnic people,

Kachin State is blessed with favourable climatic conditions and geographical conditions, supporting the development of agriculture and livestock activities. Efforts must be exerted to boost agricultural products and produce value-added finished products based on agricultural produce through industrial technologies for the development of the state. It is necessary to produce value-added products based on the domestic raw materials to fulfil the needs of the region and sell them locally and internationally. As such, ethnic people residing in the state need to strive to initiate these businesses so as to improve the socioeconomic life of the people.

The National Defence and Security Council is placing emphasis on the improvement of the education and healthcare sectors to ensure sustainable development of the nation. In the education sector, I would like to urge that the new generation youths must be nurtured to have not only school education and techniques but also critical thinking, which can be applied to make correct opinions and decisions, a patriotic spirit and the keenness to preserve the prestige and integrity of the nation.

The State is encouraging the improvement of health standards for the ethnic people and providing comprehensive healthcare services to them. Likewise, as technologies, machinery for production and skilled human resources will be required in order to manufacture quality products of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises based on agriculture and livestock activities, local ethnic people have to join the work processes in harmony.

In conclusion, I send this message in honour of the 78th Anniversary of Kachin State Day with my heartfelt wishes that all ethnic people in Kachin State live in unity in building a peaceful, prosperous, overall development of the country through thick and thin. May they emphasize the national interests in implementing the political, economic and national security and defence activities. May they strive for serving the interests of the state and ethnic people with diligence, perseverance and industrious efforts in all sectors to ensure peace and development undertakings through the united strength of the ethnic national people of the state. And may the Kachin State be peaceful and prosperous.

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

NATIONAL



State Security and Peace Commission Chairman and Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets Tatmadaw members and families in Hainggyikyun Station under the South-West Command.

Myanmar reaches agreement with neighbouring countries on border issues

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing underscored that the government is striving to ensure that elections remain free, fair, and ethical, and to establish an honourable and accountable Hluttaw.

Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing yesterday morning held a meeting with Tatmadaw members and families in Hainggyikyun Station under the South-West Command.

Accompanied by Commission Secretary General Ye Win Oo and officials, the Senior General arrived at the local naval region command headquarters in Hainggyikyun Station.

At the meeting hall, the commander of the naval command headquarters reported to the Senior General on facts about the station, accomplishment over the guidance given by the Senior General on his inspection tour in 2023, efforts to hold the multiparty democratic general election successfully inside and outside the station, preparations for the eligible voters to cast ballots without losing their rights, functions of general staff, quartermasters and adjutant, and implementation of the agriculture, livestock and welfare measures.

In his guidance, the Senior General said that it is necessary to emphasize military operations, security and control of the areas in Hainggyikyun station successfully and take care of security measures.

He emphasized that officials need to check illegal extraction of natural resources, trafficking of narcotic drugs and illegal travel in the station area with the enforcement of the rule of law.

The Senior General stated that dis-

Myanmar still needs sincere and committed politicians who are ready to handle national affairs with seriousness and responsibility.

aster preparedness measures must be taken as the Hainggyikyun area is coastal. Although natural disasters cannot be avoided, preparedness can mitigate the loss and damage from disasters.

He underlined that efforts must be made to ensure sufficiency of livestock, fish and vegetables in the station and sell surplus ones to residents at fair prices.

He urged all to carry out security and defensive measures of the station while serving the development of the region and the interests of the people.

The Senior General also met Tatmadaw members and families of Hainggyikyun Station at the station hall. It was also attended by Commission Secretary General Ye Win Oo, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Htein Win, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Tun Aung, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, and the commander of the South-West Command.

At the meeting, the Senior General unveiled that the State has established agreements on border issues with neighbouring countries regarding politics.

For the development of border areas and ethnic regions, he pointed out that it is essential to maintain peace and stability in those areas and to ensure an abundance of educated and skilled people. Efforts are being made to enhance education to secure the rights of ethnic groups, as well as to implement development projects that promote the advancement of these regions.

The Senior General stressed that ethnic groups must be enabled to properly understand and assess their ethnic rights and democratic rights. It is necessary to continue implementing programmes to enhance the education sector under the future government.

Based on past experiences, he openly expressed that it has been observed that Myanmar still needs genuine and committed politicians who are willing to carry out national affairs with seriousness and responsibility.

He expressed his wide observation that as voting people participated in Phase I of the election freely and actively, without any pressure, and cast their votes in an orderly manner, with pride in being citizens of the nation.

He recounted that international election observation teams also observed the voting process, noting that it was conducted freely and in an orderly manner. They gave positive assessments, stating that it was a free and fair election. The government is striving to ensure that elections remain free, fair, and ethical, and to establish an honourable and accountable Hluttaw.

Based on the historical circumstances of the country, the Senior General highlighted that there have been weaknesses in the education sector. That is why the government must work to shape a better future for the nation by prioritizing and improving education.

In the upcoming academic year, he unveiled that discussions and prepara-

Salient points from the speech delivered by the Senior General at Hainggyikyun Station

1. The government is striving to ensure that elections remain free, fair, and ethical, and to establish an honourable and accountable Hluttaw.
2. It is necessary to continue implementing programmes to enhance the education sector under the future government.
3. Ethnic groups must be enabled to properly understand and assess their ethnic rights and democratic rights.

tions are underway to teach students from Grade 7 to Grade 9 foundational knowledge in industrial, agricultural, and livestock subjects.

The Senior General fulfilled the needs of Tatmadaw members and families and presented foodstuffs for them to the station commander.

The Senior General visited Hainggyikyun in a motorcade and visited Makutaranthi Hsandawshin Myatmawtin Pagoda.

He inspected the expansion of the platform at the pagoda and the overall renovation measures. He gave guidance to officials to systematically calculate construction measures with resilience to climatic conditions, and arrange accommodation for pilgrims.

The Senior General donated cash to the fund for the overall renovation through the officials. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

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

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

Mr Bendito dos Santos Freitas, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, sends Congratulatory Message to U Than Swe, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

ON behalf of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, and on my own behalf, I have the honour to convey my sincere congratulations to Your Excellency and to the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on the occasion of the 78th Anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, celebrated on 4 January 2026.

My visit to Myanmar in September 2025 reflected Timor-Leste's commitment to maintaining friendly relations and to further strengthening cooperation between our two countries for the mutual benefit of our peoples and countries.

I wish Your Excellency good health, continued success, and happiness.

9th Polytechnic University becomes operational in Myitkyina

UNION Minister for Ministry 1 of the President's Office U Tin Aung San, who is currently in Myitkyina, attended the opening ceremony of Polytechnic University (Myitkyina) yesterday together with the Union Ministers U Maung Maung Ohn, U Hla Moe, U Nyan Tun, U Chit Swe, Dr Chaw Chaw Sein, Dr Myo Thein Kyaw, Jeng Phang Naw Taung, members of Central Advisory Body of National Defence and Security Council.

