

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.

Efforts underway to boost agricultural machinery production

It is necessary to provide recognition and incentives in relevant industries based on employees’ professional competence and performance.

Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspected the assembly and manufacturing of agricultural machinery and automobiles at local Tatmadaw Heavy Industries in Hsinde and Htonbo of Bago Region yesterday.

Accompanied by Commission Secretary General Ye Win Oo, the commander of Southern Command and officials, the Senior General observed potable paddy transplanter and manual drum seeders produced by the Tatmadaw Heavy Industry (Hsinde) yesterday morning and gave necessary guidance to officials.

At the meeting hall, the industry manager reported to the Senior General on the brief history of the industry, appointment of employees, missions and visions, manufacturing of agricultural machinery and accessories, maintenance of machine parts, production of machinery and manual equipment, and conducting research to increase production of agricultural machinery.

In his response to the report, the Senior General said that Myanmar primarily relies on agriculture its main economic activity and it is necessary to take steps to further develop the agricultural sector of the nation. This includes boosting the production of agricultural machinery and equipment, ensuring the availability of skilled workers needed for industry’s operations, and conducting systematic research to ensure that manufactured machinery meets quality standards. It is also essential to provide food, living conditions, and welfare for



State Security and Peace Commission Chairman and Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing is pictured during his inspection tour at the Tatmadaw Heavy Industry (Htonbo) in Bago Region yesterday.

employees, as well as to offer recognition and rewards based on professional competence. Moreover, it is necessary to focus on the operation of the military-owned agriculture and livestock activities, which support food supply. Efforts should be made to provide higher education opportunities for the children of employees.

The Senior General and party viewed around the production of potable paddy

transplanters, manual drum seeders and accessories in the industry, casting of machine parts at the foundry shop, and production of welding sticks at the welding workshop and gave necessary guidance to officials.

The Senior General presented cash awards to employees through the industry manager.

In the afternoon, the Senior General proceeded to the Tatmadaw Heavy In-

dustry (Htonbo). At the meeting hall, the industry manager reported on the brief history of the industry, appointment of employees, missions and visions, productivity and annual production, accomplishment of the guidance, manufacturing of automobiles, conducting the research, issuance of automobiles to Tatmadaw and relevant departments on completion of the test-running, and plans.

SEE PAGE 4

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.**

Myanmar Gazette

Appointment and Duty Assignment of Permanent Secretary and Director-General

THE National Defence and Security Council has appointed and assigned U Maung Maung Kyaw, Director-General of the Union Minister’s Office of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, to the duties of the Permanent Secretary and Director-General of the same organization.

Notification 1/2026

CONTINUED FROM YESTERDAY

43. Bhaddanta Candavara Bhivamsa, Azarni Buddhism Learning Centre, Mongpun, Loilem Township, Shan State
44. Dr Bhaddanta Pandava, Kyaungpan Buddhism Learning Centre, Ward 3, Laikha, Shan State
45. Bhaddanta Khemananda, Dhammagonyi Shwegyin Monastery, Ward 6, Maubin, Ayeyawady Region
46. Bhaddanta Candavara, Masoeyeinkyaung Buddhism Learning Centre, Teza Ward, Kyonpyaw, Ayeyawady Region
47. Dr Bhaddanta Suriyadhaja, Thitsa Waisi Buddhism Learning Centre, YekyiU Ward, Pathein, Ayeyawady Region
48. Bhaddanta Khantibala, Kaba Aye Monastery, Ward 3, Pathein, Ayeyawady Region

Nuns

49. Nun Daw Nanasingi, Thameikdawdaya Nunnery, Yuzana Ward, Myitkyina, Kachin State
50. Nun Daw Nanasingi, Taungkalay Pariyatti Monastery, Taungkalay Village, Hpa-an Township, Kayin State
51. Nun Daw Pajjota, Thameikdawdaya Nunnery, Ayechanthagyi Corner, Thawtapan Ward, Sagaing, Sagaing Region
52. Nun Daw Nandavati, Magginchaung Nunnery, Thawtapan Ward, Sagaing, Sagaing Region
53. Nun Daw Visingi, Mohti Aungmyin Nunnery, Myayne Village, Monywa Township, Sagaing Region
54. Nun Daw Esusingi, Mya Theingi Nunnery, Saya San Ward, Tatkon, Nay Pyi Taw
55. Nun Daw Pavaracari, Thilagonyi Nunnery, Saya San Myothit, Thayawady Township, Bago Region
56. Nun Daw Rupamala, Thiri Sandayon Nunnery, Nankatkyun Village-tract, Magway Township, Magway Region
57. Nun Daw Nandari, Yadanabonsan Nunnery, Upoktaw Ward, Aungmyaythazan Township, Mandalay Region
58. Nun Daw Nandasingi, Pyinnnyayamika Nunnery, Myoma Ward, Kawhmu, Yangon Region
59. Nun Dr Daw Paññesi, Aungzabu Sasananwewin Nunnery, Kya-in Village, Hlegu Township, Yangon Region
60. Nun Daw Candayi, Sasana Waiponla Buddhism Learning Centre, Ward 10, Lashio, Shan State

Dhammakathika Bahujanahitadhara Title

1. Bhaddanta Kesara, Maha Theindawgyi Buddhism Learning Centre, Ward 2, Pabedan Township, Yangon Region
2. Bhaddanta Pakata Lankara, Thadu Pariyatti Buddhism Learning Centre, West Thada Ward, Kyimyindine Township, Yangon Region
3. Dr Bhaddanta Visuta, Setyon Dhamma Yeiktha Monastery, Asugyi Village, Htantabin Township, Yangon Region
4. Bhaddanta Vicakkhana, Myasi Mahasi Sasana Yeiktha Monastery, Bahtoo Ward, Yekyi, Ayeyawady Region

Abhidhaja Aggamaha Saddhammajotika Title

1. Bhaddanta Lasana, Hlebi Pariyatti Buddhism Learning Centre, Tatpyin Area, Kanphya Ward, Myeik, Taninthayi Region
2. Bhaddanta Kumara, Ywabe Taungpaw Monastery, Ywabe Ward, Pyay, Bago Region
3. Bhaddanta Nayaka Bhivamsa, Monastic Education Post-Primary School, Koetaungpyae Monastery, Ward 1, Myingyan, Mandalay Region
4. Bhaddanta Nandiya, Mingala Thukha Monastery, Dayei Village, Chaungzon

- Township, Mon State
5. Bhaddanta Siha, Pyithsimayon Pariyatti Buddhism Learning Centre, Yangyiaung Ward, Ye, Mon State
6. Bhaddanta Pandita, Aungmingala Tawya Youth Development (Parahita) Monastic Education Primary School, Hweye Village, Tachilek Township, Shan State
7. Bhaddanta Kumara, Khatawhmi (Pali Tekkatho) Pariyatti Buddhism Learning Centre, Ward 2, Pathein, Ayeyawady Region

Aggamaha Saddhammajotikadhaja Title

1. Bhaddanta Ketumala, Dhammarekkhita Wuntho Monastery, North Shansu Ward, Myitkyina, Kachin State
2. Bhaddanta Nandacariya, Theravada Buddhist Missionary Monastery, Nawngkhaing Village, PutaO Township, Kachin State
3. Bhaddanta Osadhañana, Theravada Buddhist Missionary Monastery, Dawbuku Village, Demawhso Township, Kayah State
4. Bhaddanta Gunalankara, Amitayama Ye Monastery, Ward 2, Hpa-an, Kayin State
5. Bhaddanta Asisa, Thiri Yadana Thatthetluk Monastery, Thingan-Nyaungnaung Village, Myawady Township, Kayin State
6. Dr Bhaddanta Vasettha, Theravada Buddhist Monastery (Central) Monastery, Myoma Ward, Tiddim, Chin State
7. Bhaddanta Nanavara, Theravada Buddhist Missionary Monastery, Masheinhlaw Village, Mindat Township, Chin State
8. Bhaddanta Tejindasara, MyoU Ywama Pariyatti Monastery, Ward 3, Kanbalu, Sagaing Region
9. Bhaddanta Vicittasara, Dhammapala Pariyatti Buddhism Learning Centre, Ward 9, Katha, Sagaing Region
10. Bhaddanta Pandavamsa, Shwephoneyanthi Monastery, NanU Myothit Ward, Sagaing, Sagaing Region
11. Bhaddanta Theravamsa, Sakahla Dhammayon Monastery, Aungmingala Ward, Kalay, Sagaing Region
12. Bhaddanta Kundala, Saddhammananda Pariyatti Buddhism Learning Centre, Pinkyaing Sanpya Village, Pinlebu Township, Sagaing Region
13. Bhaddanta Paññasami, Gawthitayama (Pali Tekkatho) Buddhism Learning Centre, Kanyon Ward, Dawei, Taninthayi Region
14. Bhaddanta Paññajota, Shweminwun Ponnya Kuthala Monastery, Padaukshwewah Ward, Kawthoung, Taninthayi Region
15. Bhaddanta Uttamasara, Intaingtha Monastery, Ward 5, Lewe, Nay Pyi Taw
16. Bhaddanta Munivara, Maravijaya Monastery (Shwekyauing), Dekkhinathiri Ward, Dekkhinathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw
17. Bhaddanta Uttama, Shwehlwantaung Monastery, Yaypya Village, Pobbathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw
18. Bhaddanta Paññasiri, Phayani Sutaungpyae Monastery, Bo Min Young Ward, Tatkon Township, Nay Pyi Taw
19. Bhaddanta Samvara, Wailuwun Monastery, Kyeethe, Shwedaung Township, Bago Region
20. Bhaddanta Siha, Maha Sihanada Monastery, Phalanchaung Village, Monyo, Bago Region
21. Bhaddanta Suriya Bhivamsa, Minkyaung Pariyatti Buddhism Learning Centre, Myodwingyi Ward, Bago, Bago Region
22. Bhaddanta Suriya, Kyanikan Buddhism Learning Centre, Ward 18, Toungoo, Bago Region
23. Bhaddanta Janaka, Thirimingala Oktwin Monastery, Nyaungkhashay Model Village, Waw Township, Bago Region
24. Bhaddanta Kesava, Bawana Monastic Education Middle School, Htontaung Village, Thayet Township, Magway Region

