

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.



Love and Compassion Foster Peace and Harmony Among Humanity

For centuries, Buddhists, Christians, Hindus, Muslims, and followers of other faiths in Myanmar have coexisted peacefully, showing mutual respect, refraining from insults or discrimination, and fostering a strong spirit of national unity.

A CHRISTMAS thanksgiving and fellowship luncheon ceremony, organized by federations of Christian churches in Myanmar, was held yesterday at Saint Mary’s Cathedral Catholic Church in Botahtaung Township, Yangon Region. The event was attended by Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

The ceremony was also attended by Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of the Senior General; Secretary of the Commission General Ye Win Oo and his wife, commission members and their wives, Union ministers and their wives, the Yangon Region chief minister, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, the commander of Yangon Command, the Yangon mayor; reverends from the Myanmar Council of Churches, Catholic Bishops’ Conference of Myanmar, Myanmar Evangelical Christian Alliance and Myanmar Christian Mission Cooperation, officials from the Myanmar Interfaith Dialogue Group, Christian communities in Myanmar, Catholic youth groups, and Christian township elders.

SEE PAGE 3



Acting President and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing speaks at the Christmas thanksgiving and fellowship luncheon event in Yangon yesterday.

NATIONAL



2025 MULTIPARTY DEMOCRACY GENERAL ELECTION

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

Union Election Commission



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

Four National Objectives for 78th Independence Day 2025

- To safeguard the non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty by all citizens, as they are the most essential and suitable national objectives and national duties
- To strive forward for national unity and Union peace to implement sustainable and balanced development
- To establish a genuine, disciplined democratic system completely by exercising the freedom and justice in accordance with the laws and regulations
- To advance other economic sectors and promote MSMEs based on regional products

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7 pm Tuesday
23 December 2025)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is a few clouds over the Andaman Sea and partly cloudy to cloudy elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 24 December 2025: Light rains are likely to be isolated in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State. The degree of certainty is 60 per cent. Weather will be generally fair in Nay Pyi Taw, Bago Region and partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in the Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about 3-5 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR THE SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of slight decrease of night temperatures in Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Lower Sagaing and Ayeyawady Regions and Kayah and Shan States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 24 December 2025: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 24 December 2025: Partly Cloudy.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 24 December 2025: Generally fair weather. — DMH



Preventive Measures Against Seasonal Flu

22 December 2025

- According to the Global Influenza Report released by the World Health Organization on 10 December 2025, the transmission of seasonal influenza has been increasing worldwide, including in Asia and other regions of the world, since the start of the cold season in September 2025. However, the level of transmission has not exceeded that of seasonal influenza outbreaks. This year, the Influenza A (H3N2) has been identified as the predominant circulating influenza virus in many parts of the world, and infections caused by the Influenza A (H3N2) Subclade K virus have been detected in 34 countries over the past six months. These viruses can be prevented by the currently administered influenza vaccines, and severe cases can be treated with medicines currently in use.
- The Ministry of Health is continuously monitoring the occurrence of influenza and other respiratory infectious diseases. Based on disease surveillance data, Influenza A (H3N2) viruses have been detected in Myanmar in previous years and have remained the predominant influenza virus type since September of this year. Although laboratory tests have not yet detected Influenza A (H3N2) Subclade K in Myanmar, it is assessed that the general population possesses a moderate level of immunity against Influenza A (H3N2). The currently available influenza vaccines and preventive medicines are effective for prevention and treatment; therefore, there is no need for the public to be concerned.
- Seasonal influenza can affect people of all ages. However, infection may lead to more severe illness in children, the elderly, individuals with weakened immune systems, people with underlying chronic conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, respiratory diseases, cancer, and neurological disorders, and pregnant women. Seasonal influenza is transmitted through respiratory droplets released when an infected person coughs or sneezes (droplet transmission), through close contact such as touching or handshaking with an infected person, or by touching the mouth, nose, or eyes after contact with contaminated objects and surfaces.
- Therefore, to prevent infection with seasonal influenza and other respiratory diseases, people are strongly urged to cooperate by following the preventive measures as follows: -
 - Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water or hand sanitizer.
 - Maintain physical distance from infected persons or suspected cases.
 - Individuals with suspected symptoms such as fever, coughing, or sneezing should wear a mask.

Ministry of Health

NATIONAL

Call for Unity, Steadfastness Amid Attempts To Divide

All citizens must stand orderly and united through thick and thin. We must never lose sight of our main goal and persevere it without deviation regardless of any attempt by the detractors to divide, incite and provoke us.

*(Excerpt from the speech delivered by General Aung San
at 7:40 pm on 1 January 1947)*



Love and Compassion Foster Peace and Harmony ...

FROM PAGE 1

On arrival at the Saint Mary’s Cathedral Church, the Senior General, his wife and party were welcomed by Archbishop Cardinal Charles Bo, president of the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of Myanmar, and Christian youths performed the carols and dances.

The Senior General, his wife and Cardinal Charles Bo had documentary photos taken together with those Christian youths.

The Senior General, his wife and party viewed round the vehicles used by Pope Francis on his tour of Myanmar, kept at the Saint Mary’s Cathedral Church, and watched a documentary videos on the visit of Pope Francis to Myanmar in November 2017 and on the Christmas prayer services and fellowship events of Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and Cardinal Charles Bo.

The Senior General, his wife and party arrived at the Church, where the second session of the ceremony followed. They were welcomed by reverends from the Myanmar Council of Churches, Catholic Bishops’ Conference of Myanmar, Myanmar Evangelical Christian Alliance and Myanmar Christian Mission Cooperation, officials from the Myanmar Interfaith Dialogue Group.

An opening prayer was delivered by U Pho Pho Hla, Reverend of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Myanmar.

The Senior General and his

wife, together with attendees at the ceremony, joined in singing the congregational hymn, “O Blessed Myanmar Land”.

Archbishop Steven Than Myint Oo, Chairman of the Myanmar Council of Churches, extended greetings. After that, singer Pan Yaung Chal performed a hymn of praise.

In his greetings, the Senior General expressed his best wishes and prayers that, as this Christmas festival arrives at a time when seasons and occasions converge, Christians, the people of the nation, and all people around the world may live with love and peace under the shelter of religious compassion. He added that Christmas not only spreads love among humanity but also reflects one of the noble and essential values of the Christian faith.

The Senior General continued that in today’s world, which is home to all humanity, there are many religions, and it is widely recognized that four major religions – Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, and Islam – are generally identified as the principal faiths. Religion consists of teachings, beliefs and moral principles and should be understood as being founded on core principles such as love, compassion, and empathy. He further expressed his firm belief that it is the guidance of love and compassion inherent in each faith that can bring peace and harmony to humanity.

The Senior General stated that when the entire human community lives in peace and

harmony, ultimately, the world itself becomes peaceful and prosperous. Conversely, hatred and resentment between individuals lead only to evils such as domination, oppression, and violence within human communities. He emphasized that it is only through the ultimate principles of religion, such as love and compassion, that such evils can be overcome, creating a world imbued with love, peace, and harmony.

With regard to the faiths, the Senior General revealed that Section 34 of the Constitution (2008) clearly states “Every citizen is equally entitled to freedom of conscience and the right to freely profess and practise religion subject to public order, morality or health and to the other provisions of this Constitution”. Hence, everyone has been granted the right to freedom of conscience for any religion.

He noted that in Myanmar, Buddhists, Christians, Hindus, Muslims, and followers of other faiths have coexisted for many centuries. Regardless of differences in religious beliefs, they have lived together without insulting, discriminating against, or harming one another, showing mutual respect and fostering a spirit of national unity while working with a sincere, cooperative attitude for the well-being and progress of the country.

He stressed the need for followers of different faiths to continue preserving these positive traditions and urged them to jointly prevent any acts of interference or conflict — whether

aimed at undermining unity or diminishing mutual respect and trust — by working together with a spirit of family-like cooperation.

He stated that all religions share common ethical principles and guidelines for conduct, which are fundamentally based on mental well-being. Such mental purity and clarity greatly support the physical peace, development, and progress of humanity, contributing to the prosperity and harmony of entire communities. Therefore, he affirmed a strong belief that religion represents a set of noble teachings.