After the ceremonial procedures, the Union minister said that there are a total of 61 technological universities and universities of computer studies in Myanmar, and the technological and computer universities located in Bhamo, Lashio, Panglong, Kengtung, Dawei, Myeik, and Maubin have already been consolidated and opened as Polytechnic Universities. He added that Naypyitaw State Polytechnic University was also opened in Nay Pyi Taw. He expressed appreciation that the Technological University (Myitkyina) in Kachin



Union Minister U Tin Aung San looks into the exhibits at yesterday's opening event of Polytechnic University (Myitkyina).

State has now been opened as the ninth Polytechnic University.

He continued that the opening of Polytechnic Universities will bring benefits such as the ability to implement balanced theoretical and practical education that contributes to regional

development and valuable opportunities to put knowledge-sharing into practice.

As the 21st century is an era of education, and as science and technology are advancing rapidly, only by strengthening the foundation of education will the

nation be able to achieve modern development. Based on education, he emphasized the need to fully cultivate the five strengths—physical, mental, economic, moral and fraternal strengths, and to provide practical training that benefits the region and country,

in addition to the measures to ensure the sustainable development of Polytechnic University (Myitkyina) that offers learning connected with real workplace experiences. Then, Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Kyaw briefed the establishment of Polytechnic University (Myitkyina), and State Chief Minister U Khet Htein Nan presented commemorative gifts.

The Union minister and party observed the booths displayed by students of different departments of the Polytechnic University.

The Polytechnic University (Myitkyina) is currently offering six-degree programmes to produce high-quality engineers and computer professionals who will contribute to the country's and regional development. Each year, the university plans to admit 160 technology students and 120 computer students, for a total of 280 students annually, enabling a total enrollment of 800 technology students and 480 computer students — 1,280 students in total. — MNA/KTZH

Notice for Exporters

1. The Central Bank of Myanmar has announced that, in accordance with its Notification 12/2022, the export earnings required to be converted into Myanmar kyat have been revised from 25 per cent to 15 per cent, through Notification 2/2026 dated 7 January 2026.
2. The Ministry of Commerce is also giving priority to processing export licences submitted through the Myanmar Tradenet 2.0 system in order to ensure the smooth facilitation of export activities.
3. Therefore, exporters are urged to export fully and accurately in line with the quantities and items stated in their export licence applications, and to ensure that such export earnings are fully repatriated within the prescribed period, following the Central Bank of Myanmar's recent relaxation of requirements for repatriating export earnings.

Ministry of Commerce

Myanmar delegation departs for Netherlands for ICJ merits hearings

CONCERNING the application filed by the Gambia alleging that Myanmar of violating the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, the International Court of Justice will hold public hearings starting from 12 January 2026 at the Peace Palace, The Hague, the Netherlands.

To attend the aforementioned hearings, the Myanmar delegation led by U Ko Ko Hlaing, Agent of Myanmar and Union Minister for the Ministry 2 of

the President's Office, and Dr Thida Oo, Alternate Agent of Myanmar and Union Minister for Legal Affairs and Attorney-General of the Union, left for The Hague, the Netherlands on 9 January 2026. Officials saw off the delegation at the Yangon International Airport.

The hearings are reported to be held from 12 to 29 January 2026, and Myanmar will present two rounds of oral arguments; the first round from 16 to 20 January and the second round from 28 to 29 January. — MNA

NATIONAL

Peace process must begin with positive outcomes from dialogue

❖ “Peace cannot be predetermined or prescribed in advance. It must be built through mutual meetings, discussions, and negotiations that yield constructive results. Therefore, all of us need to come together and engage in dialogue. Each and every one of us shares the responsibility to help make such meetings and discussions possible.”

(Excerpt from the speech delivered by State Administration Council Chairman and Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the opening ceremony of the Peace Forum 2025 on 25 June 2025)

Myanma Port Authority Museum opens in Yangon

UNION Minister for Transport and Communications U Mya Tun Oo, accompanied by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein and relevant officials, attended the opening ceremony of the Myanma Port Authority Museum in Yangon yesterday.

Speaking at the event, the Union minister stated that the Myanma Port Authority emerged alongside the establishment of Yangon and is a major institution with a long history. In accordance with the economic policy of the country, it has continuously implemented port development activities in line with the government and the people.

He continued that, as the historical images and records accumulated over time have now been compiled and presented in the form of an exhibition, visitors will be able to gain an understanding of the entire development history of the Myanma Port Authority within a short time.

Although history exists, it becomes meaningless if it is not properly recorded and preserved, and scholars stated that



Union Minister U Mya Tun Oo presses the electronic button to unveil the Myanma Port Authority Museum (R) and views the display at the launch event yesterday.

history represents reality, while economics is an interpretation. Studying history helps provide perspectives for the future. He stressed that the open exhibition will serve as a valuable legacy for future generations.

After the ceremonial procedures, the Union minister and party observed

the museum.

The Union minister and party also inspected the installation of a weight bridge and maintenance work at Sule jetty, Sapachaung in Dala, jetties along the Twantay Canal, the Twantay canal project to be conducted by the Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of

River Systems, the 3.5-mile-long Twantay Canal and the Latpangon checkpoint.

During the tour, the Union minister stressed the need to meet the target, repair the staff housing and accelerate the Twantay canal development project that is being conducted with the loan of Korea. — MNA/KTZH

Appointment of Nicaraguan Ambassador to Myanmar agreed on

THE Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the proposed appointment of Mr Segundo Martin Calero Escorcia as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Nicaragua to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Mr Segundo Martin Calero Escorcia was born on 26 February 1987 in Masaya, Nicaragua. He obtained a degree in Electronic Engineering from the National University of Engineering in 2010, and

earned a Postgraduate degree in Information and Communication Technology Management and Applications in 2012. He served as a Project and Development Officer at the Nicaraguan Telecommunications and Postal Services Company (TELCOR) from 2009 to 2015. He worked at

the Ministry of Education as a Policy Analysis Officer from 2021 to 2024. Since July 2025, he has been serving as the Charge d'Affaires at the Embassy of Nicaragua in Zimbabwe. — MNA

Diplomatic relations established between Myanmar and Somalia



The signing ceremony of the Joint Communique on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations in progress yesterday at the Myanmar Embassy in Kuala Lumpur.

THE Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Federal Republic of Somalia, desirous of establishing friendly ties and cooperation guided by the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the

norms of International Law in accordance with the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, have established diplomatic relations at the level of Ambassadors with

effect from 9 January 2026.

The Joint Commiqué on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations was signed by U Aung Kyaw Moe, Charge d'Affaires ad interim/Ambassador of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to Malaysia and Mr Ali Mohamed Abukar, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Somalia to Malaysia, on 9 January 2026 at the Embassy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in Kuala Lumpur.

The Federal Republic of Somalia is the 127th country with which Myanmar has established diplomatic relations. — MNA

OPINION

ARTICLE

Ending armed conflict key to advancing Kachin State's development

KACHIN State is blessed with favourable climatic and geographical conditions, supporting the development of agriculture and livestock activities. Efforts must be exerted to boost agricultural products and manufacture value-added finished products based on agricultural produce through industrial technologies for the development of the state.

It is necessary to produce value-added products based on the domestic raw materials in order to fulfil the needs of the region and sell them locally and internationally. As such, ethnic people residing in the state need to strive to initiate these businesses so as to improve the socioeconomic life of the people.