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)



Acting President and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing explores the MSME products displayed at yesterday’s event in Padaung Township, Bago Region.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing underscored that drug use seriously harms the lives of young people; local authorities in Padaung Township must systematically take measures to prevent the use of narcotics.

Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Chairman of the State Security and Peace

Agriculture and livestock activities need skilled human resources

Nurturing disciplined and responsible youth can significantly contribute to national development and long-term stability.

of oil crops such as sunflower and soya bean, which help support domestic edible oil production. Similarly, efforts should be made to promote the cultivation of the cotton crop in Padaung Township.

Regarding the livestock sector, he noted that it is necessary to further expand the rearing of broilers and layers, pigs, and dairy cows in Padaung Township to support food supply.

The Senior General emphasized that, as drug use seriously harms the lives of young people, responsible authorities in Padaung Township must systematically supervise and take measures to prevent the use of narcotics.

He revealed that the State has now successfully held Phase I of the election, which took place on 28 December 2025. The remaining Phases II and III elections will continue to be conducted. In Phase I of the election, a large number of votes were cast, showing that the people have a strong desire to participate in the democratic process. Therefore, the election can be considered a successful one.

Therefore, he urged local authorities

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

- 1. Padaung Township will be able to cultivate Pawsan Hmwe rice with high yields by systematically planting improved rice varieties.
- 2. Responsible authorities in Padaung Township must systematically supervise and take measures to prevent the use of narcotics.
- 3. Local authorities have to strive for higher voter turnout during the election in the Padaung region.

Commission Senior General Min Aung Hlaing yesterday morning said so at the meeting with departmental officials and town elders in Padaung of Bago Region.

On the occasion, the Senior General said that the country requires skilled human resources to promote agricultural and livestock activities. Therefore, the State is actively supporting the promotion of education qualifications of the people and encourages efforts to further develop the skilled human resources within Padaung Township.

He highlighted that the State establishes the industrial, agricultural and livestock basic education high schools in respective districts across the nation, and further plans are underway to open more similar schools in the remaining districts.

The Senior General underlined that turning out the youths who follow prescribed disciplines can contribute much to development undertakings of the State as well as restoration of peace and stability.

He added that by providing opportunities for disciplined and responsible youth to receive education, the country’s development and stability can be greatly supported and promoted.

He continued that Padaung Township will be able to cultivate Pawsan Hmwe rice with high yields by systematically planting improved rice varieties. It is encouraged to further develop the cultivation of this high-value Pawsan rice in an economically beneficial way.

The Senior General urged the residents to further increase the cultivation

to strive for higher voter turnout during the election in the Padaung region.

He stressed that when voting, voters need to cast votes for candidates who can serve the interests of the State and the local community, uphold the interests of all ethnic groups and religions, and work in cooperation with the Tatmadaw to ensure the continued stability and existence of the nation.

The Bago Region chief minister reported on agriculture and livestock undertakings, running of the river water pumping stations to irrigate the farmlands, food security of the region, development for MSME businesses, conducting the vocational courses, promotion of education and health sectors, and preparations to hold the election.

NATIONAL

Efforts underway to boost agricultural machinery production

FROM PAGE 1

In his guidance, the Senior General said that in the production of automobiles, it is necessary to manufacture all components in-house and continuously strive to increase the production of these parts. Each component must undergo quality testing before being assembled and used. Moreover, systematic procedures for inspecting and test-driving the finished automobiles must be carried out. Efforts should also continue to further increase production volume and

improve overall quality.

The Senior General and the party looked around the production process of automobiles at the workshops and the trial tests of the produced automobiles. The Senior General and the party inspected the manufactured automobiles and gave necessary guidance, fulfilling the needs of the officials.

The Senior General presented cash awards for employees through the industry manager. — MNA/TTA

Agriculture and livestock activities need skilled human resources

FROM PAGE 3

Town elders expressed their wish to establish a landmark for Padaung Township's Oakshikpin town, which is located at the focal point of four Regions, their pleasure for the visit of the Senior General to their township, the successful holding of the 2025 multiparty democratic general election phase I, and the united strength of residents from Padaung Township for the successful holding of the election.

Union Ministers U Ko Ko Lwin, Dr Charlie Than and

U Min Naung discussed the sound foundations of Padaung Township to operate industries, agriculture and livestock, and service sectors, some requirements for the agro-based industries, generating electricity for successfully operating the service sector, the encouragement to MSME businesses with capital, technology and inputs to create job opportunities for residents, supply of agricultural water in the township, running of the solar-powered river water pumping stations, and the learning of techniques at near-

by agriculture and livestock institutes.

The Senior General viewed the products manufactured by MSME businesses in Padaung Township and gave necessary guidance to officials.

Also, present at the meeting were Commission Secretary General Ye Win Oo, Union ministers, Chief Minister of Bago Region U Myo Swe Win, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, the commander of Southern Command and deputy ministers. — MNA/TTA

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

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

Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, sends Congratulatory Message to Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

IT gives me great pleasure to extend to Your Excellency my sincere congratulations and best wishes on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, wishing Your Excellency continued good health and happiness, more development and growth for the government and their friendly people of Myanmar. Accept the highest regards, sincere affection and appreciation.

Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of United Arab Emirates, Ruler of Dubai, sends Congratulatory Message to Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

IT gives me great pleasure to extend to Your Excellency my sincere congratulations and best wishes on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, wishing Your Excellency continued good health and happiness, more development and growth for the government and their friendly people of Myanmar. Accept the highest regards, sincere affection and appreciation.

Sheikh Mansour Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice-President of the United Arab Emirates, Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the Presidential Court, sends Congratulatory Message to Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

IT gives me great pleasure to extend to Your Excellency my sincere congratulations and best wishes on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, wishing Your Excellency continued good health and happiness, more development and growth for the government and their friendly people of Myanmar. Accept the highest regards, sincere affection and appreciation.

Foreign Heads of Government send congratulatory messages to Prime Minister on 78th Anniversary of Independence Day

The following are messages of felicitation from Foreign Heads of Government sent to Prime Minister U Nyo Saw on the occasion of the 78th Anniversary of Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates, Ruler of Dubai, sends Congratulatory Message to U Nyo Saw, Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

IT gives me great pleasure to extend to Your Excellency my sincere congratulations and best wishes on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, wishing Your Excellency continued good health and happiness, more development and growth for the government and their friendly people of Myanmar. Accept the highest regards, sincere affection and appreciation.

Sheikh Mansour Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice-President of the United Arab Emirates, Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the Presidential Court, sends Congratulatory Message to U Nyo Saw, Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

IT gives me great pleasure to extend to Your Excellency my sincere congratulations and best wishes on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, wishing Your Excellency continued good health and happiness, more development and growth for the government and their friendly people of Myanmar. Accept the highest regards, sincere affection and appreciation.

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NATIONAL

FROM PAGE 4

Mr Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, sends Congratulatory Message to U Nyo Saw, Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

ON behalf of the people and Government of Pakistan, as well as on my own behalf, it gives me immense pleasure to extend our most cordial and heartfelt felicitations on the joyous occasion of the 78th Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

This momentous day marks a remarkable milestone in the proud journey of the people of Myanmar, towards realization of their self-determination, sovereignty and lasting prosperity.

Pakistan and Myanmar have traditionally enjoyed excellent bilateral relations. I am confident that our bonds of friendship and cooperation will continue to flourish under Your Excellency’s sagacious leadership, opening new avenues of mutually rewarding collaboration and partnership for the shared benefit of our two nations.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I wish to convey my best wishes for Your Excellency’s continued good health and success, as well as for the peace, progress, and prosperity of the friendly people of Myanmar.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

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.

Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates, sends Congratulatory Message to U Than Swe, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

IT gives me great pleasure to extend to Your Excellency my sincere congratulations and best wishes on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, wishing Your Excellency continued good health and happiness, more development and growth for the government and their friendly people of Myanmar.

Accept the highest regards, sincere affection and appreciation.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission

Announcement 11/2026

6th Waning of Pyatho, 1387 ME
8 January 2026

List of Elected Representatives for Amyotha Hluttaw

ACCORDING to announcements issued by the relevant Region and State Election Subcommissions under Section 49 (b) of the Amyotha Hluttaw Election Law, the following individuals have been declared elected as Amyotha Hluttaw representatives under the first-past-the-post system in the multiparty democratic general elections held in phases from 28 December 2025.

Kachin State (First-Past-The-Post system)

| No | Name | CSC | Representative Number | Representing Party/Independent |
|----|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|--|
| 1 | Daw Mie Mie Kyaw Tun | 1/MaKaNa(C)076641 | 4 | Union Solidarity and Development Party |
| 2 | U Hsi Hue Dway | 1/PaTaAh(C)024750 | 6 | Union Solidarity and Development Party |

Kayah State (First-Past-The-Post system)

| No | Name | CSC | Representative Number | Representing Party/Independent |
|----|------------|--------------------|-----------------------|--|
| 3 | U Shah Rel | 2/LaKaNa(C)028879 | 1 | Union Solidarity and Development Party |
| 4 | U Han Htoo | 2/BaLaKha(C)000290 | 2 | Union Solidarity and Development Party |

Kayin State (First-Past-The-Post system)

| No | Name | CSC | Representative Number | Representing Party/Independent |
|----|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------------|--|
| 5 | U Saw Zaw Win | 3/BaAhNa(C)042976 | 4 | Union Solidarity and Development Party |
| 6 | U Myo Min Naung | 12/SaKhaNa(C)000002 | 5 | Union Solidarity and Development Party |

Sagaing Region (First-Past-The-Post system)

| No | Name | CSC | Representative Number | Representing Party/Independent |
|----|-------------|-------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 7 | U Khe Chein | 5/NaYaNa(C)004914 | 1 | Naga National Party |

Taninthayi Region (First-Past-The-Post system)

| No | Name | CSC | Representative Number | Representing Party/Independent |
|----|------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|--|
| 8 | U Aung Kyu Naing | 8/TaTaKa(C)000208 | 1 | Union Solidarity and Development Party |
| 9 | U Zaw Min Than | 12/ThaKaTa(C)120973 | 4 | Union Solidarity and Development Party |

Magway Region (First-Past-The-Post system)

| No | Name | CSC | Representative Number | Representing Party/Independent |
|----|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------------|--|
| 10 | U Aung Hla Htwe | 8/RaNaKha(C)022873 | 1 | Union Solidarity and Development Party |

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FROM PAGE 5

Mandalay Region (First-Past-The-Post system)

| No | Name | CSC | Representative Number | Representing Party |
|----|---------------|--------------------|-----------------------|--|
| 11 | U Tin Oo Lwin | 9/MaHtaLa(C)090652 | 6 | Union Solidarity and Development Party |

Mon State (First-Past-The-Post system)

| No | Name | CSC | Representative Number | Representing Party |
|----|------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|--|
| 12 | U Kyaw Kyaw Lin (aka) U Htien Lin | 10/MaLaMa(C)166451 | 2 | Union Solidarity and Development Party |
| 13 | Nai M Chan Mon (aka) Min Soe Khine | 10/MaLaMa(C)206860 | 4 | Mon Unity Party |

Sd/ Than Soe
Chairman
Union Election Commission

Candidates compete for Amyotha Hluttaw’s seats in 2025 election's Phase I

THE Union Election Commission issued a press release, stating that candidates representing relevant political parties contested for the Amyotha Hluttaw seats in the 2025 multiparty democratic general election’s Phase I.

Daw Mie Mie Kyaw Tun of Union Solidarity and Development Party, U Ah Bau of Lisu National Development Party, U Saw Min Thein of New Democracy Party (Kachin), U Kamam Mong Lai Nau of National Unity Party and U Jamma Aung Pa of People’s Pioneer Party competed in the Constituency 4 of Kachin State; and U Hsi Hue Dway of

USDP, U Gu Hsa Pa of Kachin State People’s Party, U Steven Aung Thu of NUP, U Kyaw Soe Moe Win of Tai-Leng (Shanni) Nationalities Development Party and U Hein Aung Kyaw of PPP in the Constituency 6.

U Shah Rel of USDP, U Paw Tun of Kayah State People’s Party, Daw Chaw Su of PPP and U Myint Aung of NUP contested in Constituency 1 of Kayah State; and U Han Htoo of USDP, Daw Koe Mel (a) Honey Soe of KSP, U Mirel Myint of NUP and U Aung Win of PPP in Constituency 2.

U Saw Zaw Win of USDP, Saw Tun Hla Myaing of Kayin

National Democratic Party, Saw Kyi Lin of Phalon-Sawaw Democratic Party, Daw Nang Ohmar San of Pa-O National Unity Party, and U Soe Nyein Thu of PPP competed in Constituency 4 of Kayin State; and U Myo Min Naung of USDP, U Zaw Min Htwe of Phalon-Sawaw Democratic Party, U Saw Win Naing of Kayin National Democratic Party, Khun Aung Aung Tun of PNUP and Daw Aye Aye Thet of PPP in Constituency 5.

U Khe Chein of the Naga National Party and U Zin Wam of USDP contested in Constituency 1 of Sagaing Region. Likewise, U Aung Kyu Naing of USDP and

Daw Cho Win of NUP participated in the election in Constituency 1 of Taninthayi Region, and U Zaw Min Than of USDP and U Shwe Tun of NUP in Constituency 4.

U Aung Hla Htwe of USDP, U Sein Lin of NUP, U Chan Min of PPP and U Thae Maung Maung of People’s Party competed in Constituency 1 of Magway Region. Moreover, U Tin Oo Lwin of USDP, U Myo Chit of NUP, Daw Thae Ei Moe of People’s Party, Daw Khin Hnin Thit of PPP, U Thein Htaik Aung of Myanmar Farmers’ Development Party, U Ko Gyi of Social Economic Promotion Party, and Dr Sai Kyaw

Ohn of Shan and Nationalities Democratic Party in Constituency 6 of Mandalay Region.

U Kyaw Kyaw Lin (a) U Htein Lin of USDP, Min Kyaw Khaing Win of Mon Unity Party, Daw Khaing Khaing of People’s Party, U Kyaw Zin Thant of NUP, U Thein Aye of NIDP, U Aung Myo Thura of PPP and U Pyae Paing Soe of SNDP contested in the Constituency 2 of Mon State; and Nai M Chan Mon (a) Min Soe Khine of MUP, U Tin Ko Ko of USDP, Daw Su Htwe Latt of NUP, Daw Thida Win of NIDP, U Zaw Min Moe of SNDP and Daw Zin Mar Aye of PPP in the Constituency 4. — GNLM

Preparatory meetings held, polling stations inspected for Phase II election

TO ensure the successful holding of Phase II of the 2025 multiparty democratic general election, the coordination meetings were held at the meeting halls of the General Administration Department of Hsihseng in the Pa-O Self-Administered Zone, Maukmai and Kunhing General Administration Departments in Shan State (South) yesterday.

The relevant commanders, election subcommission officials, states, districts, townships’ levels election commission members and departmental officials attended the meetings.

The commanders made remarks respectively, and the officials reported on their tasks



Officials inspect the preparation for the election’s second phase in the Pa-O Self-Administered Zone.

for the electoral processes.

The commanders and officials inspected the polling stations in Tangyan of Shan State (North), Hsihseng, Bang-

yin, Maukmai and Kunhing of Shan State (South) to ensure the preparations, storage of MEVMs and advance voting processes. — MNA/KTZH



Myanmar reports no new COVID-19 cases

THE Ministry of Health tested 32 samples from 8 pm on 28 December 2025 to 8 pm on 4 January 2026, and no new cases were detected. Therefore, no new casualties were reported.

Currently, there is no need to worry about infection and deaths from COVID-19, but all need to follow personal hygiene methods, and the high-risk groups.

- Elderly people (aged 60 and above)
- People with diabetes, chronic respiratory diseases, and cancer
- Pregnant women (especially those beyond the third month of pregnancy) are prioritized to receive COVID-19 booster shots.

More detailed COVID-19 information can be found on the website of the Ministry of Health, moh.gov.mm.