He urged that, based on the principles of peace established by various religions, everyone should uphold these values to help create a stable, peaceful, modern and developed Union. He encouraged all citizens to work together to peacefully advance along the path of inclusive, multi-party democracy that the people aspire to.

He expressed his sincere wishes and prayers that, on this auspicious occasion of the Christmas celebration, all Christian clergy and believers leading the event, the attending guests, the citizens of the country, and Christians around the world may each embrace the essence of peace from this festive day onward and live joyfully and harmoniously.

Chair of Myanmar Evangelical Christian Alliance Reverend Dr U Aye Min prayed for the Republic of the Union of Myanmar while the Methodist English Church choir performed and accompanied a Christmas choral hymn.

This was followed by the guests, led by Dr Myo Myint Oo, an ordained minister and Chairman of the Myanmar Christian Mission Cooperation, who participated in reading responses for the birthday celebration. A Sister conducted a Bible reading, and Cardinal Charles Bo delivered a Christmas sermon.

Cardinal Charles Bo, Archbishop Steven Than Myint Oo and Reverend Dr Aye Min presented a commemorative gift, a Christmas prayer for Christmas and a mosaic painting to the Senior General and his wife, who returned Christmas commemorative gifts.

Reverend Mahn Palmerston delivered a vote of thanks, and Dr Maurice Lyana offered a Christmas blessing for the fellowship meal and expressed gratitude to all those who participated.

After that, the audience sang the hymn “Silent Night” in harmony. Then, Cardinal Charles Bo delivered Christmas greetings, wishing that on this blessed Christmas occasion, not only Christians but all humanity around the world may be filled with the goodness and blessings of Christmas. He also wished that in the New Year, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar may enjoy peace and prosperity, and extended his blessings to the Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and SSPC Chairman and his wife, and all the people of Myanmar.

The Senior General and his wife cordially greeted the attendees and had the luncheon together with the guests. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

Residents Urged to Prioritize Public Safety Amid Armed Terrorist Threats

ARMED terrorists have been launching attacks by using residential homes and administrative buildings in towns and villages as cover, where they have forcibly settled. They aim to shield themselves from Tatmadaw counterattacks while also persuading temporarily displaced persons to return to their native areas and recruiting new members. That enables terrorists to use civilians as human shields. Tatmadaw is committed to safeguarding the sovereignty of the State and will respond to these threats based on intelligence and prevailing conditions. Therefore, residents in areas where terrorists have taken control must prioritize their safety and protect themselves from being exploited by these groups.

(An excerpt from guidance given by Chairman of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to Shan State cabinet members and state-level departmental officials on 3 September 2024)

Steering Committee on Holding Youth Peace Forum holds coord meeting

THE coordination meeting of the Steering Committee on Holding Youth Peace Forum was held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

It was attended by Union Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, who is also Chairman of the committee, Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, who is the Committee Vice-Chair, National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee (NSPNC) Secretary Lt-Gen Min Naing, committee members, deputy ministers, and permanent secretaries, while social affairs ministers from regions and states joined via videoconferencing.

Speaking at the event, Union Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae said the event will be held in a format where young people who are interested in peace can gather and participate in discussions. Arrangements are being made to collect diverse voices of youths, and working committees have also been formed to carry out the necessary tasks for the forum. He then urged the respective



The coordination meeting of the Steering Committee on Holding Youth Peace Forum in progress in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, attended by Union Ministers Lt-Gen Yar Pyae and U Maung Maung Ohn.

committee members to discuss in detail their respective responsibilities.

Secretary Lt-Gen Min Naing briefed on the proper arrangements for the forum, selection of youth representatives by the regions' and states' social affairs ministers, preparations and ongoing work plans.

Deputy ministers, Nay Pyi Taw Council members, perma-

nent secretaries, directors-general, and regional and state social affairs ministers discussed sectoral tasks, after which Committee Vice-Chair U Maung Maung Ohn discussed the role of youths and peace, efforts of governments for peace, current progress in the country and the role of the youth sector.

The chairman of the steering committee delivered a conclud-

ing speech and adjourned the meeting.

The Youth Peace Forum is to be held to highlight the importance of youths' efforts to peace and community stability, find solutions for issues relevant to all citizens and attitude, and create opportunities for youths in a positive environment, support cooperation and communication among peaceful communities,

identify practical role of youth in the post-election period, strengthen youths' capacities in dialogue, mediation and responsible connection, generate recommendations of youths that can support for formulation of long-term peace, reconciliation and future social development plans, and draft a youth policy paper for future nation-building by compiling recommendations that emerge from the Youth Peace Forum.

For the forum, arrangements are being made to invite representatives from selected ministries, young experts from various fields, youth representatives from regions and states, youths with disabilities, volunteer youths from community-based organizations, youths from social welfare organizations and NGO youth networks, ethnic youths from border areas, and youths from IDP camps. Youth representatives from various groups aged between 18 and 35 years are being invited to participate. — MNA/KTZH

CBM Governor meets Chinese Ambassador

CENTRAL Bank of Myanmar Governor Daw Than Than Swe received Ms Ma Jia, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar, and her delegation at the meeting hall of the Central Bank of Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday

afternoon.

Both sides held frank and cordial discussions on the use of the Chinese yuan in the investment and banking sectors, measures to facilitate smoother payments for investment and trade conducted in yuan, and

ways to enhance and implement financial and banking cooperation between the two countries.

The meeting was also attended by the deputy governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar and officials concerned. — MNA/MKKS



Central Bank of Myanmar Governor Daw Than Than Swe and Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Ms Ma Jia discuss investment and banking sectors using Chinese yuan in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

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NATIONAL

General Aung San Declares Firm Stand Against Election Disruption

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

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



COVID-19 Special Loan Steering Committee Meeting held

THE COVID-19 Special Loan Steering Committee Meeting was held yesterday morning at the Internal Revenue Department, Office 46 and attended and delivered a speech by Union Minister for Finance and Revenue Dr Kan Zaw, who is also the Committee Chairman.

The meeting was also attended by heads of departments under the Ministry of Finance and Revenue, the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, and officials.

The Committee Chairman and Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw first said that the COVID-19 Special Loan Fund Account was established at K214.096 billion, which was transferred to the National Disaster Management Fund at Myanmar Economic Bank in Nay Pyi Taw with the approval of the Central Committee for COVID-19 Prevention, Control and Treatment and the Union Government. It aims to disburse loans to State-owned economic enterprises, Myanmar-owned enterprises that cooperate with the State, which have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, to ensure the normal operation of businesses and economic recovery and to contribute towards the country’s economic development. Then, an additional allocation of K25.821 billion was received from the National Disaster Management Fund on 31 May 2023, and it became a total funding of K239.917 billion at the Fund. According to the approval of the “COVID-19



Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw speaks at the COVID-19 Special Loan Steering Committee Meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Special Loan Steering Committee and Loan Screening and Supervision Team”, which was formed, the loans were screened and disbursed in line with the procedures of the Fund.

He noted that the previous meeting 3/2022 of the committee was held on 14 September 2022 to discuss the possibility of disbursing loans to the aviation sector. He highlighted that

now the “COVID-19 Special Loan Steering Committee and Loan Screening and Supervision Team” have been formed.

He noted that the COVID-19 Special Loan Fund provided loans to the aviation sector and the oilseed production sector to cover the cost of growing sunflowers.

He noticed that some have been able to repay their loans

in full, while some businesses are still paying off their loans, both principal and interest. Therefore, he highlighted that this meeting was convened to record loan disbursements, loan repayments, the progress of effective loan use, and a review of the impact analysis.

Afterwards, the Committee Secretary and Managing Director of the Myanmar Economic Bank presented about the establishment of the COVID-19 Special Loan Fund, the implementation and disbursement of loans, and the status of the documentation process to submit to the Union Government every six months.

The committee members who are directors-general under the Ministry of Finance and Revenue and the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations discussed the disbursement of loans from the Fund and finding ways to negotiate with businesses to repay their loans to the Fund in time.