In Kachin State, the flow of illegal commodities, cross-border crimes and drug trafficking in border areas adjacent to other countries are activities against the law, tarnishing the image of the state and defaming its integrity. Hence, departmental officials, ethnic leaders and the entire people should combat these illegal activities to ensure the enforcement of the law.

The country must be peaceful and stable, and needs to be free from armed conflicts and terrorist acts for national development. Only when the country is peaceful and stable will it march forward to carry out development initiatives. As such, armed groups and terrorist groups need to consider that now is the time to emphasize the efforts to cease fighting and violent acts as part of serving the interests of Kachin State and its residents.

All stakeholders and different groups have to resolve the political problems stably and politically. They need to consider and review that attacks and impossible demands of each ethnic region with arms which do not benefit the country are terrorist activities against the democratic way, and these cause trouble to themselves. Now is the time for all to strive for ending the armed conflicts in relevant regions as well as ensuring tranquillity, stability and a durable peace.

with arms which do not benefit the country are terrorist activities against the democratic way, and these cause trouble to themselves. Now is the time for all to strive for ending the armed conflicts in relevant regions as well as ensuring tranquillity, stability and a durable peace.

In order to develop Kachin State and improve the socioeconomic life of the ethnic people, everyone needs to participate in exercising the multiparty democratic system. Moreover, it is necessary to have the number of ethnic Hluttaw representatives on the political platform in order to hold discussions under the law for the sake of strengthening the multiparty democratic system and the interests of the region and ethnic. So, the entire ethnic people should join hands with the government, Tatmadaw and public service personnel to build a Union based on democracy and a federal system in accord with the aspiration of the ethnic people. Consequently, residents of Kachin State can preserve the traditions and natural resources of Kachin State forever.

2025 Annual Review of Myanmar Rainfall

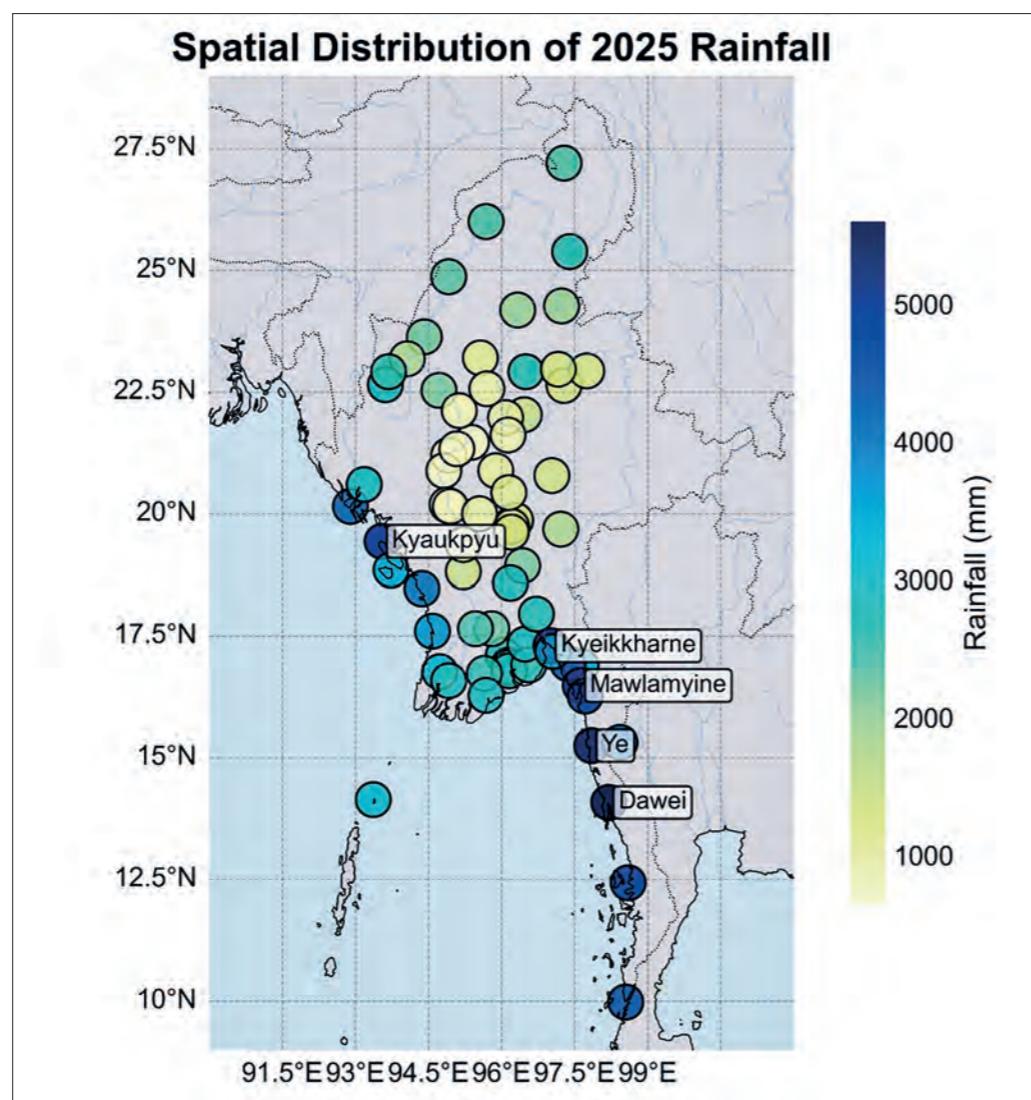


Figure 1

By Dr Kyaw (The Meteorological School)

approximately 8.6:1, highlighting the nature of extreme weather phenomena associated with global climate change. In essence, 2025 was a year that visibly manifested abnormal weather conditions, such as high-intensity rainfall over short periods and a reduced number of rainy days, processes linked to climate change.

A notable finding of this analysis is that some historically dry stations recorded rainfall classified as "above normal" or "much above normal" compared to their local decadal averages. For instance, although total rainfall volumes remain low, towns like Pakokku (700 millimetres), Minbu (700 millimetres) in the Magway Region, and Shwebo (950 millimetres) in the Sagaing Region experienced rainfall five per cent to 10 per cent above their ten-year averages. This suggests that the anomalous 2025 monsoon conditions were sufficient to generate increased rainfall even in the central Dry Zone.

Furthermore, records indicate that the 2025 rainfall broke long-standing daily precipitation records in several areas. New 24-hour rainfall records were set in eleven townships. The most prominent was in Shweskyin (Bago Region), which recorded 311 millimetres on 9 July, exceeding the previous 2024 record (207 millimetres) by 104 millimetres. Additionally, significant increases over previous records were observed in: Katha (Sagaing) with 237 millimetres on 27 June (previous record 199 millimetres in 2001); Taunggyi (southern Shan) with 126 millimetres on 16 May (previous record 88 millimetres in 2002); and Ela (Nay Pyi Taw) with 142 millimetres on 12 July (previous record 89 millimetres in 2018). Notably, Kyakhami (Mon) broke its own record from 16 June 2024 (210 millimetres) by two millimetres, re-

cording 212 millimetres on 16 June 2025. These new records indicate an increasing frequency of severe rainstorms or short-duration heavy rainfall events in recent times, underscoring the need for effective management of flood and landslide risks.