Myanmar CDC
Public Health Department, Ministry of Health

NATIONAL

Work coord meeting of National Single Window Implementation held

THE work coordination meeting of the National Single Window Implementation was held yesterday at the Department of Internal Revenue, Office 46, and attended and addressed by Dr Kan Zaw, Committee Chairman, Union Minister for Finance and Revenue.

At the meeting, the Union minister highlighted that Myanmar has been implementing the National Single Window to facilitate trade and free flows of goods in inter-ASEAN and globally. He noted that the National Single Window has to be implemented in line with the provisions of the General Annex to the Kyoto Protocol, as revised by the World Customs Organization, Trade Facilitation Agreement of the World Trade Organization, and ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement. It



The work coordination meeting of the National Single Window Implementation is in progress yesterday, addressed by Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw.

aims to make the clearance process of export and import timely with advanced technology in the System. For the smooth implementation process, the National

Single Window Implementation Steering Committee was established by the Office of the National Defence and Security Council on 12 August 2025. For

the process to be implemented by 2028, he highlighted that all trade-related departments and the private sector have to coordinate effective participation

in the System, including necessary funding approvals, technical and legal procedures, in a timely manner.

The committee secretary director-general of the Customs Department then presented the progress of the implementation of the System and matters to be implemented thereafter.

Next, the committee vice-chairpersons and committee members discussed trade-related matters, including banking, payment system, investment promotion, legal and technical matters to be implemented systematically and in a timely manner.

Afterwards, the committee chairman made recommendations and coordinated necessary actions and adjourned the meeting. — MoFR

North-East Command Commander meets Tangyan's people's militia

NORTH-EAST Command Commander Brig-Gen Aye Min Oo met the members of the People's Militia (local) of Tangyan Township in Shan State (North) yesterday.

The commander remarked and heard the reports put forward by the members of the people's militia. He then provided foodstuffs and cash prizes to them. — MNA/KTZH



The meeting between the North-East Command commander and members of the People's Militia (local) in northern Shan State underway.

Govt continues crackdown on scam hubs in Shwe Kokko and KK Park

THE Government of Myanmar has deployed a joint team comprising security forces, administrative bodies and local authorities to raid illegal buildings in the Shwe Kokko and KK Park areas, where telecom fraud and online gambling activities have been operating, and to systematically dismantle confiscated materials and demolish illegal structures used for such activities.

Yesterday, the joint team demolished two more illegal

buildings – both five-storey structures used for telecom fraud and online gambling – in the KK Park area. As a result, a total of 633 out of 635 illegal buildings in Section 2 of the KK Park area have now been demolished.

In Section 3 of the KK Park area, demolition works to eliminate illegal buildings have been carried out using machinery and fire barrels since 14 December. As of yesterday, a further five two-storey buildings had

been destroyed, bringing the total number of demolished buildings in that section to 116.

The government considers the eradication of telecom fraud and online gambling crimes a national responsibility and will continue its efforts, in coordination not only with domestic forces but also with the governments of neighbouring countries, to ensure that such activities can no longer operate within Myanmar. — MNA/MKKS



An illegally constructed five-storey flat is seen in the KK Park area Section II.

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.

Return as responsible citizens to society

HONOURING the 78th Anniversary of Independence Day and with a view to bringing peace to the people, on grounds of social leniency and in recognition of the State’s goodwill, the Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has remitted the punishment of 6,134 prisoners from their respective pris–ons, detention centres and camps reducing one-sixth of the sentences they are serving as per the relevant laws.

Under the amnesty, prisoners who have been sentenced for any offence and are serving their terms in various prisons, detention centres, or camps have been granted a remission of one-sixth of their remaining sentences under Section 401 (1) of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Those released prisoners have to improve their lives to

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As such, the released prisoners need to rebuild their lives and families to secure the best future and fortune. Now is the best time for those released persons to serve the interests of the community as part of easing their past evil activities and paying back gratitude to the community. The best future awaits their return as responsible citizens.

be able to reunite with their families as well as their past societies. They should abandon past practices and behaviours which never benefit themselves as well as their families and societies. They have to try hard to improve themselves as admirable persons in their communities.

The release of these prisoners aims to provide them with opportunities to join hands with the people and to dutifully and faithfully participate in safeguarding independence and in the nation-building process based on the democratic and federal system being implemented by the State. In doing so, they can become responsible and capable citizens who lay meaningful milestones in their lives. Consequently, their families and future generations will have the opportunity to overcome the stigma of imprisonment, replacing past hardships with positive contributions and efforts in nation-building, while each plays a role in implementing the democratic system.

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THE day of 28 December 2025 marked a very important milestone in Myanmar’s political history. In other words, it can be called a historic day on which the genuine will of the people who truly support a multiparty democracy was clearly demonstrated. From the early morning to the evening, peaceable civilians in 102 townships across the nation revealed their genuine desire through casting the ballot, which came from their hearts. With the aim of bringing about an elected government for the sake of their future, peace and stability, and better opportunities for the nation’s political, economic, and social development, they proved how they fulfilled their civic duties by taking their steps towards the polling stations where Phase I of the election was held.

The results of Phase I of the election differed from those of previous conventional elections and revealed that good outcomes were achieved to pursue the goal of multiparty democracy despite terrorist threats, disruptions, and attacks. In particular, this reflected an expression of the genuine desire of the people, who totally rejected the various forms of threats, harassment, and violent attacks carried out by those who do not wish for peace and stability in Myanmar; the political hypocrites who distort the definition of democracy, and terrorists who seek to achieve political objectives through armed struggle.

If an elected government emerges, it will become difficult for egotists who exploit political causes for personal gain to maintain their position. Likewise, armed terrorist groups operating under the guise of ethnic representation, who are attempting to seize territorial control through armed struggle, fear the emergence of Hluttaws where ethnic issues can be legitimately raised. For these reasons, they carried out criticism, slander, threats, and attacks from multiple fronts to prevent the election from taking place and to deny recognition of the election results. In response, the Government and the Election Commission acted in accordance with the law to counter such multifaceted disruptions and attacks, ensuring that eligible voters were able to cast their votes freely, safely, and without intimidation.

If we review Phase I of the election, pro-democracy citizens eagerly participated in the electoral process for establishing a democratic system. However, anti-democracy terrorists carried out various forms of attacks to disrupt and prevent the emergence of a legitimate Hluttaw in terms of politics. In other words, the difference can be witnessed between the will of pro-democracy citizens and the acts of anti-democracy terrorists. Seeing the results of Phase I of the election, it can be seen that the attempts of anti-election actions of the terrorists totally failed, as the people do not support their terrorist acts.

Phase I of the 2025 Multiparty Democratic General Election began at 6 am on 28 December. As soon as the polling stations



People are seen casting their ballots freely and peacefully.

The Genuine Will of the People who Support Democracy

By Min Khant

opened, it was truly spine-tingling to see people eagerly lining up and waiting to cast their votes, especially the large number of young voters. Seeing so many young people coming to vote even drew praise from Mr Yerman Mukhtar, Vice-Chairman of the Kazakhstan Election Commission, who remarked, “I see many young people among the voters. This is a very positive sign.” He further commented, “So many young people lining up to vote shows that this country’s future is looking very bright.” This demonstrates that the nation’s youth have rejected violent paths. Instead, they proved that they want to shape their own destiny within the framework of the law.

Although some negative media outlets claimed that young voters were opposing the election, international observers vividly witnessed young voters lining up enthusiastically to cast their votes. Mr Sholban Kara-Ool, Vice-Chairman of the State Duma of the Russian Federation, also stated, “Seeing people lining up to vote clearly shows the public is genuinely engaged in choosing its future and its rightful government.”

Nicaraguan Ambassador Mr Mario Jose Armengol Campos personally observed the situation on the ground and testified, saying,

“From what I have observed, the people of Myanmar are voting safely. I saw them voting freely on their own will.” The smiles and enthusiasm on the faces of the voters served to silently refute the fabricated reports circulated by negative media outlets.

Having learned lessons from the widespread reputational damage and international embarrassment caused by the NLD’s electoral fraud during the 2020 general election, the Government can be seen to have made systematic preparations this time. No matter how the anti-government media attempt to make accusations, if one listens to the genuine voices of the people who actually cast their votes, the truth becomes evident. For example, a teenage girl from Pyinmana who voted for the first time shared her feelings, saying, “I feel that I have fulfilled the civic duties, and I have raised high hopes for good leaders who will benefit young people.” These are not scripted or staged words. In fact, these reflect the sincere sentiments of citizens who voted with honest hopes for the progress of their country and their people. They did not heed malicious words spread through the air. Instead, they went to the polling stations on their own convictions.