The Union minister gave a concluding speech and then adjourned the meeting. — MoFR



A marrow transplant surgery documentary photo.

YGH performs 2 successful bone marrow transplants for lymphoma patients

AT the Bone Marrow Transplant Centre under the Department of Haematology at Yangon General Hospital, two patients with lymphoma successfully underwent bone marrow transplant procedures in December 2025. As their conditions had improved and they were in good health, they were discharged from the hospital yesterday.

The two patients are a 54-year-old man from Kyimyindine Township in Yangon Region and a 58-year-old woman from Lanmadaw Township. The bone marrow transplant procedures were carried out through the combined efforts of professors and specialist physicians from the Department of Haematology, experts from related departments, skilled nurses, and supporting staff, working together as a multidisciplinary team.

At Yangon General Hospital, bone marrow transplants were performed on three patients in 2016, three in 2017, four in 2018, one in 2019, one in 2020, three in 2024, and ten patients to date in 2025, bringing the total number of patients treated to 25. It was also reported that bone marrow transplant services will continue to be provided domestically to reduce healthcare costs for the public. — MNA/MKKS

NATIONAL

Over 1,500 nurses and 360 midwives appointed as civil servants in 2025



The ceremony for the appointment of new nurses and midwives as civil servants.

THE Ministry of Health has announced that 1,520 newly graduated nurses and 361 newly graduated midwives were appointed as civil servants in 2025.

Appointment letters were presented on 22 December to the new nurses completing the three-year nursing diploma course and the new midwives completing the two-year midwifery diploma course.

During the ceremony, the

Union minister stated that when providing healthcare to the public, staff must not only be qualified and competent but must also strictly adhere to professional ethics, urging them to become dedicated professionals who can skilfully care for the public and to maintain a friendly manner when interacting with patients.

Furthermore, the chairperson of the Myanmar

Nurse and Midwife Council addressed the graduates, advising them to comply with civil service rules and the specific rules and regulations of their respective hospitals while providing patient care in accordance with the eight-point nursing vow.

The Ministry of Health also noted that an additional 1,762 nurses are scheduled to be appointed in February and May of 2026. — MT/ZN

Yangon Zoo to host Christmas market fair for 4 days

THE four-day Christmas market fair will be celebrated at Yangon Zoo from 24 to 27 December. The public who want to own a joyful moment with family or friends in this year's Christmas season are invited to join.

"Don't forget to visit the Yangon Zoo's Christmas market fair to have good moments and spend

the Christmas season with your loved ones," said the zoo.

The market fair will feature a magic show, a kids' talent show, a photo section with birds, music and dance performances. On the previous Kayin New Year Day and weekend, the Yangon Zoo and the People's Park were packed with visitors. — MT/ZS

Coffee processing training courses planned in 2026

IN an effort to produce internationally-recognized coffee products, coffee processing training courses will be conducted at the coffee factory of the Mandalay Coffee Group in PyinOoLwin, according to the Myanmar Coffee Association.

The training programme aims to produce high-quality products internationally, share knowledge of required processing practices in line with international standards and coffee products.

At the training, Coffee Quality Institute's new CQI Post-Harvest for 2026 will be taught, and certificates officially recognized by CQI will be awarded.

The CQI intro to processing training course has been sched-

uled from 6 to 7 January for two days, the CQI processing good practices course has been scheduled from 8 to 10 January for three days, and the combo class (introduction and good practices) has been planned for five days.

Those who are interested in manufacturing coffee beans, acquiring further specified knowledge, setting up their own coffee business and learning the whole processing stages should attend.

The training time is from 9 am to 5 pm, and the location is MCG coffee factory in PyinOoLwin, and registrations can be made via myanmarcoffeexchange@gmail.com, or phone or Viber 09 784888808 by 4 January. — MT/ZS

Myanmar steps up fight against online scams, gambling; Shwe Kokko and KK Park buildings demolished

THE Government of Myanmar has been conducting systematic clearance operations inside illegal buildings in the Shwe Kokko and KK Park areas, which are known for widespread online scams and gambling activities. These operations, carried out by joint teams of security personnel, administrative authorities, and local officials, also involve the seizure of items used in illegal online gambling and the organized demolition of illegal structures.

As part of these ongoing operations today, three four-storey illegal buildings in three sectors of the Myawady-Maethawtalay (KK Park) area, previously used for online scam and gambling, were demolished. This brings the total number of illegal buildings systematically demolished in the KK Park area to 491 out of 635 structures. In addition, for buildings demolished using heavy machinery, fire barrels have been used to ensure destruction. Since 14 December, five two-storey buildings have been demolished in this way, bringing the total number of fully destroyed two-storey buildings to 41.

Furthermore, to prevent illegal occupancy by foreign

nationals and the operation of online scams and gambling in Myawady Township and surrounding areas, joint search and clearance operations have been carried out since 8 December by teams comprising security forces, administrative bodies, and local officials. To date, 12 buildings out of 464 inspected structures that were used for online scams and gambling have been identified and sealed to prevent reuse.

Additionally, items previously used for online scams and gambling in the KK Park and Shwe Kokko areas were systematically burned yesterday to prevent further use. The Government of Myanmar has emphasized that it regards the eradication of online scams and gambling as a national responsibility and will continue these operations in coordination with domestic forces and neighbouring governments to ensure that such activities cannot take root anywhere in the country. — MNA/KZL

Images depict scam-related materials and items being razed by fire in Shwe Kokko areas in Myawady Township, Kayin State.



Tatmadaw members must be combat-ready, fit, and skilled with bravery

- ❖ “Tatmadaw is an organization responsible for national defence, and everyone serving at all levels is required to have a clear understanding of defence perspectives.”
- ❖ “As Tatmadaw members need to conduct regular training and preparation to remain combat-ready, maintain physical fitness, possess bravery, develop skills, and always stay ready for combat.”

(An excerpt from the speech delivered by Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with Tatmadaw members and families in Cocokyun Station on 18 October 2025)

CTGA: Myanmar garment sector needs raw materials processing factories

MYANMAR’S garment sector can generate foreign revenue of over five billion US dollar yet it lacks raw material processing factories to cut high import and production costs, according to Chinese Textile and Garment Association in Myanmar.

Myanmar’s garment industry needs local raw material factories to substitute import and reduce reliance on foreign manufactured goods and stabilize foreign exchange rate and conserve foreign reserve as the country has to import inputs like zippers, buttons, fabrics and others as per the order of the buyers, causing a significant dollar outflow.

Therefore, Myanmar’s gar-



This photo shows a local garment enterprise running operations.

ment industry is endeavouring to transform the Free on Board system from Cutting-Making and Packaging basis by inviting Chinese investors to invest in raw material manufacturing.

Myanmar’s manufacturing sector is largely concentrated in garment and textiles produced on the CMP basis and only five per cent are running with locally produced raw materials.

There are 523 member factories of Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association across the country. Sixty per cent of Myanmar’s garment exports go to Europe while 20 per cent are exported to Japan and other markets account for 20 per cent.