The pattern of Myanmar's monsoon rainfall, driven by the southwest monsoon, exhibits a clear northward decrease in precipitation. Regional rainfall patterns are precisely influenced by geographical location and topography. The coastal and southern regions recorded the highest rainfall totals for 2025 (e.g., Taninthayi Region - average ~4,900 millimetres; Mon State - average ~4,600 millimetres; Rakhine State - average ~3,833 millimetres). In contrast, the arid central regions of Mandalay (average ~1,188 millimetres) and Magway (average ~805 millimetres) received the lowest amounts. Moderate rainfall was observed in the Ayeyawady Region (average ~2,760 millimetres), Yangon Region (average ~2,750 millimetres), and Shan State (average ~1,325 - 1,450 millimetres). This pattern reflects the significant reduction in precipitation with increasing latitude and distance inland from the Bay of Bengal. Annual rainfall records suggest that for every degree of latitude northwards, the country's annual rainfall decreases by approximately 238 millimetres. It is important to separately note the rainfall in northern regions (Kachin State, Chin State, upper Sagaing Region), which receive year-round precipitation influenced not only by the monsoon but also by western disturbances. However, the rainfall conditions in these regions for 2025 were within normal parameters (Figure 2).

Geographically, the areas showing the highest percentage increases in rainfall during

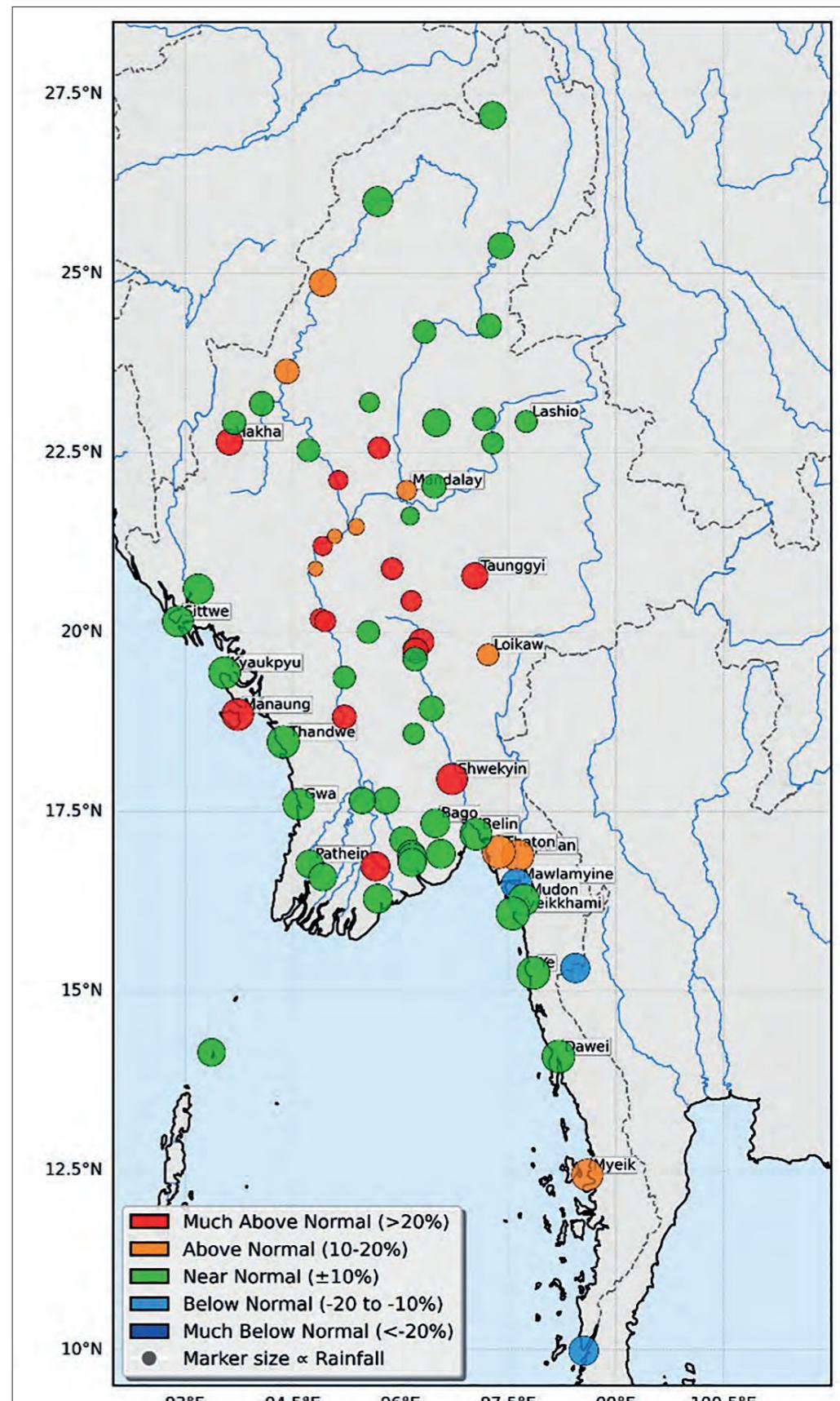


Figure 2

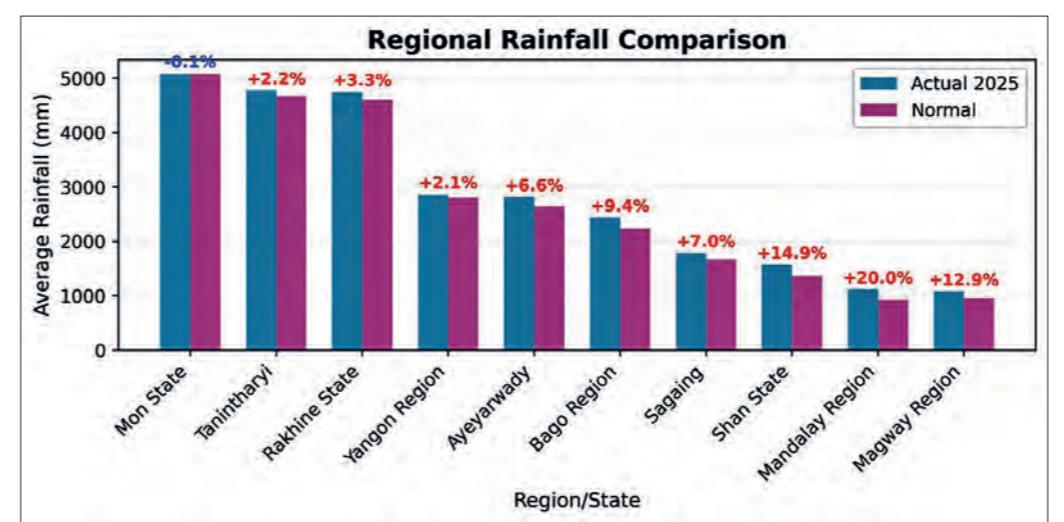


Figure 3

2025 were not the typically wet coastal zones but rather the central Dry Zone and the eastern Shan Plateau. For example, towns like Hsipaw (+9.7 per cent) and Lashio (+9.3 per cent) in Shan State experienced markedly higher precipitation. This suggests that the 2025 monsoon circulation system involved atypical elements, such as residual moisture from eastward-moving typhoons and influences from westerlies, which enabled the transport of moisture deeper inland into the highlands and plateau regions.