One of the distinctive features of this

“ It can be said that the people have come to clearly grasp the essence of democracy. It is also noteworthy that the Head of State himself spoke to journalists after casting his vote. He stated, “If someone says they support a multiparty democracy, they should actively take part in elections, which are the essence of democracy. Not voting may indicate a lack of full understanding of democracy.” Those who refrain from voting after being influenced by terrorist incitement, or who boycott the vote because the party or individual they support is not participating, are just the ones with a low level of democratic awareness who do not figure out their civic duties and rights. ”

election is that technological safeguards were put in place to prevent wrong voter lists and electoral fraud. Even though certain negative media have raised suspicions by suggesting the possibility of irregularities, in reality, this election utilized the Myanmar

Electronic Voting Machines (MEVMs), which were domestically developed by Myanmar experts themselves. Regarding these machines, Nicaraguan Ambassador based in Vietnam, Mr Mario Jose Armengol Campos, praised the initiative, stating, “I consider the Electronic Voting Machine to be a good idea. By using this machine, voting can be done more quickly, and results can also be obtained faster.”

As clarified by the Union Election Commission, these machines operate on a stand-alone basis and are not connected to the internet, Wi-Fi, or Bluetooth, making external hacking or interference impossible. In addition, there are no invalid ballots. Accuracy of the voting results is assured. This constitutes a key factor in ensuring a transparent and fair election. The electoral system is no longer limited to the previous First-Past-The-Post (FPTP) system alone. Instead, it has been changed to and implemented as a Mixed-Member Proportional (MMP) system that combines proportional representation (PR). In this election, as many as 4,863 candidates from 57 political parties are running. This clearly shows that the election is oriented towards all-inclusive participation.

It can be said that the people have come to clearly grasp the essence of democracy. It is also noteworthy that the Head of State himself spoke to journalists after casting his vote. He stated, “If someone says they support a multiparty democracy, they should actively take part in elections, which are the essence of democracy. Not voting may indicate a lack of full understanding of democracy.” Those who refrain from voting after be-

ing influenced by terrorist incitement, or who boycott the vote because the party or individual they support is not participating, are just the ones with a low level of democratic awareness who do not figure out their civic duties and rights.

Some eligible voters may not participate in Phase I of the election due to low political awareness and in fear for their lives because of terrorist threats. Nevertheless, according to statements released by the Election Commission, the fact that the percentage of voters who came to vote despite intimidation and obstruction is higher than those who chose a “No Vote” clearly demonstrates the genuine will of the people who desire peace and stability.

One notable point is that the saboteurs’ “No Vote” campaigns did not produce the results they had hoped for in reality. Instead, the election concluded peacefully, highlighting the defeat of those who opposed it. The time has come for the public to carefully consider whether choosing “No Vote” truly benefits them, or whether casting a vote to support a party that can contribute to the nation’s interests, while the right to choose still exists, is the more beneficial option. Although Phase I has concluded, it is not too late. By taking the situation in Phase I as a reference, eligible voters for the remaining Phase II and Phase III of the election still have the opportunity to decide whether to participate in a “No Vote” or to cast their votes. Hence, I strongly urge responsible citizens who genuinely wish to see the country develop and progress not to be misled by political manipulation, and not to forfeit their rights, but to exercise their right to cast their votes.

Threats telling unarmed politicians, who believes in multiparty democratic path and wish to deal with political problems by political means instead of armed struggle, not to take part in the election, bombings of party offices, drone attacks on polling station areas, and attacks on towns and villages with rockets and heavy weapons on the morning of voting, all intended to frighten citizens who would come to cast their votes, are acts of terrorism. These terrorist acts are violations of human rights because such attacks attempt to disrupt and destroy the right of eligible voters to cast their ballots.

While there are organizations that criticize, attack, and oppose the electoral process, which is an unavoidable stage for the emergence of the multiparty democratic system desired by the people, and terrorists who use various means to disrupt and destroy the election, there are also nine countries that understand the essence of democracy and wish for peace and stability in Myanmar. Additionally, observers from 14 foreign embassies and 139 international election observers personally came to Myanmar to observe the election. Moreover, 215 journalists from 61 international media organizations and 1,177 journalists from 52 domestic media outlets also covered the election, which was conducted with transparency by the State. Their observation and remarks are sufficient evidence to recognize the dignified election.

SEE PAGE 12

NATIONAL

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 facilitating the smooth operation of the export sector by granting export licences through the automatic licensing system for complete applications, while through the non-automatic licensing system by scrutinizing with the export and import negotiation committee within 24 hours on office days.
3. Therefore, exporters are urged to fully and accurately export goods in accordance with the quantities and details stated in their export license applications, and to make every effort to ensure that export earnings are fully repatriated within the period prescribed by the Central Bank of Myanmar.

Ministry of Commerce

Notice for Importers

1. The Department of Trade under the Ministry of Commerce released announcement 4/2025 on 31 December 2025, stating that import licence/permit applications submitted by importers commencing on 1 January 2026 will be granted a period of 180 days. For applying for import licences intended for domestic trading activities, each company is allowed to submit only one application per month for the same type of goods. Upon this, the single application will be approved. The import licence/permit applications that exceed the 180-day validity period will be automatically cancelled through Myanmar Tradenet 2.0.
2. Therefore, the importers and exporters are urged to follow the statements for import licence/permit applications.

Ministry of Commerce

Traditional Myanmar snack competition open to all vendors

THE Association for Myanmar-Japan Social and Economic Development Cooperation (AM-JSEDC) has announced that it will host a conventional Myanmar snack competition on 31 January from 9 am to 5 pm at Pearl Island (Ngwethaungyan area), Myaypadethakyun, Bahan, Yangon, stating that any traditional snack vendor is welcome to join it.

Contestants can compete with various traditional snacks, including Monhinga, coconut noodles, steamed sticky rice, Shwe Htamin, Htamane, Mont Lethsaung, bread with coconut milk, Mont Lonegyi, Mont Letkauk, fritters, Mont Phethtote, Sagu, Mont Seinpaung, Mont Bainetaung, Sanwin Makin, Mont Kywal Thal, Bein Mont, Hthanhi Mont, Mont Latepya, Mont Kyagwat, Mont Linmaya, Mont Lethnate, and other ethnic snacks.

Selections will be based on aroma, taste, and hygiene. Applicants must be active traditional snack vendors and must intend to continue their business. Detailed rules and scoring criteria will be sent directly to registered participants promptly.

Interested participants must submit their names to the Competition Organizing Committee at 09 5084331, 09 797169772, and 09 421023030 by noon on 15 January, and the committee will contact selected candidates for confirmation.

For each snack category, three finalists will be chosen. Following a health screening and



This image illustrates an informative poster regarding the upcoming Traditional Myanmar Snack Competition.

a demonstration of hygienic food preparation, one winner per category will be selected. AM-JSEDC will award each winner an insect-proof glass display booth and support funding, the amount of which will be determined based on the specific type of business. — MT/ZN

120 Myanmar workers granted OWIC for working in Japan

ABOUT 120 Myanmar workers who are going to work in Japan under the management of licensed overseas employment agencies have been allowed to attend the overseas job training course and apply for the Overseas Worker Identification Card (OWIC), said the Department of Labour.

The workers – two male Myanmar workers and 117 Myanmar female workers – will have to attend the job training on 8 January and apply for OWIC on 9 January, and they will need to resubmit if they are unable to do so by the schedule.

Currently, most job offers are for food manufacturing, restaurants and elderly care centres and skilled workers are much needed, said an official from an overseas employment agency.



This photo shows Myanmar women workers at a workplace in Japan.

“We have received job offers. Most factory jobs are offered to women workers. For male workers, most are construction jobs only. Job interviews are being conducted regularly. They prefer women for skilled workers rather than trainees,” he said.

Agencies will need to re-submit an Excel soft copy of the list of sending workers, a copy of the passport and a copy of OWIC within a week of the departure date to the Department of Labour via dolmigrationjapan@gmail.com. — MT/ZS

Dec rice export earnings hit 9-month high in FY2025-26

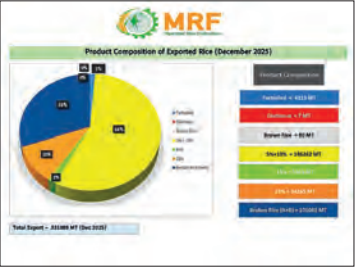
THE country received US\$99 million from the export of rice and broken rice weighing 331,869 tonnes in December last year, and it was the highest monthly volume during the nine months of the 2025-2026 financial year, according to Myanmar Rice Federation’s official figures.

Over nine months from April to December last year, total rice and broken rice exports were 2,119,011 tonnes and earned \$675 million. Of which, export in December reached 331,869 tonnes in total – 230,788 tonnes of rice and 101,081 tonnes of broken rice by 72 companies and earned \$99 million, said MRF.

According to rice and broken rice export figures of MRF for the financial year 2025-2026, the country received \$52 million from the export of 142,788 tonnes in April, \$90 million from the export of 259,501 tonnes in May, \$71 million from the export of 212,416 tonnes in June and \$77 million from the export of 230,627 tonnes in July.