Myanmar garment industry aims to contribute to employment of up to 1.2 to 1.6 million workers in a decade and Myanmar’s apparel market is projected to reach US\$15 billion, MGMA stated. — ASH/KK

CBM sells over US\$1.6M to import companies



THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold over US\$1 million to edible oil-importing companies and over \$653,000 to fuel oil-importing companies on 22 December, in addition to an injection of \$30,000 from CMP companies into the market. CBM sold eight million baht to business entities on 18 December. CBM announced on 17 December that it would sell \$32

million. CBM pumped \$30,000 and 3.36 million baht into the market, along with \$650,000, selling to edible oil-importing companies. CBM sold over \$2 million to the edible oil-importing companies on 16 December, in addition to an injection of \$400,000 and 300,000 yuan into the market. CBM made an injection

of over \$21 million, 2.4 million yuan and 1.5 million baht in November. CBM injected over \$2.48 million, 5.75 million yuan and 4.98 million baht in October, along with sales of over \$54 million purchased from CMP companies. CBM aims to curb the instability in the foreign exchange market and currency devaluation. According to CBM’s notification on 15 March 2024, it has been collaborating with law enforcement agencies to combat and prosecute those who attempt to manipulate the currency market under the existing laws. CBM allowed authorized dealers (private banks) to operate online foreign exchange trading freely as per the market rate, depending on supply and demand, starting from 5 December 2023. — NN/KK

Mann Shwesettaw seeks tenders for guesthouse and business operations

THE Mann Shwesettaw Pagoda Board of Trustees called for an auction for the second time to operate guesthouses and other general businesses during the pagoda festival period. Mann Shwesettaw Buddha Pujaniya Festival in Minbu (Sagu) Township in Magway Region will take place from 22 January to 17 April 2026. Those businesses that remained to bid for the first time are put up for auction. Tender

submission can be done at the office of the Pagoda Board of Trustees until 31 December 2025. Tender will be opened at 9 am on 1 January 2026 at the meeting hall of the Township Department of General Administration in Minbu Township. Interested individuals can enquire about details through the office of the Pagoda Board of Trustees at 09 250345305 and 09 441102704. — NN/KK

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Uphold empathy in relations with everybody

HUMAN life spans are relatively short. In the present day, a person who lives to 100 years of age is considered exceptionally fortunate. Average life expectancies are defined differently from country to country. Similarly, for Myanmar citizens, international organizations — such as the World Bank — have conducted research and recorded projected life expectancies.

According to World Bank records, the projected life expectancy for Myanmar citizens in 2021 was 66.51 years. In 2022, it was 66.89 years, and in 2023, it reached 67.96 years. In 2025, life expectancy is projected to be 68.14 years, which is an increase of 0.26 per cent compared to the 2024 projection. The rise in life expectancy indicates that people living in the country are increasingly able to meet their basic needs. When basic needs are fulfilled, individuals continue striving for their own well-being and for a better quality of life. As a result, positive outcomes emerge, and these outcomes in turn become the driving force for further improvements.

Everyone, regardless of whether their life is complete or lacking, tends to hold a desire to improve what they have. Even a person surrounded by poverty and hardship still wishes, at some point, to rise above that situation and take ownership of a better life. This genuine determination not to give up on one's life is, in itself, a human virtue. It is this desire for a better life that enables people to continue living their respective lives and contributes to longer life spans.

Just as we ourselves have the desire to value and hold on to our own life and lifespan, we must also remember that other people and other living beings wish to protect and value their lives as well. An individual holds immeasurable worth, and it should be understood that once a life has ended, that value no longer exists in the same way. Therefore, one's life is one's own dignity. As such, we must have empathy and recognize that others will also cherish and value theirs just as we do.

When one develops such empathy, one will understand that just as we do not wish to harm our own life, we should not, under any circumstances, commit actions that harm the life of another person. This is the essence of compassion, and acting with compassion in all matters will spread goodwill and respect toward us. Everyone should strive to act in this way, as our actions play an important role in contributing to peace and harmony for ourselves as well as for our society.

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump filed a defamation lawsuit against the London-based BBC on 15 December, seeking US\$10 billion in damages. The lawsuit concerns the BBC's edited broadcast, of a speech delivered by Trump on 6 January 2021, which was aired in one of its programmes. President Trump's lawsuit includes two counts, with damages of US\$5 billion sought for each count, and he has demanded a total of US\$10 billion in compensation from the BBC.

The BBC's airing of President Trump's speech on its Panorama programme was a serious and grave error that encroached upon his reputation. The BBC admitted that editing errors created a false impression that Trump had directly incited violence, suggesting the mistake was deliberate. However, the BBC has rejected the claim, stating that President Trump's attempt to file a lawsuit is legally unfounded.

The tense relationship between President Trump and media outlets in the United States and the United Kingdom has evolved into a cycle of mutual scrutiny, with each side alert to the other's mistakes. Media organizations such as CNN, *The New York Times*, and the BBC closely monitor Trump's actions and decisions and tend to report on them primarily within a negative frame. As a result, Trump often bypasses traditional media by communicating his intended messages directly through social media platforms such as Twitter, while expressing deep distrust of and strong opposition to mainstream media. The media, in turn, seize on Trump's missteps, widening the rift between him and the press and sustaining a climate of tension and hostility. The dispute with the BBC extends beyond routine controversy, and it remains unclear whether the US\$10 billion in damages sought for defamation and state-law violations will be awarded.

At the same time, it should be noted that as elections draw closer in Myanmar, attacks on the electoral process through fake news and misinformation on social media are becoming increasingly frequent. Overseas-based groups supporting terrorism,

Genuine Commitment Results in Priceless Archives

such as 'Justice for Myanmar', are also engaging in counterproductive efforts against the 2025 multiparty democratic general election by branding it as a "sham election" or claiming that it is a plan to legitimize a coup, among other accusations. Through such smear campaigns, they seek to undermine public trust in the election and discourage voter participation.

In addition, these groups are lobbying the international community, including the United Nations, the European Union, ASEAN, the United States, and European governments, not to recognize the election to be held in Myanmar, not to send election observers, and not to accept the winner. It has also become an entrenched practice for exile-based, pro-terrorist media outlets to exaggerate and sensationalize even the slightest comments made by a handful of foreign lawmakers about the Myanmar government or its election.

The emergence of fake news and misinformation during election periods is a common phenomenon in every country. Currently, the influence of social media has made it increasingly difficult to distinguish between accurate and false information, and the deliberate weaponization of news is becoming increasingly apparent.

In Myanmar as well, as the election approaches, fake news, misinformation, and fabricated reports are increasing, along with repeated attempts to undermine trust in the election through various forms of media bullying. For example, accusations made by groups such as Justice for Myanmar along with unilateral coverage by some international media

outlets are creating misleading perceptions among the public who consume the news and within the international community.

It should also be noted that some media outlets whose operations stalled after the suspension of USAID funding are now seeking to utilize Myanmar's election as an opportunity

often spread faster, fuelled by new technologies. In previous election periods, there were various types of fake news, such as false claims that the opening time of polling stations had been changed, which were clearly intended to discourage voter participation. In the upcoming election period as well, it is inevitable that old

tion can report fairly and impartially based on what they personally witness on the ground, it will allow the international community to gain a clearer understanding of the situation in Myanmar:

No matter what anyone says, a free and fair multiparty democratic general election will be held on 28 December, and partner countries supportive of Myanmar's national interests will soon send election observers to monitor the electoral process. Reporters and journalists from various foreign countries will arrive to gather information about the election, allowing them to witness the real situation in Myanmar firsthand and gain a more accurate understanding of the country and its people. This will also enable them to discern the differences between Myanmar's actual circumstances on the ground and the portrayal of the country in the global media.

Another type of foreign reporter coming to Myanmar will be those from news agencies that are predetermined to portray the country in a negative light. These reporters are expected to write inaccurately according to the agenda and guidelines set in advance by their editorial teams. They will selectively report only what appears either good or bad according to their preference, rather than reflecting the full reality of what they experience in Myanmar. Even if they are provided with official statistics or factual information, they are unlikely to use them accurately; instead, they will produce reports based on unverified information and negative narratives that suit their own portrayal.

No matter what anyone tries to disrupt,

Phase 1 of the multiparty democratic general election will be held freely and fairly on 28 December. Citizens with the right to vote will also be able to cast their ballots freely according to their wishes, without any pressure or intimidation. The current government, which is temporarily responsible for State duties, will hand over authority to the new government that emerges after the election. The upcoming election is an important process not only for the benefit of Myanmar as a whole but also for the interests of the regional and international countries. However, those who wish to see the country fail, those seeking personal gain, and their followers will not endorse the election and will continue to carry out opposition activities.

Drawing lessons from the Trump-BBC case highlights that even prominent, government-funded media outlets are capable of publishing misleading news. Similarly, some Myanmar exiled media outlets, which have become resentful and reactive after losing USAID support, have no qualms about twisting or distorting information. Even as national leader General Aung San strove for independence, some media published whatever they pleased, disregarding true freedom. The General himself nicknamed them "the weathercock press", reflecting how these outlets ingratiated themselves with their superiors for personal gain. Whatever the actions of exiled media today, history remembers General Aung San so prominently, thanks to his sincere efforts and contributions towards the country.