The implications of this uneven rainfall increase are wide-ranging and present a dual-edged scenario. For the core Dry Zone areas in Mandalay and Magway Regions, the increased rainfall provides a rare opportunity

to recharge soil moisture and groundwater in anticipation of drier years ahead. Conversely, in the high-rainfall zone (which includes 12 stations recording under 4,000 millimetres), it elevated the risks of flooding and landslides.

In summary, 2025 was a year of above-average rainfall across Myanmar, marked by significant new precipitation records from the humid southern coasts to the dry central plains. In the context of increasingly variable annual weather patterns, this review concludes

that it is critically important to develop new meteorological research and reassessment frameworks, particularly for long-term planning.

NATIONAL

78th Kachin State Day marked with Manaw Festival, sports events and Lethwei bouts

TO commemorate the 78th Kachin State Day, which falls on 10 January 2026, the Kachin State government organized the opening-day ceremony of the Manaw Festival and the pre-Manaw event. The ceremony was held in a lively and festive atmosphere on the lawn in front of the State Government Office yesterday morning.

At the opening ceremony, Kachin State Chief Minister U Khet Htein Nan said he was deeply pleased and honoured to celebrate the pre-Manaw event in joyful unity to welcome the 78th Kachin State Day. He extended his best wishes to all participants for good health, prosperity and success in their lives, and expressed his hope that Kachin State would become a peaceful, stable and developed state.

Afterwards, a Catholic priest offered blessings and prayers for the Manaw dance held in commemoration of the 78th Kachin State Day.

The Manaw dance then began with Manaw leaders leading the procession, joined by the Chief Minister and his wife, Northern Command Commander Maj-Gen Aung Zaw Htwe and his wife, senior Tatmadaw officers, the Chief Justice of the State High Court, state ministers



The 78th Kachin State Day celebration in vibrant action yesterday in Myitkyina, Kachin State.

and their wives, the State Advocate-General, the Secretary of the State Government and his wife, representatives of six Kachin ethnic groups and five Shan ethnic groups, as well as representatives of Bamar, Rakhine, Kayin and Chin ethnic literature and culture associations, town elders, specially guests and members of the public. All participants danced together joyfully in accordance with traditional customs inside the Manaw ground.

On the previous evening,

the chief minister also attended the final match and prize-giving ceremony of the men's open football tournament held in commemoration of the 78th Kachin State Day at Nyeinchan Thaya Football Ground in Myitkyina. The tournament was jointly organized by the Kachin State Petroleum Business Owners Association. In the final match, Dudu Sharaw FC faced Kachin Youth FC, with Kachin Youth FC winning the championship by a one-nil victory.

During the award ceremony

ny, the chairman of the State Petroleum Business Owners Association presented cash prizes of K5 million each to the eight participating teams. The Chairman and officials of the Kachin State Football Federation awarded honorary cash prizes to those who contributed to the successful organization of the tournament. State ministers and state-level departmental officials also presented positional awards and overall best awards of the tournament. Subsequently, state ministers presented prizes to the

third- and second-place teams, while the Chief Minister awarded individual medals, cash prizes and the championship trophy to the first-place team.

Following this, the chief minister and members of his entourage attended Myanmar traditional Lethwei challenge bouts held to mark the 78th Kachin State Day at the indoor sports hall of the People's Sports Ground. The chief minister, state ministers and the Chairman of the Upper Myanmar Traditional Lethwei Federation officially opened the event by cutting the ceremonial ribbon.

The Lethwei challenge bouts included a headline match between gold belt champion Htun Naing Oo and Aung Ko Latt, winner of the K3 million Aung Lan prize, along with bouts featuring champions and young fighters from traditional Lethwei clubs such as YMA Club, Kyar Phay Phay Club, Myitkyina Club, Nine Lethwei Club, Shwe Aung Lan Club and Bon Du Club. The chief minister provided K5 million in cash support for the event, while the state minister for Ethnic Affairs also contributed K5 million, in addition to prize money awarded to the participating fighters. — Kachin State IPRD/KZL

Over 80,000 acres of summer paddy sown under national plan

MORE than 80,000 acres of summer paddy have been planted out of the targeted 256,891 acres under the national summer paddy planting plan in Yangon Region, according to the Regional Department of Agriculture.

Of the nine districts in Yangon Region, summer paddy is being planted in townships across eight districts, excluding Ahlon District, with a total of 81,343 acres planted as of 1 January. During the summer paddy season, high-yielding varieties such as Sinthukha, Thittharin, 90-day, Aungnaingtoe, GW-11, Superhnankauk, Hmawbi-3, Saphotha (a Vietnamese variety), and Kaukhnyin (glutamate rice) are being cultivated. Among these,



Farmers are using seeders in rice fields. **PHOTO : KANU**

the 90-day summer paddy variety is the most widely planted.

The Department of Agriculture has conducted awareness programmes for farmers focusing on increasing output and yield per acre, soil improvement,

proper cultivation techniques, crop care, comprehensive pest management, and post-harvest practices tailored to each crop and season.

For the 2025-2026 period, the Yangon Region Department

of Agriculture distributed 4,848 tonnes of urea fertilizer, supplied by the Myanmar Petroleum and Chemical Industry, for the cultivation of summer paddy, monsoon paddy, and oilseed crops.

Under the management of

the regional government, measures such as soil development, improved cultivation techniques, crop care, integrated pest control, post-harvest technology awareness, planting demonstrations using seeding equipment, standardized harvesting, and support services have been implemented to increase yield per acre and achieve target yields for monsoon paddy.

Last year, more than 250,000 acres were allocated for summer paddy cultivation, but over 260,000 acres were actually planted. This year, a similar allocation has been made, and efforts are underway to promote production at least at last year's level. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/MKKS

NATIONAL

635 illegal buildings tied to scams, gambling demolished in KK Park

THE Myanmar government has systematically cleared and demolished illegal buildings used for online scams and gambling activities in the Shwe Kokko and KK Park areas, where such crimes were most concentrated, according to official sources. Joint task forces have carried out thorough inspections, systematically destroyed confiscated equipment used in online scam and gambling operations

and demolished illegal structures.

Yesterday, authorities demolished the remaining two illegal buildings in Section II of the Myawady-Maehtawthay (KK Park) area. Section II originally contained 62 illegal buildings, and the final two four-storey structures have now been brought down.

As a result, all illegal buildings used for online scam and

gambling activities in KK Park have been completely demolished, including 148 buildings in Section I, 62 in Section II and 425 in Section III, bringing the total number of demolished illegal buildings to 635. The demolitions were carried out using controlled blasting methods as well as heavy machinery.