The export earnings reached \$65million from 192,985 tonnes of export in August, \$52million from 168,046 tonnes of export in September, \$92 million from 316,920 tonnes of export in October and \$76million from 263,815 tonnes of export in November.

The rice and broken rice export is expected to reach around 3 million tonnes in this fiscal year of 2025-2026, said MRF chair. — MT/ZS



This image displays the export figures of rice and broken rice.

NATIONAL

Kyaiktiyo Pagoda draws over 58,000 pilgrims in early Jan



Photos above and right show crowds of pilgrims at the Kyaiktiyo Pagoda during the first week of January.

ACCORDING to the chairman of the Board of Trustees, more than 58,000 pilgrims from across the country visited Kyaiktiyo Pagoda in Mon State during the first week of January.

The opening ceremony of the Buddha Puja Festival at Kyaiktiyo

Pagoda was held on the full moon day of Thadingyut, 6 October 2025. Since then, pilgrims from all over Myanmar have visited the pagoda during public holidays, including the first week of January 2026, the New Year holidays and Independence Day.

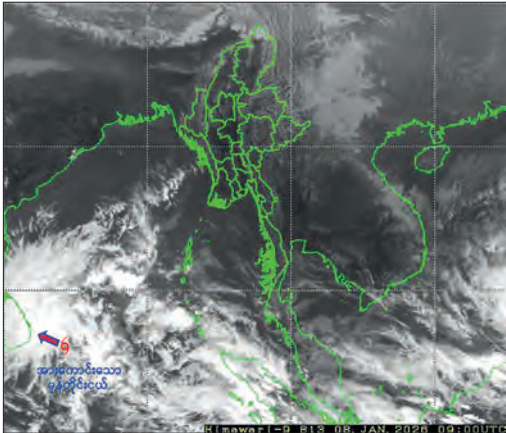


U Hla Soe, Chairman of the Pagoda Board of Trustees, said: “To ensure that pilgrims from rural areas can visit Kyaiktiyo Pagoda safely and with peace of mind, the Pagoda Board of Trustees is working together with state- and district-level officials to provide security, free accommodation, food and health care. A total of 152 mountain vehicles are also operating daily, and arrangements have been made to facilitate convenient access at a fixed rate.”

Well-known sites along the Kyaiktiyo Pagoda mountain, as well as restaurants in the market square and souvenir shops, have been crowded with pilgrims, many of whom are staying in free or paid accommodation. — ASH/MKKS

Deep Depression News 5, 2026

Issued at 4 pm MST on 8 January 2026



Deep Depression Condition

According to the observations at 3:30 pm MST today, the Deep Depression over the Southwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining East Equatorial Indian Ocean has moved west-northwestwards, and it is centred at about 735 nautical miles southwest of Coco Is-

land (Myanmar), 250 nautical miles Southeast of Trincomalee (Sri Lanka) and 455 Nautical miles South-Southeast of Puducherry (Sri Lanka).

It does not intend to move towards the Myanmar coasts at the present stage, and therefore, the Deep Depression is coded as the yellow stage.

Position of Deep Depression, centre pressure and wind

The Deep Depression is located at a Latitude of 5.7 degrees North and a Longitude of 84.3 degrees East. The centre pressure of Deep Depression is 1004 hPa, and the maximum wind speed near the centre is 35 miles per hour at 3:30 pm MST today.

Next 36 hours forecast

It is likely to move west-northwestwards and may be near Sri Lanka during the next 36 hours. — DMH

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

Issued at 7 pm Thursday, 8 January 2026

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at 3:30 pm MST today, the Deep Depression over the Southwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining East Equatorial Indian Ocean has moved west-northwestwards, and it is centred at about 735 nautical miles southwest of Coco Island (Myanmar), 250 nautical miles southeast of Trincomalee (Sri Lanka) and 455 nautical miles south-southeast of Puducherry (Sri Lanka). The weather is cloudy over the South Andaman Sea and South Bay, partly cloudy over the Central Bay and a few clouds over the North Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 9 January 2026: The weather will be generally

fair in Nay Pyi Taw, Bago, Magway and Lower Sagaing Regions and Kayah State and partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States. **STATE OF THE SEA:** The sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about 5-7 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of slight decrease of night temperatures in Kachin and Shan States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 9 January 2026: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 9 January 2026: A few cloud. — DMH

Myanmar, Laos hold talks to boost agricultural and fishery exports



A general view of the Myanmar-Laos Friendship Bridge.

DISCUSSIONS are underway between Myanmar and Laos to increase exports of Myanmar’s agricultural and aquatic products to Laos, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

In these discussions aimed at boosting exports of Myanmar’s agricultural and fishery products to Laos, preliminary talks have also been held between the two countries on upgrading the Kenglap-Xieng Kok border bridge to the international entry and exit crossing point status, to facilitate smoother and more convenient cross-border movement of goods and people. In addition, the two sides discussed cooperation to further de-

velop the Wampong-Ban Muang Mom border crossing along the Myanmar-Laos border.

At present, Myanmar exports items such as furniture, footwear, textiles, rubber and tobacco to Laos, while importing vehicles, paper, steel and machinery from Laos.

As Laos is the only landlocked country in South-East Asia and is located at the centre of the Indochina Peninsula, it has no seaports. The country has a total area of 236,800 square kilometres, and according to the latest data from the United Nations World Population Review, it has a population of approximately 7.6 million. — ASH/KZL

ECONOMY WORLD



Left-wing president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva (C) waved a national flag next to his wife Marisa Leticia, enthusiastically backing another oil project from state-owned Petrobras in 2008. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

US move on Venezuela's oil increases pressure on Brazil, Petrobras

Venezuela remains the global leader in proven crude oil reserves, holding an estimated 303.2 billion barrels.

INDICATIONS that the United States could push for a revival of oil production in Venezuela, in line with plans outlined by President Donald Trump, are expected to alter the regional energy equation and pose fresh challenges for Brazil and its state-run oil major Petrobras, as reported by Brasil 247.

Venezuela, home to the world's largest proven crude reserves, has witnessed a steep fall in oil output over

the past decades. Production, which once peaked at nearly 3.5 million barrels per day, has fallen below 1 million barrels per day.

Analysts believe that if US policy changes lead to a gradual recovery in Venezuelan output, competition for investment capital in the oil sector across South America will intensify.

According to Brasil 247, this potential shift is increasing pressure on Petrobras to speed

up key strategic decisions, particularly related to exploration in Brazil's Equatorial Margin.

Alongside Venezuela, neighbouring Guyana and Suriname are already advancing large offshore oil projects, which are expected to significantly boost regional supply in the coming years.

The developments are unfolding against a backdrop of heightened volatility in global energy markets. — ANI

NEWS IN BRIEF

Greek govt faces standoff with farmers

GREEK officials on Thursday prepared to confront farmers who have blockaded motorways for weeks in a dispute over subsidies and finances, after last-ditch compromise proposals failed to break the deadlock.

Government spokesman Pavlos Marinakis said authorities would "not allow the country to be cut in two", telling Mega TV: "There is no room for additional measures for the farmers."

The farmers said they would step up roadblocks for a two-day period after rejecting government proposals including cheaper electricity and fuel.

The protest, which began late November, has seen several motorways and border crossings intermittently blocked by thousands of tractors.

They had eased the blockade to allow people to travel during the Christmas holidays. — AFP

BOJ maintains economic views of all 9 regions

THE Bank of Japan on Thursday maintained its economic assessments for all nine regions of the country, as capital spending has remained solid and the negative impact of higher US tariffs has eased. In its quarterly Sakura report on regional economies, the central bank said all areas were either "recovering moderately," "picking up", or "picking up moderately", although some weakness was seen in places, using the same expressions as in October.

Citing views from a meeting of its regional branch managers earlier Thursday, the BOJ said uncertainties stemming from US trade policies had been reduced and that companies were maintaining an "aggressive investment stance", partly due to demand related to artificial intelligence.

Tokyo and Washington struck a trade deal in July to cut hefty levies imposed by President Donald Trump, and the new rates took effect in September. — Kyodo

The Genuine Will of the People...

FROM PAGE 9

Everybody knows that countries, including world powers, recognize Phase I of the election as a free, transparent and fair one. Mr Deng Xijun, Special Envoy for Asian Affairs of the People's Republic of China, commented, "We have seen that the staff members carrying out their duties in the election are performing their work correctly, accurately, and well. We have observed that Phase I of the current election has proceeded smoothly and peacefully." Similarly, Belarusian Member of Parliament Mr Shpakouski Aliaksandr stated clearly, "We believe that elections are the only correct path in a legitimate

political process, and that they represent fair competition in the formation of power and the convening of parliament." All of these are evidence that reflect the recognition of the international community on the correct path towards Myanmar's democratic development.