Translated.

By Maung Kaung

Applied Techniques for Composing a Story

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

MANY writers seldom tell a story quite explicitly because most readers do not like to get involved and keep guessing what will happen next in an explicit story. This means that there could be no motivation for them to read on in an explicitly told story. Thus, story writers tend to use the 'Show, don't tell' meth-

od as one of the main techniques for composing a narrative. Using this method, writers begin their stories with a message that they want to be conveyed about the world or human nature by giving hints and clues to pay attention to and think about in the narratives and then inferring what the writers may tell readers and critics

about life.

First of all, writers also like to use foreshadowing devices besides setting, lighting, character conflict, sound effects and language in creating a story. These foreshadowing devices enable the sense of excitement and tension in the text to sustain. In fact, foreshadowing usually refers to our anticipation of what is going on before it really happens, especially in most crime and horror fiction, where such anticipation

of the coming death of a character is often disturbing and ominous. If a writer has told readers everything about the story since its beginning, there would be no incentive for them to read on, and there could be no element of surprise. As foreshadowing devices, symbols can be used too, like the yowling of dogs and the breaking of a flower vase.

Here, the concept of tension will need to be defined or explained in detail. Tension may

be present in a situation, within a character, or both. No matter whether tension is developed in the situation or within the character, this concept always involves some conflict. Even though tension is simply referred to as the sense of excitement in a situation, the feeling of anxiety or nervousness of a character, the level of excitement or anxiety can vary. As tension in a situation, a suspenseful situation, a personal dilemma or a cosmic conflict looks quite

tense; a conflict between a character and his environment, between a character and another character or between a character and a larger organization sounds tense; and a life-threatening event, an event which poses a threat to society or which makes a threat to the world seems very tense. As tension within a character, on the other hand, being uneasy, restless, worried, disturbed, enthusiastic, eager, or sensing expectancy appears quite sense; getting stressed, anxious, nervous, agitated, emotional, angry, upset or furious is seen to be tense; and feeling paranoid, fearful, frantic, panic, hysterical,

wild or feverish is found to be very tense respectively.

Furthermore, the elements of outer conflict mainly include a conflicting situation, conflict amongst characters, and verbal conflict, while those of inner conflict mostly contain fear and a sense of helplessness. Nevertheless, both the outer and the inner conflicts commonly serve to underline the hopelessness of a situation and help build tension in the story.

Hence, how in the world are foreshadowing devices identified? We need to read the context, using our instincts. Then, we have

to identify areas where we feel most excited and differentiate between what the writer is saying and what he is not saying. We must describe any references to objects or ideas and infer what the writer may be hinting at. Afterwards, we should pay attention to the setting, particularly changes in the external environment, and think about what these changes suggest regarding the future outcomes of characters. Finally, we ought to anticipate what may happen later; pay special attention to the endings of paragraphs and texts, since those areas consist of a higher degree of suspense as usual.

NATIONAL

Loimwe in Shan State (East) holds 5th Cherry Blossom Festival

THE fifth annual Cherry Blossom Festival will be held from 24 to 26 December in Loimwe, Kengtung Township, Shan State (East), according to the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism (Shan State).

The Shan State Government and the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism will jointly organize the festival at the Cherry Tree Grove near the Satuyahtha Sumingala Pagoda at the Loimwe Mountain Camp to promote tourism in Loimwe, Kengtung Township, Shan State (East), and preserve the area's cherry trees.

"The cherry blossom festival is held for five days during the cherry blossom season. The first Cherry Blossom Festival was held in January 2022. Some cherry trees in this area were planted during the colonial era, along with hundreds of trees planted by successive generations. As a result, the entire forest is covered in blossoms during the cherry blossom season. Around 500 cherry trees were planted in about 1990, and another 500 were planted between 2022 and 2023, bringing the total number of cherry trees in the Loimwe area to more than 1,000," said U Htin Aung Naing, Director of the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism (Shan State).



Photos feature a cherry tree grove at Loimwe Mountain Camp during a festival, where festival-goers are seen.

The flower festival will feature traditional dance performances by local ethnic groups, music performances by local ethnic singers, and displays of Shan traditional goods, local wines, food, and MSME products.

Loimwe Mountain Camp is located at 5,542 feet above sea level and is home to

many memorable photo spots, including the iconic Loimwe Lake and the Centennial Mansion. It also attracts large numbers of visitors each year during the winter cherry blossom season.

In Myanmar, Chin State and Shan State have the highest concentrations of cherry trees. In the Loimwe region, there

are two types of cherry trees – sweet and bitter – that bloom alternately, extending the cherry blossom season to about a month. In Southeast Asian countries, including Myanmar, Vietnam, and Thailand, cherry blossom festivals are also held, and Japan likewise holds cherry trees in high regard. — ASH/TH

New Year Festival: 'Mandala Pwekhin' theatrical arts performance at Amarapura Icon

THE traditional theatrical arts performance titled 'Mandala Pwekhin New Year Festival' will be staged at Amarapura Icon in Amarapura Township, Mandalay Region, according to theatrical actor Zan Hein (Sein Maha Thabin), who will take part in the performance.

The traditional arts performance will begin at 5 pm on 1 January 2026 at Amarapura Icon. The programme will feature theatrical actor Zan Hein of Sein Maha Thabin; theatrical actor San Min Aung from the A Lin Thit Myanmar Traditional Dance Troupe; and fellow actors Bonn, Phu Chit, Kaung Noe and Thuta Aung. They will perform alongside theatrical actresses Shwe Min Thamee, Nan Khin Hmway, Aye Thandar Bo, Chan Chan Moe and Noble Hlaing.

"This programme is a traditional theatrical arts performance jointly organised and presented by Amarapura Icon and Po Sein Entertainment. Similar 'Pwe Khin' traditional arts performances are being staged in Yangon, and we are also expanding the presentation of such performances here in Mandalay," said Zan Hein.

In addition to the theatrical actors and actresses, popular comedians Shwin Pyaw, Yarza Pauk Si, Bio, Jett Sitt and Wai Toe will also provide supporting performances at the 'Mandalar Pwe Khin New Year Festival', according to available information. — ASH/KZL



Actors and actresses participating in the 'Mandala Pwekhin New Year Festival' traditional theatrical arts performance are seen on the poster.

2025 Academy Awards ceremonial attendants picked in preliminary round

THE preliminary selection of ceremonial attendants for the "2025 Myanmar Motion Pictures Academy Awards Ceremony" to be held in Nay Pyi Taw was conducted in two sessions on 21 December at the Golden Jubilee Hall of the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization (MMPO) in Bahan Township, Yangon Region, according to MMPO First Joint Secretary U Chan Thar Kyi Soe.

During the preliminary selection, the first session took place from 8 am to 12 noon, during which applicants with registration numbers 0001 to 0125 were assessed. The second session was held from 1 pm to 5 pm, covering applicants with registration numbers 0126 to 0297.

"The preliminary round involves the initial face-to-face assessment of applicants. We examine their appearance, height and physique, posture and manner, as well as their self-introductions. Those who closely fit the image of cere-



monial attendants will be selected. In the second round, assessments will focus on acting ability and expressiveness. As for the ceremonial attendants being selected in pairs, the number will not be as many as last year, when there were around 20 pairs. This year, it is likely that only about 10 pairs or possibly eight pairs will be selected. However, if the competition proves to be particularly intense, alternative arrangements may be considered," said U Chan Thar Kyi Soe.

The panel of judges for the preliminary selection includes Academy Award winners Khant Si Thu, Yan Aung, May Than Nu and Soe Myat Thuzar, as well as director and Academy Award winner Nyunt Myanmar Nyi Nyi Aung and director Maung Thi.

Nearly 300 applicants have applied for the ceremonial attendant positions, and those who meet the prescribed criteria will be selected through successive stages, according to available information. — ASH/MKKS

Chinese researchers achieve progress in clinical trial of brain-computer interface



A patient involved in a BCI clinical trial plays a racing game at his home in Shanghai on 30 April 2025. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Brain-computer interfaces are designed to create a direct communication channel between the brain and external devices.