In addition, to ensure the destruction of structures already brought down by machin-

ery, further demolition using fire barrels has been underway since 14 December. In Section III of KK Park, a further five two-storey illegal buildings were destroyed yesterday, bringing the total number of buildings fully destroyed in that section to 121. Officials said the remaining illegal buildings would continue to be destroyed using the same method.

The government has stated

that eradicating online scams and gambling activities is a national responsibility and has reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring that such crimes cannot take root anywhere in Myanmar. Authorities will continue coordinated efforts with domestic forces, as well as with the governments of neighbouring countries, to eliminate online scams and gambling operations.

— MNA/KZL



The above images clearly show the situation before and after the dismantling of KK Park in Myawady Township, Kayin State.

Pyay oil field gas set for delivery to Yangon

THE Ministry of Energy announced that natural gas produced from the Pyay oil field will be delivered to Yangon.

The Ministry of Energy is currently researching and developing the Pyay, Myanaung, and Shwepyitha oil fields using modern technologies to boost output.

The Pyay oil field, which was discovered in 1964, is a long-established oil field with valuable oil and natural gas resources; however, production has been almost halted for more than ten years. Modern technologies are now being applied to increase production at the Pyay, Myanaung, and Shwepyitha oil fields. Additionally, research activities are being carried out in collaboration with private entrepreneurs. Furthermore, natural gas produced from the



Union Energy Minister U Ko Ko Lwin and officials watch the trial production of natural gas from the oil field.

Pyay oil field in the Bago Region will be delivered to Yangon via pipeline. Studies of the sand layers in Block 48 of the oil field have found that greater volumes of natural gas can be produced. Similarly, if natural gas production from the oil field increases, there are plans to supply natural gas to factories and workshops in the Pyay and Shwe Taung areas.

Currently, the Myanma Oil

and Gas Enterprise under the Ministry of Energy, and HNA Myanmar Oil & Gas Ltd have signed benefit-sharing agreements to boost the production of oil and natural gas from the onshore Block IOR-4 Area-1. Moreover, the Ministry of Energy is working with ethnic entrepreneurs to jointly develop ten onshore blocks in mature oil fields under benefit-sharing agreements. — ASH/MKKS

MMPO to distribute food supplies to film industry members on 22-24 Jan

THE Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization (MMPO) will donate and distribute rice, cooking oil and food supplies to members of the film industry for the 17th time from 22 to 24 January, according to MMPO Vice-Chair U Aye Kyu Lay.

The organization will distribute rice, cooking oil, onions and other food items to personnel from across the Myanmar film industry, including those working in administration and distribution, screenwriting, editing, technical services, supporting roles, lead acting, directing, video production, theatre, background music and production. The donations will be carried out in accordance with designated schedules for each professional category.

“Our organization has been

providing rice, cooking oil and food supplies to film industry personnel since the COVID-19 period, and this will mark the 17th time. We have supported members of the Myanmar film industry to the best of our ability since 1995,” said U Aye Kyu Lay.

For the 17th round of donations, supplies will be distributed on 22 January to personnel from the administration, distribution, screenwriting, production, film background music, theatre, editing, lead acting and directing sectors. On 23 January, supplies will be distributed to supporting actors and actresses. On 24 January, donations will be provided to technical professionals in the industry. — ASH/KZL

NATIONAL BUSINESS

Yangon palm oil reference price set at K6,100 per viss

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil for the Yangon market is set at K6,100 per viss for this week ending 15 January, slightly up from K6,060 per viss registered last week, according to the Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution.

The palm oil reference prices were K6,280 per viss recorded from 5 to 11 December, K6,140 for 12 to 18 December, K6,115 for 19-25 December and K6,050 for 19 to 25 December.

The Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has been closely observing the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia, add-



Workers diligently arranging jerrycans of cooking oil for sale and distribution.

ing transport costs, tariffs and banking services to decide the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil weekly.

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

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

The committee notified that any person who is involved in price gouging and oil storage to attempt market manipulation will face legal action under the Essential Goods and Services Law.

The department is working together with the Myanmar Oil

Dealers' Association and the cooking oil importing companies to offer affordable rates of imported palm oil for consumers.

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

CTD offers Special Thai Culinary Course from 12 Jan to 6 Feb

THE Centre for Tourism Development (CTD), operated under the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, will conduct a Special Thai Culinary Course from 1 pm to 4 pm from 12 January to 6 February.

The courses will offer over 40 Thai cuisines (salad, soup, curry, fried, roasted), a range of skills from food preparation to kitchen hygiene and food safety, menu planning, selling price formula and food costing method and management skills.

Trainees will receive a completion certification recognized by the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism. Trainee fee is K450,000, including uniform, cooking materials and documents.

Those interested can register for the course through Google Form <https://forms.gle/vWw1A8gVEteP5ExWA> and reach out to the centre located at 40/42, Bosunpat Road between Mahabandula and Merchant Road (lower block) in Sule, Yangon at 01 8377559 and 09 663186684. — NN/KK

CBM continues foreign currency injections into FX market

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold over US\$1.69 million to edible oil-importing companies, along with an injection of over 5.77 million baht and over 331,000 into the market on 8 January.

CBM announced on 7 January that it would sell \$22 million to those business entities engaged in the fuel oil industry.

CBM sold over \$1 million to edible oil-importing countries, in addition to an injection of over 7.95 million baht purchased from CMP companies into the market on that day.

CBM pumped over 3.18 million baht and over 479,900 yuan into the financial market on 6 January 2026, in addition



Greenbacks are seen at the currency exchange counter.

to selling over \$481,000 into the edible oil-importing companies.

CBM sold \$2.24 million, purchased from CMP companies, to edible oil-importing companies on 5 January 2026, along with an injection of over 782,500

yuan into the market.

CBM made an injection of over \$21 million, 2.4 million yuan and 1.5 million baht in November.

CBM injected over \$2.48 million, 5.75 million yuan and

4.98 million baht in October, along with sales of over \$54 million purchased from CMP companies.

CBM aims to curb the instability in the foreign exchange market and currency devaluation. According to CBM's notification on 15 March 2024, it has been collaborating with law enforcement agencies to combat and prosecute those who attempt to manipulate the currency market under the existing laws. CBM allowed authorized dealers (private banks) to operate online foreign exchange trading freely as per the market rate, depending on supply and demand, starting from 5 December 2023. — NN/KK

CAD to undertake actions to enhance electronic services



Market monitoring officials are seen conducting inspection trips in the market to check the quality and compliance with label guidance.

THE Ministry of Commerce's Consumer Affairs Department will promote quality awareness

among operators of e-commerce businesses and electronic services that receive more

complaints from consumers and take further necessary actions.

The Consumer Affairs Department received over 285 cases in 2025, and consumers from Yangon and Mandalay filed the majority of the complaints. The department will check the complaints and launch an awareness campaign to promote consumer education and awareness of consumers' rights. Necessary actions will be undertaken to ensure delivery of great service. Altogether, 566 inspection officials are assigned

in the Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, regions and states under the Consumer Protection Law to monitor and inspect the market and tackle consumers' complaints.