Among the international community's increasingly positive attitude towards Myanmar's elections, indications of a shift in United States policy have also emerged as a notable development. In Real Clear Defence, a retired US Army colonel wrote that the upcoming election could become an opportunity to renegotiate and reshape US-Myanmar relations,

which have been stalled for decades. In addition, US Secretary of State Rubio himself has stated that he would avoid making public judgements regarding the fairness of the electoral process and democratic values. As a result, it is now becoming apparent that the United States may be shifting away from its previous approach of sanctions and towards more pragmatic cooperation based on Myanmar's strategic importance.

Accordingly, no matter how terrorists threaten the people via social media platforms, the scenes from Phase I of the election have already proven that the people of Myanmar are firmly determined to shape their own

destiny. On the morning of 28 December, the steps taken by citizens heading for polling stations were not merely simple walks. Every step they took was a historic one, clearly rejecting the path of terrorism and acts of destruction. Their historic steps demonstrated to the world their desire for peace, stability, and the rule of law.

At present, Phase I of the election was successfully held on 28 December in 102 townships. This is just the beginning. Going forward, Phase II will continue to be held on 11 January 2026, in 100 townships, and Phase III will be held on 25 January in 63 townships. The entire population believes that a new Hluttaw will be convened, a new government will be able to be formed, and national development can con-

tinue, once the whole process is completed.

Voting is not only a right of every citizen, but also a responsibility. The ink-stained little finger of each voter is a proud symbol of having contributed, a single brick and a single grain of sand, to democracy. Each ballot is a foundation stone upon which the nation's future destiny will be built, and every step taken towards the polling station is undeniably a step towards a genuine, disciplined, and new democratic state. For these reasons, this article urges everyone not to relinquish their rights but to continue marching resolutely to the polling stations with firm and determined steps during the periods of the remaining Phases II and III of the election.

Samsung Electronics forecasts record profit in fourth quarter

SOUTH Korean tech giant Samsung Electronics said Thursday it expected its fourth-quarter profit to reach a record 20 trillion won (\$13.8 billion). The firm is one of the world's top memory chip makers, providing crucial components for artificial intelligence (AI) and the infrastructure it relies on. Its strong forecast comes on the back of soaring demand for high-performance memory chips used in data centres and other infra-

structure supporting the AI industry. Samsung said Thursday it expected operating profit to range between "19.8 trillion and 20.1 trillion won", which would surpass its record quarterly profit of 17.6 trillion won set in the third quarter of 2018. If confirmed in its final earnings report, due to be released later this month, the figure would mark an increase of around 200 per cent year on year. — AFP

CES panel discussions highlight AI reliability, safety

TECH giants' CEOs and experts gathering here for the 2026 Consumer Electronics Show (CES) focused their discussions on the reliability and safety of artificial intelligence (AI) in a panel session on Monday. While AI is rapidly spreading into daily work and operations, its wider adoption will depend on whether AI systems can be trusted to behave reliably, protect sensitive data and operate within clear guardrails in high-stakes



People visit the 2026 Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas, the United States, 6 January 2026. PHOTO: ZENG HUI/XINHUA

environments, they said at the panel session on AI's real-world challenges, held on the sidelines of the CES, the world's largest and most influential technology trade show, which runs from Tuesday to Friday. The panel brought together industry leaders, including Ola Kallenius, CEO of the Mercedes-Benz Group, Harjot Gill, CEO of CodeRabbit, Deepak Pathak of Skild AI, Sridhar Ramaswamy of Snowflake, and Shiv Rao of Abridge. — Xinhua

Trump says Venezuela to purchase only American-made products

IN a major announcement, US President Donald Trump said on Wednesday (local time) that Venezuela would now purchase only American-made products with the money they receive from the new oil deal. In a post on Truth Social, the US President said that the purchases would include American agriproducts, medicines, medical devices and equipment to improve the electric grid and energy facilities, amongst other things. "I have just been informed that Venezuela is going to be purchasing ONLY American Made Products, with the money they receive from our new Oil Deal. These purchases will include, among other things, American Agricultural Products, and American Made Medicines, Medical Devices, and Equipment to improve Venezuela's Electric Grid and Energy Facilities. — ANI

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V CTP FORTUNE VOY.NO. (356W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CTP FORTUNE VOY.NO. (356W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **9-1-2026** 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V RANONG MOE VOY.NO. (007)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V RANONG MOE VOY.NO. (007)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **9-1-2026** 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:
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Notice for Change of Pesticide Trade Name

The foreign manufacturer **AgriGate CropSciences Pte., Ltd.** will import and distribute the following insecticide registered in Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board Changing trading name.

| No. | Old Trade Name | New Trade Name | Active Ingredient | Reg: Type | Reg: No. |
|-----|----------------|-----------------|--------------------------|-----------|------------|
| 1 | Complete 10 SC | Paung Sone Thet | Bispyribac-sodium 10% SC | Full | F2019-2011 |

It is therefore announced to come and reject within 14 days to joint Secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein in wishing to make any objection in respect of the said changing trading name of herbicide.
Address- **Myanma Awba Group Co., Ltd.** No.(95-A), Kyaik Wine Pagoda Road, 8th Mile, Mayangone Township, Yangon Region, Myanmar.

Notice for Change of Pesticide Trade Name

The foreign manufacturer **Agrinova Cropcare Pte., Ltd.** will import and distribute the following insecticide registered in Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board Changing trading name.

| No. | Old Trade Name | New Trade Name | Active Ingredient | Reg: Type | Reg: No. |
|-----|----------------|----------------|-------------------------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Shin Than | Beauty | Nitrophenol Compound 1.95% SL | Provisional | P2025-6684 |

It is therefore announced to come and reject within 14 days to joint Secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein in wishing to make any objection in respect of the said changing trading name of herbicide.
Address- **Pyinsa Crop Science Co., Ltd.** No.(95-A), Kyaik Wine Pagoda Road, 8th Mile, Mayangone Township, Yangon Region, Myanmar.

Notice for Change of Pesticide Trade Name

The foreign manufacturer **AgriGate CropSciences Pte., Ltd.** will import and distribute the following insecticide registered in Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board Changing trading name.

| No. | Old Trade Name | New Trade Name | Active Ingredient | Reg: Type | Reg: No. |
|-----|----------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| 1 | Trixa 25 SC | Pyinsalet 25 SC | Hexaconazole 5% + Tricyclazole 20% SC | Full | F2022-2009 |

It is therefore announced to come and reject within 14 days to joint Secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein in wishing to make any objection in respect of the said changing trading name of herbicide.
Address - **Pyinsa Crop Science Co., Ltd.** No.(95-A), Kyaik Wine Pagoda Road, 8th Mile, Mayangone Township, Yangon Region, Myanmar.

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD



US authorities have repeatedly been informed about the Russian ownership of the Marinera vessel and its peaceful status.
PHOTO: AFP

US seizure of Marinera gross violation of principles of international maritime law: Russian MFA

The boarding of the Marinera by US military forces and its seizure represent a gross violation of the principles of international maritime law.

RUSSIA calls on US to immediately cease illegal actions against the Marinera and other vessels conducting lawful activities in international waters.

Other statements by Russian Foreign Ministry:

US authorities have repeatedly been informed about the Russian ownership of the Marinera vessel and its peaceful status.

The boarding of the Marinera by US military forces and its seizure represent a gross violation of the principles of international maritime law. Russia demands that the US ensure the proper treatment of Russian nationals aboard the Marinera and not impede their return to their homeland.

The US's readiness to generate acute international crises is a cause

for regret and concern.

We consider the references made by the American side to its national "sanctions legislation" to be unfounded. Unilateral restrictive measures imposed by the US, as well as other Western countries, are illegitimate and cannot justify attempts to establish jurisdiction or, especially, to seize vessels in international waters. — SPUTNIK

NEWS IN BRIEF

Israel begins demining on Jordan border ahead of new barrier works

ISRAEL'S defence ministry said Wednesday it had begun demining the border area with Jordan as part of construction works for a new barrier it says aims to stem weapons smuggling.

"A total of approximately 500 old anti-tank mines, which had been laid in the area since the late 1960s, were destroyed," the ministry said in a statement.

Footage from the ministry showed workers setting up and detonating a linear explosion to take out mines in the Jordan Valley, along an already existing border fence.

In a previous statement, the ministry said the new border barrier would run roughly 500 kilometres (310 miles) from the southern Israeli-annexed Golan Heights to Samar Sands, at Israel's southern tip.

The first phase of works will focus on the Jordan Valley, including the West Bank, which Israel has occupied since 1967. — AFP

Trump withdraws US from key climate treaty

PRESIDENT Donald Trump's decision to withdraw the United States from a bedrock climate treaty was slammed Thursday by the EU, which vowed to keep tackling the crisis with other nations.

The White House on Wednesday flagged the US exit from 66 global organizations and treaties — roughly half affiliated with the United Nations — it identified as "contrary to the interests of the United States".