A patient suffering from tetraplegia steered a smart wheelchair through the neighbourhood with only his thoughts and directed a robotic dog to fetch a food delivery. These scenes were achieved during a recent clinical trial of a brain-computer interface conducted by a team from the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS).

This shattered the conventional boundaries of rehabilitation, carrying the brain's command from a two-dimensional cursor on a screen into full-bodied, three-dimensional interaction with the physical world. Brain-computer interfaces are designed to create a direct communication channel

between the brain and external devices. Around the world, research groups have already demonstrated the laboratory feats, including "mind typing" and robotic-arm control. The enduring challenge is to make those systems reliable enough to vanish into a patient's daily life.

The patient became quadriplegic in 2022 due to a spinal-cord injury and received the brain-computer-interface system, developed by the Centre for Excellence in Brain Science and Intelligence Technology under the CAS, in June 2025. Within weeks of training, he can reliably control a computer cursor and a tablet. — Xinhua

Japan drone school developing AI bear detection system

A drone school in northeastern Japan is developing a new system that uses drones and artificial intelligence to identify and automatically track bears amid a surge in bear-related incidents.

The new system being developed by D-Academy Tohoku in Gojome, Akita Prefecture, will be able to detect bears hidden from view in mountainous or urban areas and share their locations via smartphones. It is expected to be available in 2026, and local authorities are already showing a keen interest.

The aircraft, measuring 98 centimetres in length, 76 centimetres in width and 48 centimetres in height, will be equipped with a night-vision camera and an infrared camera for measuring temperatures.

Upon receiving a sighting report, a pilot launches the aircraft and flies it over the area as it transmits images. These images are analyzed by AI software installed on a PC, and if a bear is detected, the aircraft switches to autonomous flight and tracks the animal.

With a flight time of one hour, it will hand off the surveillance to another aircraft and automatically return to base before the battery runs out. — Kyodo



Photo taken in April 2025 at a zoo in Kitaakita, Akita Prefecture, shows a drone used in an artificial intelligence bear-detection system. **PHOTO: D-ACADEMY TOHOKU/KYODO**

Japanese H3 rocket fails to put geolocation satellite into orbit

A Japanese H3 rocket carrying the sixth satellite in a seven-orbiter geolocation system failed to deliver its payload into the target orbit after liftoff on Monday, the country's space agency said.

The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency is assessing the situation and gathering relevant data regarding the second-stage engine's premature cutoff that occurred about 30 minutes after the 10:51 am liftoff from the Tanegashima Space Centre in Kagoshima Prefecture, the agency said.

It marked the second launch failure for an H3 rocket, the first one being in March 2023, which was followed by five successful launches.

"It would be impossible to carry out next liftoff without determining the cause (of the failure) and implementing preventive measures," JAXA project manager Makoto Arita said at a press conference. — Kyodo



Japan's H3 rocket carrying the Michibiki No 5 satellite lifts off from the Tanegashima Space Centre in Kagoshima Prefecture on 22 December 2025. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Blue Origin sends 1st wheelchair user into space

US space technology company Blue Origin on Saturday launched a wheelchair user into space, marking a historic first.

The New Shepard Mission NS-37 lifted off from Launch Site One in West Texas at 8:16 am Central Standard Time (1416 GMT) with a six-person crew. Among them is Michaela

Benthaus, an aerospace and mechatronics engineer at the European Space Agency, who started to use wheelchairs after she suffered from a spinal cord injury in a mountain biking accident in 2018. The crew capsule returned with a touchdown after around 10 minutes of flight.

Originally scheduled for

Thursday, the mission was postponed due to an issue detected during preflight built-in checks.

Saturday's flight marked the 37th New Shepard mission and the 16th to carry humans above the Karman line, the internationally recognized boundary of space from Earth. — Xinhua

ECONOMY

WORLD



A man walks past an electronic quotation boards displaying 10-year government bonds (L), an index of long-term interest rates on the Tokyo bond market, and the foreign exchange rate of the US dollar against the Japanese yen (R) in Tokyo, on 22 December 2025. **PHOTO: AFP**

Stocks steady as rate cut hopes bring Christmas cheer

STOCK markets steadied on Tuesday, while gold and silver hit fresh records as optimism for US rate cuts helped investors ease into the festive break.

Equities have been buoyed in recent weeks by expectations the Federal Reserve would lower borrowing costs further in 2026, with data showing US unemployment rising and inflation easing.

Investors will look to delayed US gross domestic product figures and consumer sentiment data on Tuesday for further Fed signals. Precious metals pushed higher on the back of expectations for more US rate cuts, which makes them more attractive to investors. Gold jumped to a high above \$4,497 per ounce, while silver was just short of \$70 an ounce, with the US blockade against Venezuela and the Ukraine conflict adding support.

London and Frankfurt stock markets edged up, while Paris dipped. — AFP

Vietnam rolls out product traceability system

VIETNAM'S Ministry of Industry and Trade on Tuesday officially launched its product traceability system, a step towards market transparency and consumer protection, the Voice of Vietnam reported.

The system enables consumers to verify product authenticity through QR codes. It also helps businesses prevent counterfeiting and strengthen brand credibility, according to the report.

The platform enables enterprises to declare and update information on raw material sourcing, production processes and distribution chains based on unified data standards, facilitating market oversight.

From 1 January 2026, traceability will be mandatory for high-risk goods, including chemicals, industrial explosive precursors and tobacco products, while adoption is encouraged for other categories, said Tran Huu Linh, head of the ministry's Agency for Domestic Market Surveillance and Development. — Xinhua

Cambodia's trade with RCEP countries reaches US\$36.38 bln in first 11 months of 2025

CAMBODIA'S trade with the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) member countries hit US\$36.38 billion in the first 11 months of 2025, a year-on-year rise of 15.6 per cent, said an official report on Tuesday.

According to the report compiled by the Ministry of Commerce, the country's exports to other RCEP member countries amounted to US\$8.85 billion during the period, up six per cent, while its imports from the bloc were valued at US\$27.53 billion, up 19 per cent.

The data showed that the RCEP is the principal market for Cambodia, accounting for 61.5 per cent of the kingdom's total trade volume, which stood at US\$59.13 billion from January to November.

Cambodia's top five trading partners under the RCEP are China, Vietnam, Thailand, Japan, and Singapore, the report said.

The RCEP, which entered into force in 2022, comprises 15 Asia-Pacific countries, including the ASEAN member states of Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, and their five trading partners, namely China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, and New Zealand.

Cambodian Ministry of Commerce's Secretary of State and Spokesperson Penn Sovicheat said RCEP, the world's largest free trade pact, has played a crucial role in boosting regional and global trade.

"The RCEP is a driving force for our long-term export growth and a magnet to attract more foreign direct investment to Cambodia," he told Xinhua. — Xinhua



An aerial drone photo taken on 16 March 2025 shows a view of Sihanoukville Port in Cambodia. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

S Korea's retail sales rise 4.2% in Nov

SOUTH Korea's retail sales recorded single-digit growth last month due to the recovery in consumer demand, government data showed Tuesday.

The combined revenue among major offline and online retailers gained 4.2 per cent in November from a year earlier, lower than a growth of 6.7 per cent in the previous month, according to the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Resources.

Revenue of online retailers swelled 5.3 per cent in the cited month, while sales by offline retailers climbed 2.9 per cent, keeping an upward trend for the second straight month.

The consumer sentiment index rose 2.6 points over the month to 112.4 in November, hovering above the long-term average of 100.

Food demand in cyberspace jumped 15.8 per cent, and online sales of daily necessities expanded 4.2 per cent. — Xinhua

Hainan FTP launches phased zero-carbon industrial park initiative

SOUTH China's Hainan Free Trade Port (FTP) has initiated a plan to develop zero-carbon industrial parks, as outlined in a joint notification from five provincial government departments, including the Development and Reform Commission and the Department of Industry and Information Technology.