The department has been checking whether the businesses comply with labelling directives, including labels in the Myanmar language and other labelling requirements. The department conducted labelling inspections for 20,155 products between 2019 and 2025. — ASH/KK

Swiss mining giant Glencore reveals merger talks with Rio Tinto

SWISS resources giant Glencore said Friday it is in merger talks with British-Australian rival Rio Tinto, potentially creating the world's biggest mining group.

Glencore said it was in preliminary discussions with Rio Tinto "about a possible combination of some or all of their busi-



Rio Tinto may be interested in Glencore's copper assets which include this refinery in Montreal, Canada.

PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Healthcare companies to report strong performance

LISTED healthcare companies are expected to deliver strong growth in the third quarter of FY26, supported by robust performance across hospitals, diagnostics and pharmacy segments, highlighted a report by Nuvama.

According to the report, the overall healthcare coverage is projected to see EBITDA expansion of around 22 per cent year-on-year in Q3FY26, driven primarily by a similar 22 per cent growth in hospitals and diagnostics.

Despite Q3 being a seasonally soft quarter for hospitals, the sector is expected to maintain healthy growth momentum on the back of structural drivers.

It stated "We expect Q3FY26E EBITDA of our healthcare coverage to expand approx. 22 per cent YoY propelled by approximately 22 per cent growth in hospitals and diagnostics". — ANI

AI gobbling up memory chips essential to gadget makers

As devices from toys to cars get smarter at the Consumer Electronics Show, gadget makers are grappling with a shortage of memory and storage needed for them to work.

Dwindling supplies and soaring costs of Dynamic Random Access Memory (DRAM) that provides space for computers, smartphones, and game consoles to run applications or multitask was a hot topic behind the scenes at the annual gadget extravaganza in Las Vegas.

Once cheap and plentiful, DRAM -- along with memory chips to simply store data -- are in short supply because demand spiked by AI in everything from data centers to wearable devices.

"Everybody is screaming for more supply...they just can't find enough," Sangyeun Cho, who is responsible for Samsung Electronics' semiconductor business in the US, told AFP. — AFP

nesses".

The deal could proceed as an all-share merger, it said in a statement.

The Financial Times was first to report that the two were discussing a "megamerger" to create the world's largest mining company.

Together, they would have a value of more than US\$260 billion, the paper said. As a combined force they would have greater leverage to buy copper, a metal that is growing in demand as countries expand electrical networks to harness renewable energies. — AFP

France halts imports of food with traces of banned pesticides

FRANCE on Wednesday officialized a ban on food imports containing traces of five pesticides currently banned in the EU, a move aimed at easing farmers' opposition to the Mercosur trade deal with four South American nations.

France's influential farming lobbies are pushing the government to block the Mercosur accord, which is being discussed by the bloc's agriculture ministers in Brussels at an extraordinary meeting on Wednesday.

The five substances



These chemicals, used on crops like avocados, mangos, soybeans, wheat, and potatoes, were previously allowed in trace amounts on imports. PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ PIXABAY

targeted include the fungicides mancozebe, thio-phosphate-methyl, carbendazim and benomyl, used on produce ranging from avocados and mangos to wheat and soybeans. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V TRADER VOY.NO. (SB552A)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V TRADER VOY. NO. (SB552A)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **10-1-2026** 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 MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY S.A

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY.NO. (220N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY.NO. (220N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **10-1-2026** 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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC RUIDE VOY.NO. (2540S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC RUIDE VOY.NO. (2540S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **10-1-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY.NO. (0QM80E1NC)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY.NO. (0QM80E1NC)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **10-1-2026** 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 CMA-CGM SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

GLOBAL VIEWPOINTS: WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS



Members of the armed forces carry out an anti-drug operation in the Trinipuerto sector in Guayaquil, Ecuador, on 16 March 2025.
PHOTO: GERARDO MENOSCAL/AFP/FILE

Trump says US to start land strikes against drug cartels

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump said on Thursday that the United States would begin carrying out land strikes against drug trafficking cartels.

"We've knocked out 97 per cent of the drugs coming in by water, and we are gonna start now hitting land with regard to the cartels," Trump said in an interview

with Fox News.

"The cartels are running Mexico," he added, without providing further details about the plans.

His remarks followed a months-long US military operation targeting vessels allegedly involved in drug trafficking in the Caribbean Sea as well as last week's raid to capture Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro and his wife. The couple

“

Trump highlighted Venezuela's oil, stating the US is taking "billions and billions of dollars' worth" and expects "trillions" in revenue while remaining until the country is stabilized.

”

were later transferred to New York to face what Washington described as "drug trafficking" and other federal charges.

During the interview, Trump said that the United States would earn a large sum from selling Venezuelan oil.

"We are taking billions and billions of dollars' worth of oil," he said. "It'll be trillions of dollars, but we're going to be there till we straighten out the country."

Trump also said he's expecting US oil companies to rebuild Venezuela's oil industry.

According to media reports, the White House is scrambling to broaden a meeting with oil executives scheduled for Friday amid skepticism from major oil companies. — Xinhua

Venezuela-US ties bear 'unprecedented stain', Caracas to pursue diversified global economic engagement: Delcy Rodriguez

VENEZUELA'S interim President Delcy Rodriguez stated that relations with the US have suffered an unprecedented "stain", even as she asserted that the country will continue pursuing a diversified economic strategy engaging major markets across all continents, El Cooperante reported.



Petróleos de Venezuela, SA is the state-owned oil and gas company of Venezuela. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Speaking during a live broadcast on state television VTV, Rodriguez said the US has adopted a policy of "exclusion" toward Venezuela, while emphasising that economic and trade ties between the two countries are neither unusual nor disproportionate.

"The first thing I must say is that there is a stain on our relations that has never occurred before in our history. But it is also important to emphasize that the economic and trade relations between the United States and Venezuela are neither extraordinary nor irregular."

Seventy-one per cent of Venezuelan exports are concentrated in eight countries, and of those, 25 per cent are destined for the United States. Venezuela's economic relations are diversified across various markets around the world," she said, according to El Cooperante.

— ANI



In this file photo dated 6 February 2022, British and Estonian soldiers take part in a major drill at the Tapa Estonian army camp near Rakvere. PHOTO / AFP/FILE

UK's defence budget deficit could reach \$37.6B over next 4 years

CHIEF of the UK Defence Staff Richard Knighton warned UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer that the country's defence budget deficit could reach \$37.59 billion over the next four years, The Times newspaper reported, citing sources.

In December, the Financial Times newspaper reported that Starmer was refusing to approve the new Defence Investment Plan (DIP) due to its high cost.

Starmer was extremely dissatis-

fied, believing the new Strategic Defense Review had taken all costs into account, the report said on Thursday. The prime minister has reportedly ordered a review of the Defense Investment Plan, which will outline the implementation process for the Strategic Defence Review. The review was originally scheduled to be published before Christmas, but its publication may now be delayed until March, the report noted. — SPUTNIK

SPORTS

China-developed AI technologies to be applied at FIFA World Cup 2026



The 2026 FIFA World Cup will be jointly hosted by the United States, Canada, and Mexico from 11 June to 19 July 2026. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

FIFA and its Official Technology Partner Lenovo on Wednesday jointly announced that multiple artificial intelligence (AI) technologies developed by the Chinese tech company will be deployed at the FIFA World Cup 2026 to enhance referee technologies, improve match analysis capabilities and boost fan engagement.