Most notable among them is the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the parent treaty underpinning all major international climate agreements.

The treaty adopted in 1992 is a global pact by nations to cooperate to drive down planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

European Union climate chief Wopke Hoekstra said the UNFCCC "underpins global climate action" and brings nations together in the collective fight against the crisis. — AFP

Lebanon says first phase of disarming Hezbollah complete

LEBANON'S army said Thursday that it had completed the first phase of its plan to disarm Hezbollah in south Lebanon, while Israel called the efforts encouraging but "far from sufficient".

Under heavy US pressure and amid fears of expanded Israeli strikes, Lebanon has committed to disarming the Iran-backed militant group, which was badly weakened

after more than a year of hostilities including two months of all-out war that ended with a November 2024 ceasefire.

Despite the truce, Israel has kept up regular strikes in Lebanon, usually saying it is targeting Hezbollah sites and operatives, and has maintained troops in five south Lebanon areas it deems strategic, accusing the group of rearming.

Hezbollah has refused to surrender its weapons.

In a statement, Lebanon's army said it had "achieved the objectives of the first phase" of its plan, covering the area south of the Litani River — around 30 kilometres (20 miles) from the Israeli border — with the intention to extend it to the rest of the country. — AFP



Lebanese army troops patrol the destroyed southern border village of Adaiseh, following the Israeli forces withdrawal on 18 February 2025. **PHOTO: MAHMOUD ZAYYAT /AFP**

SPORTS

3 teams record wins in MWL Matchday 13

MATCHDAY 13 of the 2025-2026 Myanmar Women’s League took place over the first and second days on 7 and 8 January, with Ayeyawady, ISPE, and Thitsa Arman securing victories.

In the match held at Padonma Stadium on 7 January, Ayeyawady defeated Yangon United by one goal to nil. Ayeyawady continued their winning run in the second round and, with this victory over Yangon United, moved level in the title race with defending champions ISPE. Yangon United, meanwhile, fell further behind after the defeat and now trails leaders Ayeyawady by seven points with one match in hand, reducing their chances of competing for the championship. Phyu Phyu Win scored the only goal of the match in 27 minutes. Ayeyawady have

collected 30 points from 12 matches, while Yangon United remain on 23 points from 11 matches.

At Thuwunna Youth Training Centre Ground 1, defending champions ISPE recorded a six-goal victory over Yangon City. ISPE continued to apply pressure in the title race, staying two points behind Ayeyawady with one match in hand as they seek to defend their crown. Shwe Yi Htun opened the scoring in 36 minutes, while Lin Myint Mo struck in 49, 50 and 70 minutes. Su Pyae Pyae Kyaw added goals in 55 and 80 minutes. ISPE now have 28 points from 11 matches, while Yangon City remain without a point after 12 matches.

Thitsa Arman defeated YREO by two goals to one at Yangon United Sports Complex on 8 January. YREO took the lead in



Ayeyawady and Yangon United in action during their match. PHOTO: MWL

21 minutes through Win Sandar, but Myat Noe Khin equalized for Thitsa Arman from the penalty spot in 43 minutes before scoring the winning goal in 78 minutes.

The final day of Matchday 13 will be played today at Thuwunna Youth Training Centre Ground 1, where Myawady will face Shan United. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



Benjamin Sesko scored twice as Manchester United drew at Burnley. PHOTO: AFP

Sesko spark masks Man Utd disappointment for Fletcher

MANCHESTER United caretaker boss Darren Fletcher hopes Benjamin Sesko’s double in a 2-2 draw at Burnley proves to be the launching pad for the Slovenian striker after a tough start to life at Old Trafford.

Sesko had scored just twice in 17 appearances since his £74 million (\$100 million) move from RB Leipzig prior to Wednesday’s trip to Turf Moor.

The 22-year-old produced two clinical finishes early in the second half to turn the game around for United after Ayden Heaven’s own goal gave Burnley a half-time lead.

But Jaidon Anthony’s fine strike saw United drop points for the fifth time in six games.

“I was so happy for him. I spoke to him yesterday and we presented a video showing his movement and showing his goals, just showing how it is coming and he needs to keep believing and the players need to get more service to him,” said Fletcher. — AFP

Former referee Coote gets suspended sentence for indecent image

FORMER Premier League referee David Coote was given a suspended prison sentence on Thursday after admitting making an indecent image of a child, with the judge describing his “spectacular fall from grace”.

Coote, 43, previously pleaded guilty to making an indecent moving image of a child of the most serious

kind.

Coote’s arms and hands trembled as a sentence of nine months, suspended for two years, was passed at Nottingham Crown Court.

Prosecutors said the two-minute, 11-second video found on his laptop showed the boy undress until he was completely naked, before performing sexual acts on himself.

The court heard the clip was found after a separate probe into derogatory comments he made about ex-Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp in 2020.

His electronic devices were seized by police in February last year, and the video of the schoolboy from January 2020, was found on the hard drive of his laptop. — AFP

Sabalenka impresses again in Australian Open warm-up, vows more to come

WORLD number one Aryna Sabalenka said she still had room for improvement after a second dominant win in the Brisbane International on Thursday.

Sabalenka was pushed at times by 36-year-old Sorana Cirstea but was never really troubled by the Romanian as she notched a 6-3, 6-3 win to reach the quarterfinals of the season-opening tournament.

The Belarusian will next play Madison Keys, the American who beat her in last year’s Australian Open final. Keys came back from a set and a break down to overcome Russia’s Diana Shnaider in a three-hour marathon 6-7 (5/7), 7-6 (7/5), 7-6 (7/4).

There was a shock in the last of the night’s matches when

Ukraine’s Marta Kostyuk stunned world number three Amanda Anisimova 6-4, 6-3 in a high-quality match on centre court.

S a - balen-

ka said she aimed to get better as she targets a third Australian Open title in four years when the first Grand Slam of the year begins in Melbourne on 18 January. — AFP



World number one Aryna Sabalenka said she still had room for improvement after a second dominant win in the Brisbane International on Thursday. PHOTO: AFP/FILE



China aims for secure, reliable supply of AI core tech by 2027

By 2027, the plan aims to integrate three to five general-purpose large AI models into manufacturing, while also developing specialized industry-specific models that cover the full range of applications.



People learn about self-propelled welding robots at the 2025 Wuhan International Industrial Design Expo in Wuhan, Central China's Hubei province, 12 December 2025. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

CHINA aims to achieve secure and reliable supply of key core artificial intelligence (AI) technologies by 2027, with its industrial scale and empowerment level remaining among the world's forefront, according to a recent government action plan.

The plan, jointly issued by eight departments including the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, the Cyberspace Administration of China, and the National Development and Reform Commission, outlines an ambitious push to deeply integrate AI with the manufacturing sector, foster new quality productive forces and comprehensively empower new industrialization.

By 2027, the plan targets the deep application of three to five general-purpose large AI models in manufacturing, the development of specialized, full-coverage industry-specific large models, the creation of 100 high-quality industrial datasets, and the promotion of 500 typical application scenarios.

It also aims to cultivate two to three globally influential ecosystem-leading enterprises, a batch of specialized and sophisticated small and medium-sized enterprises, and a group of enabling service providers proficient in both AI technology and industry know-how. — Xinhua

Spider venom drug trial targets heart, stroke

A potentially life-saving treatment for heart attacks and strokes, derived from the venom of one of the world's deadliest spiders, has entered human trials, researchers in Australia said Thursday.

The current phase I clinical study will assess the safety, tolerability and dosage of IB409, a novel drug developed from a molecule found in Australian funnel-web spider venom by biotechnology company Infensa Bioscience, said a statement of Australia's University of Queensland (UQ).

Professor Glenn King from UQ's Institute for Molecular Bioscience said his team had published "exceptionally promising" preclinical results with Hi1a, a protein derived from the venom of a funnel-web spider on the state of Queensland's Fraser Island. — Xinhua

US state secretary says to meet Danish officials next week on Greenland

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Wednesday that he plans to meet with Danish officials next week over the US demand to own Greenland.

"I'll be meeting with them next week ... We'll have conversations with them then," Rubio told reporters at the US Capitol.

"Every president always retains the option" of military force, but "we always prefer to settle it in different ways", he said, trying to downplay the White House statement from Tuesday. In an emailed statement, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt told Xinhua that "utilizing the US military" is always an option for US President Donald Trump over his demand for Greenland.

Danish Foreign Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen and Greenland's Foreign Minister Vivian Motzfeldt earlier officially requested a meeting with Rubio to discuss the crisis. Both Greenland and Denmark have made clear that the

island is not for sale.

However, Rubio told lawmakers in a closed-door briefing on Monday that Trump's recent threats against Green-

land did not signal an imminent invasion and that the White House's goal is to buy the island from Denmark, according to US media outlets. — Xinhua



A Danish Navy vessel patrols the waters off Nuuk, the capital of Greenland, last March. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**