The initiative aims to phase in low-carbon and zero-carbon transformations across various parks, with qualified zones prioritized to achieve zero-carbon status. A key focus is building a robust zero-carbon energy infrastructure by integrating renewable sources such as wind, solar, biomass and nuclear power from surrounding areas. This will involve deploying



An employee conducts welding operation in a workshop in Haikou National Hi-tech Industrial Development Park in south China's Hainan Province, 14 November 2025. PHOTO: XINHUA

energy storage systems to ensure the stable supply of heat and electricity, promoting direct green power connections, and developing smart microgrids compatible with the main grid to enhance flexibility and security.

The plan encourages industries to adopt carbon-reduction technologies, including carbon capture, utilization and storage (CCUS) technologies, and supports research on new materials and future energy solutions. It also ac-

celerates the growth of emerging low-pollution, high-value sectors and fosters a green manufacturing approach where renewable energy produces eco-friendly products.

Beyond energy and industry, the strategy covers energy efficiency improvements to buildings, low-carbon transport systems, smart carbon management platforms and long-term governance pathways.

China on Thursday launched island-wide special customs operations in the Hainan FTP -- the world's largest FTP by area -- allowing the freer entry of overseas goods, expanding zero-tariff coverage and introducing more business-friendly measures. — Xinhua

Thailand's auto production up 11% in Nov

THAILAND'S auto production expanded in November, mainly due to a significant surge in battery electric passenger vehicles, data from the Federation of Thai Industries (FTI) showed on Monday.

Thai auto manufacturers produced 130,222 vehicles last month, up 11.06 per cent from a year earlier, according to the FTI. The upward trend was driven by a higher share of output for the domestic market as automakers ramped

up production to offset earlier imports of electric vehicles (EVs) under the government's incentives, said FTI Automotive Industry Club spokesperson Surapong Paisitpatanapong. For the first 11 months of 2025, auto production dipped 1.64 per cent over the same period last year to 1,341,714 units, primarily owing to the discontinuation of outdated fuel-powered passenger vehicles, particularly export-oriented models, Surapong told a news conference. — Xinhua



A Porsche Taycan is displayed at the 2025 Bangkok International Motor Show at the Impact Arena convention venue in Bangkok on 24 March 2025. PHOTO: AFP

Nepal's foreign trade increases in first 5 months of current FY

NEPAL'S foreign trade increased by 20.07 per cent year-on-year in the first five months of the current 2025-26 financial year, following growth in both exports and imports, a government agency said on Monday.

According to the Department of Customs' report, the total trade volume reached 882.69 billion Nepali rupees (US\$6.16 billion) between mid-July and mid-December, compared to 735.14 billion rupees during the same period in the previous fiscal year. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MTT SAPANGAR VOY.NO. (549W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MTT SAPANGAR VOY.NO. (549W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **24-12-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S MAERSK A/S

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V AS SUSANNA VOY.NO. (0034N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V AS SUSANNA VOY.NO. (0034N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **24-12-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

(ONE) OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS LINE

Changing Trade Name For Registered Pesticide

The pesticide manufactured **Shanghai E-Tong Chemical Co.,Ltd** and distributed by **Uni Crop Co., Ltd.** is changing trade Name as follow,

No	Previous Name	New Name	Active Ingredient	Registration No.
1	Dimorph 50 WP	TT Morph 50 WP	Dimethomorph 50% WP	F 2021-3178

Any objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon within (14) days. Uni Crop Co.,Ltd Ph:09765665462

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTOR CHANGING

We, **Zhejiang Zhongshan Chemical Industry Group Co.,Ltd**, would like to change the Distributor of the following products, from **Gold & Super Co.,Ltd** to **Shwe Pyaung Co.,Ltd**. If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, Yangon, from here to next (2) weeks.

No	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Type	Registration Number
1	4D 700 SL	2,4-D Dimethylamine salt 70% SL	Provisional	P2023-6249

Gold & Super Co.,Ltd Tel: 09-250406611

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

Greenland PM says ‘our decisions are made here’

GREENLAND’S prime minister on Tuesday stressed that decisions about the autonomous territory’s future would be made on the island, after US President Donald Trump reiterated that the United States needed Greenland for “national security”.

“Greenland is our country. Our decisions are made here,” Jens-Frederik Nielsen said in a Facebook post.

Since returning to the White House in January, Trump has repeatedly said the United States “needs” the resource-rich autonomous territory for security reasons and has refused to rule out using force to secure it.

Trump on Sunday appointed Louisiana governor Jeff Landry as special envoy to Greenland, prompting anger from Denmark, which summoned the US ambassador.

“We need Greenland for national security. Not for minerals,”



Houses are pictured in Nuuk, Greenland, on 15 June 2025. PHOTO: AFP

Trump told a news conference in Palm Beach, Florida, on Monday.

“We have to have it,” the president said, adding that Landry “wanted to lead the charge”.

On his appointment, Landry

immediately vowed to make the Danish territory “a part of the US”.

In his post, Nielsen said he was “sad” after hearing Trump’s renewed desire to take over

Greenland.

“Such words reduce our country to a question of security and power. That is not how we see ourselves, and that is not how we in Greenland can or

should be described,” Nielsen said.

He also thanked the people of Greenland for facing the situation with “calm and dignity,” and said he was also thankful for the support of other government leaders.

“This support confirms that we are not alone here at home,” he said.

Danish Foreign Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen on Monday said he was “deeply angered” by the move and warned Washington to respect Denmark’s sovereignty.

The European Union also offered its “full solidarity” to Denmark.

Greenland “belongs to its people”, French President Emmanuel Macron said Tuesday.

“I add my voice to that of the Europeans to express our full solidarity,” he wrote on X. — AFP

Louvre installs bars over robbed gallery window

THE Louvre Museum on Tuesday installed metal bars over the windows of the Apollo Gallery, where thieves broke into the Paris landmark to make off with crown jewels in a recent daylight robbery.

“This is one of the emergency measures decided after the theft,” the museum’s deputy administrator Francis Steinbock told AFP.

Early in the morning, workers on the gallery balcony helped position a large grille hoisted by

a crane to secure it to the gallery’s tall French door windows.

“We had committed to doing it before the end of the year,” Steinbock said, adding that discussions were ongoing regarding “securing the other windows”.

Louvre director Laurence des Cars told lawmakers last week that a grille would be reinstalled “before Christmas”, noting that one had been removed in 2003–2004 during restoration work on the Apollo Gallery. — AFP



Workers install iron window guards on the window of the Gallerie d’Apollon (Apollo’s gallery) of the Louvre Museum, on the Quai Francois Mitterrand side, in Paris on 23 December 2025 a few weeks after thieves used a furniture lift to break into the museum. PHOTO: AFP

Iran says missile programme aimed at defending national sovereignty “non-negotiable”

IRANIAN Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei said on Monday Iran’s missile programme has been developed to defend the country’s sovereignty and is “non-negotiable”.

He made the remarks at a weekly press conference in response to a question about whether recent Israeli and US media reports on a possible new Israeli military action against Iran were meant to pressure Tehran into talks over its missile programme.

Citing unidentified sources, NBC News reported on Saturday that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu would seek to persuade US President Donald Trump at an upcoming meeting that Iran’s expansion of its ballistic missile programme poses a threat that could require swift action.

Iran’s defence capabilities, Baghaei stressed, were



Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei is pictured during a press conference in Tehran, Iran, 14 December 2025. PHOTO: XINHUA

designed to deter potential aggressors and were in no way negotiable or subject to bargaining.

He added that the recent media focus on Iran’s missile programme was part of the “hybrid warfare” waged against Iran by Israel, with the assistance of the United States and hostile

media outlets.

On 13 June, Israel launched major surprise airstrikes on multiple locations in Iran, including nuclear and military sites, killing senior commanders, nuclear scientists and civilians. On 22 June, US forces bombed Iran’s nuclear facilities in Natanz, Fordow and Isfahan. — Xinhua

SPORTS



Hisashi Kurosaki. PHOTO: MFF

MFF parts ways with U22 coach Kurosaki after SEA Games exit

THE Myanmar Football Federation has parted ways with Japanese coach Kurosaki, who served as head coach of the Myanmar U22 national football team, following the squad’s elimination at the group stage of the XXXIII South-East Asia Games.