According to the announcement, the upcoming World Cup in Canada, Mexico and the United States will see the application of several AI-driven solutions developed by Lenovo, including Football AI Pro, an AI-enabled 3D player avatar visualization system for the video assistant referee (VAR), and an updated version of the Referee View broadcast footage.

Football AI Pro is a generative AI-powered knowledge assistant designed to support all 48 participating teams to analyze millions of data points generated in each match, the tool will assist coaches, players and analysts in match preparation, tactical planning and personalized decision-making.

The AI-enabled 3D player avatar solution represents a major advancement in semi-automated offside technology. All participating players will undergo digital scanning to generate highly accurate 3D models, which will be integrated into the host broadcast, and it will allow offside decisions determined by the VAR system to be presented in a more realistic and engaging manner to fans in stadiums and viewers worldwide.

— Xinhua

MFF to launch Myanmar's first Pro Diploma Coaching Course

THE Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) says Myanmar's first-ever AFC Pro Licence coaching course, aiming to facilitate the development of Myanmar's football and encourage international-level professional coaches to emerge.

Coaches from the Asia Football Confederation (AFC) and MFF will lead the AFC/MFF Pro Diploma coaching course 2026, which has been planned to open in March 2026. Module 1 will begin from 9 to 17 March, said MFF.

Those meet following requirements are eligible to apply the course; have AFC A license or AFC/MFF A certificate, have at least two years coaching experience, qualified for the pro diploma course and able to play as a leader at MFF and MNL, have currently served at national teams and MNL clubs, must be registered coach, have good physical and mental health, able to do practical and theoretical trainings, must be under 55 years, have basic English 4 skills, able to participate actively throughout the course and have knowledge on using Powerpoint, Excel and Word with own computer.



Myanmar's first-ever AFC Pro Licence Coaching Course.

Trainees are limited to 15, and the fee per module is US\$1,000 per citizen and \$5,000 for five modules, while the fee per module is \$3,200 per foreigner and \$16,000 for five modules, and foreign trainees will have to incur their own travel.

Interested applicants can submit applications to coach.education@mff-ma.com by 23 January before 4 pm, and eligible persons will be notified on time, it said. — MT/ZS



Arsenal's Brazilian striker (9) Gabriel Jesus reacts after a final chance at the back post from a corner as the last action of the game during the English Premier League football match between Arsenal and Liverpool at the Emirates Stadium in London on 8 January 2026. **PHOTO: STANSALL / AFP**

Arsenal miss chance to stretch lead in Liverpool draw

ARSENAL wasted the chance to move eight points clear at the top of the Premier League as Liverpool came to life in a 0-0 draw at the Emirates Stadium.

The Reds are one of only two sides to beat Mikel Arteta's men this season and came closest to breaking the deadlock when Conor Bradley hit the crossbar.

Arsenal failed to score for the first time at home all season but did enough to extend their advantage over second-placed Manchester City to six points.

Three consecutive draws for City over the past week had opened the door for Arsenal to close in on their first league title in 22 years.

The Emirates was bouncing before a ball was kicked in anticipation, but the spectacle between the defending champions and apparent champions elect fell flat.

Both sides struggled to deal with the treacherous conditions as Storm Goretta unleashed torrential rain and swirling winds. — AFP

Real Madrid edge Atletico to set up Clasico Spanish Super Cup final

XABI ALONSO'S Real Madrid beat Atletico Madrid 2-1 in a tight Spanish Super Cup semifinal in Saudi Arabia on Thursday to set up a Clasico final clash against rivals Barcelona.

Fede Valverde's blistering free-kick and a Rodrygo Goes strike helped Madrid claim a fifth consecutive victory across all competitions, with Alexander Sorloth pulling one back for Diego Simeone's Atletico, who came up short in Jeddah. Alonso was close to the sack after a run of inconsistent form towards the end of 2025 but his team have slowly found their footing in the shape of positive results, even

if some performances have not been entirely convincing.

The Spanish coach led Madrid to a win over Barcelona in his first Clasico at the helm in October, before his team began to slump. "After so many games without scoring, today was a great game to get back to it, to help the team win," Valverde told Movistar after netting his first goal of the campaign.

"We have to keep being self-critical too, we had chances but they had more and played much better than us, we have to keep correcting that and improving." — AFP

Trump says US to start land strikes against drug cartels

PAGE 14



US Senate rebukes Trump on Venezuela in war powers vote

The measure, backed by Democrats and five Republicans, bars further hostilities without congressional approval and represents one of Congress's strongest assertions of war powers in decades.

THE US Senate took a major step Thursday toward passing a resolution to rein in President Donald Trump's military actions in Venezuela—a rare bipartisan rebuke following alarm over the secretive capture of leader Nicolas Maduro.

The Democratic-led legislation, which bars further US hostilities against Venezuela without explicit congressional authorization, got through a key procedural vote with support from five Republicans.

The vote on final passage, expected next week, is now seen as little more than a formality, and would mark one of Congress's most forceful assertions of its war-making authority in decades.

The effort is seen as largely symbolic however, as the resolution faces a steep climb in the US House and almost no prospect of surviving a likely veto by Trump.

The president lashed out at the five Republican rebels for their "stupidity" on his Truth Social platform and said they "should never be elected to office again".—AFP



A supporter of ousted Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro carries his portrait during a rally outside the National Assembly in Caracas on 5 January 2026. **PHOTO: JUAN BARRETO / AFP**

Vietnam begins commercial operation of 1st LNG power complex



PetroVietnam's Nhon Trach 3&4 power plant is located in an industrial park about 45 miles southeast of Ho Chi Minh City, the former Saigon. **PHOTO: PV POWER**

PETROVIETNAM'S Nhon Trach 3 and 4 plants officially began commercial operations.

Vietnam's first liquefied natural gas (LNG) power complex officially began commercial operations earlier this week in southern Vietnam's Dong Nai province, local media VnEconomy reported Friday.

The complex has a combined capacity of 1,624 megawatts and is expected to supply over nine billion kilowatt-hours of electricity annually to the national grid, with a total investment of US\$1.4 billion, the report said.

Under Vietnam's revised National Power Development Plan for 2021-2030, with a vision to 2050, LNG-fired power is projected to reach about 22 gigawatts by 2030, accounting for 9.5 to 12.3 per cent of total power capacity. — Xinhua

Chile backs India's bid for UNSC seat

CHILE supports India's aspiration to become a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), the country's Ambassador here Juan Angulo, said, asserting that New Delhi can be a factor of stabilization in global affairs.

Speaking to ANI on Friday, Angulo noted that the multilateral forum must reflect contemporary global realities and called for reforms in the international system. India has been consistently pushing for a permanent seat in the UNSC, arguing that it has the credentials to be a permanent member of a reformed and expanded Security Council that mirrors present-day global dynamics.

"A multilateral forum is very important for us because we strongly believe in a rules-based world where international norms are respected. But, of course, the multilateral system should also be functional, transparent and more accountable. We have been supporting reforms of the system," Angulo said. — ANI