Kurosaki was appointed by the Myanmar Football Federation in February 2025 on a one-year contract. During his tenure, the Myanmar U22 team competed in the ASEAN U23 Championship, the AFC U23 qualifiers, the SEA Games, and other international friendlies. However, the team failed to record any victories in these competitions, performing poorly in all three major tournaments, which led to the decision to terminate Kurosaki’s contract after the SEA Games. — Maung San Gyi/KZL

Neres inspires Napoli to win third Italian Super Cup title

DAVID Neres scored twice as Napoli beat Bologna 2-0 to win its third Italian Super Cup on Monday.

Napoli broke the deadlock in the 39th minute when Neres controlled a throw-in outside the area and curled a shot into the top corner. The Partenopei doubled their lead around the hour mark as Neres won the ball inside Bologna’s box and finished from a tight angle past the onrushing goalkeeper.

The victory gave Napoli its third Supercoppa Italiana title after lifting the trophy in 1990 and 2014.

Since 2023, the Supercoppa Italiana has adopted a four-team format, pitting together the reigning Serie A champion, the runner-up, and the winner and runner-up of the Italian Cup.

Defending champion Napoli beat AC Milan 2-0 in the semifinals, while Coppa Italia holder Bologna advanced by defeating Inter Milan on penalties in Saudi Arabia. — Xinhua



Napoli’s Brazilian forward (7) David Neres vies for the ball with Bologna’s Colombian defender (26) Jhon Lucumi during the Italian Super Cup final match between SCC Napoli and Bologna at King Al-Awwal Park Stadium in Riyadh on 22 December 2025. PHOTO: AFP

Mahrez eyes strong AFCON showing from Algeria

ALGERIA captain Riyad Mahrez is confident his side can make up for poor showings at the last two editions of the Africa Cup of Nations as the 2019 champions prepare to begin their campaign in Morocco on Wednesday.

The Desert Foxes won their second AFCON title the last time it was played in North Africa, six years ago in Egypt.

However, their title defence three years later in Cameroon ended in first-round elimination with just a single point, and they also failed to win a match in going out in the group stage in Ivory Coast in 2024.

“There is no doubt that we were not good at the last two AFCONs but that is in the past now. All that is behind us,” Mahrez said Tuesday in Rabat, where Algeria play Sudan on Wednesday.

“Now we have the opportunity of a lifetime, the chance to make up for what has happened and do better. Tomorrow it is time for this generation”.

Algeria will be aiming to live up to their billing as the fourth-best side in Africa according to the FIFA rankings.

A strong showing in Morocco will also set them up for the World Cup in North America in six months, after Algeria qualified for the first time since 2014.

Former Manchester City winger Mahrez, now playing for Al-Ahli in the Saudi Pro League, turns 35 in February and so these tournaments may mark his swansong at international level.

But he is excited about Algeria’s new generation, including VfL Wolfsburg forward Mohamed Amoura and the goalkeeper Luca Zidane. — AFP

Salah, Foster take Egypt and South Africa to AFCON Group B summit

PREMIER League pair Mohamed Salah and Lyle Foster were match-winners as Egypt and South Africa began their Africa Cup of Nations Group B campaigns with victories in Morocco on Monday.

Unsettled Liverpool star Salah struck in the first minute of added time to snatch a 2-1 win for record seven-time champions Egypt over gallant Zimbabwe in Agadir.

Earlier, second-half dominance by one-time title-holders South Africa paid off when Burnley striker Foster netted on 79 minutes to deliver a 2-1 victory

over Angola in Marrakesh.

The stage is now set for a top-of-the-table showdown between the Pharaohs and Bafana Bafana in Agadir on Friday. They have met three times in AFCON tournaments, with Egypt winning twice.

Salah, whose unhappiness at being a substitute recently at Liverpool led to an outburst against manager Arne Slot, worked tirelessly for an Egyptian team rattled at falling behind.

Prince Dube scored on 20 minutes and one of the title favourites had to wait until the 63rd minute for Omar Mar-

moush from Manchester City to equalize.

Relentless pressure from the Pharaohs paid off in the first of five additional minutes when the perseverance of Salah grabbed them all three points.

Earlier, South Africa dominated the second half against Angola in Marrakesh and Foster scored in 79 minutes to deliver a 2-1 victory in the same mini-league. The winner came after Tshepang Moremi had a goal ruled offside and Mbekezeli Mbokazi rattled the crossbar with a shot that rebounded into play. — AFP



Zimbabwe’s defender (15) Teenage Hadebe challenges Egypt’s forward (10) Mohamed Salah during the Africa Cup of Nations (CAN) group B football match between Egypt and Zimbabwe at Adrar Stadium in Agadir on 22 December 2025. PHOTO: AFP



Slovakia will not participate in insane EU plans to finance Ukraine — Prime Minister

SLOVAKIA will not participate in the insane plans of the European Union to finance Ukraine, as the country has its own priorities for spending money, Prime Minister of Slovakia Robert Fico said on Monday.

"I guarantee you that if I go to the European Council, I will not vote for us sending military loans to Ukraine and for Slovakia to be part of these insane plans. We need money here, in Slovakia, we have things to build," Fico said during the ceremonial opening of Slovakia's longest road tunnel, Visnove, the construction of which took nearly 30 years.

The ceremony was broadcast by Slovak television channel TA3.

The Visnove tunnel, located in northern Slovakia, is 7.5 kilometres (4.6 miles) long. The project began almost 30 years ago, but approaches to construction and financing repeatedly changed, and the protracted project was only completed this year. The tunnel is a crucial part of a transport corridor connecting the capital Bratislava (in the west) with the country's second-largest city, Kosice (in the east). Prime Minister Fico ceremonially opened the republic's longest road tunnel by rollerblading through it. — SPUTNIK

Xi urges central SOEs to contribute more to Chinese modernization



Chinese Premier Li Qiang, also a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, attends a meeting of heads of central state-owned enterprises (SOEs) and delivers a speech in Beijing, capital of China. An important instruction by Chinese President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the CPC Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, was conveyed at the meeting, which was held here on Monday and Tuesday. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

CHINESE President Xi Jinping has called on the state-owned enterprises (SOEs) directly administered by the central government to better serve the overall work of the Party and the country and contribute more to Chinese modernization.

Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, made the remarks

in an instruction conveyed at a meeting of heads of central SOEs held here on Monday and Tuesday.

While affirming their pivotal role in the economy, Xi said central SOEs should serve high-quality economic and social development and the improvement of people's livelihoods, further deepen reform, and effectively prevent and defuse risks.

Central SOEs should enhance their

core competitiveness and work to build world-class enterprises, Xi said, calling on them to stay rooted in the real economy and strive to achieve breakthroughs in key and core technologies.

He also underscored the importance of upholding and strengthening the Party's overall leadership over central SOEs, improving institutional frameworks, tightening supervision, and resolutely combating corruption. — Xinhua



Workers rebuild a damaged railway track near a landslide-affected area in the aftermath of Cyclone Ditwah in Passara on 13 December 2025. **PHOTO: AFP**

India to provide \$450 million to cyclone-ravaged Sri Lanka

INDIA has committed \$450 million in humanitarian assistance to help Sri Lanka recover from the devastating damage caused by Cyclone Ditwah, foreign minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar said Tuesday on a visit to the country.

The cyclone killed more than 640 people when it swept across the South Asian island last month, causing floods and landslides that inflicted about \$4 billion in damage, according to the World Bank, or four per cent of the country's GDP.

Sri Lankan President Anura Ku-

mara Dissanayake has described the storm, which affected more than two million people, as the most challenging natural disaster in the island's history.

Jaishankar, who is on a two-day visit, told a media briefing in Colombo he had handed a letter from Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Dissanayake, committing to a "reconstruction package of \$450 million".

While \$350 million will take the form of "concessional lines of credit", the remaining \$100 million will be given as grants. — AFP